



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



**OAXACA,
MEXICO:
MASS
PROTEST
AGAINST GAS
PRICE HIKE,
see page 4**

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL DEFEAT FASCISM AND WAR

South Africa, 2012: Police, acting on orders from the African National Congress (ANC) government, shot and killed 41 striking miners. This terror did not stop the masses of workers from striking and marching against the capitalist ANC. It hasn't stopped workers, soldiers and sailors from joining the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) to organize for a communist revolution.

El Salvador, 1980-1992: Under brutal capitalist terror, rural and industrial workers, teachers and students organized and fought a 12- year war against the US-backed dictatorship. They were never defeated in the battle field. Their leaders betrayed them signing a peace accord. Today, many of those who fought, and others, are building ICWP to organize armed insurrection, this time for communism.

Los Angeles, USA, 1976-1985: The hated "Migra" regularly raided factories, arresting and deporting hundreds of undocumented workers. Workers then responded to the need to violently oppose these terror tactics (see p.3). They will respond again.

See [COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, WILL DEFEAT FASCISM & WAR, page 2](#)

Our Responsibility is to Mobilize the Masses to Smash Fascism with Communist Revolution

Worldwide, millions of workers are under the brutal heel of rising fascism. Our new communist international movement will put an end to fascism forever—by mobilizing the masses of workers, soldiers and youth for communism.

From India to South Africa to El Salvador to Mexico to the US and beyond, ICWP comrades participate in anti-fascist class struggles organizing for communism, and spreading our ideas with *Red Flag*.

This is starting to change the mood of the laboring masses. It's channeling their anger into revolutionary enthusiasm and consciousness of our class' power to change the world.

Masses of workers will learn through communist class struggle that communism can end capitalist wage slavery, the material basis of racism, an indispensable ingredient of fascism. (See "Italy's Hot Autumn," p. 8).

With a clear vision of communism, the masses will fight for a communist society where everyone will have useful, satisfying, collective work.

SOUTH AFRICA: WORKERS ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNISM INSIDE A FACTORY

As the year 2016 was coming to a close, these past few days at work, we had quite interesting discussions. We were making use of the idle time at our disposal because most of the workers had already gone for festive holidays.

One worker raised a point that he has observed over the years that employers keep wages at the very low so as to keep workers at work all the time. The other one retorted, if they were to give workers high wages or more pay, you would not see them the next day, they would still be enjoying their money. We all burst into laughter.

One worker mentioned that we are the ones who make or produce everything but we get nothing for it. This is what Marx called alienation. Workers produce but are alienated from what they produce. In a simple and relaxed manner, workers were dealing with the most exploitative, oppressive system in the world. A point was made that this system cannot be made to work for workers, it favours only the bosses. Another worker made a point that workers continue to run production while the bosses are away on holiday. These and all other interesting observations were made in a relaxed atmosphere.

We will continue to dissect this barbaric system whenever we have time available. I suggested that we must make time available some time in the new year to ponder deeper about all these observations and mobilize other workers for communism, a system without money and classes. One worker remarked that the ANC once promised "free education for all" but now it is making a mockery of the promise. Students are languishing in goals for fees must fall protests while some have paid with their lives. Interestingly ICWP, our party, has made available pamphlets dealing with all these issues. —A South African Comrade

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COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL DEFEAT FASCISM AND WAR, from page 1

Anti-Trump Protesters Must Fight Fascism with Communism

“We have to put a stop to this racism. We need a different system,” said a US transit worker. This worker speaks for many who are disgusted with Trump and racist capitalism.

Growing numbers of workers, youth and others are preparing to fight fascism in the streets. They hate racism, sexism and xenophobia.

Unfortunately, many of them don't yet have confidence in the power of the working class to transform society. They don't yet grasp the vision of a communist world with the potential for permanently and completely defeating racism, sexism and exploitation; a world where everyone will contribute according to commitment and ability and receive according to need. So they turn again to creating “broad alliances” aimed at putting “lesser evil” politicians in power. In the US, this means the likes of Obama, Hillary and Sanders.

But Obama deported more people than any previous US president. Clinton planned a military draft disguised as “national service.” Sanders preached the dead end street of socialism.

We must show them that the problem is not just Trump, Modi, or the ANC. It's capitalism which history has shown can only be destroyed with communism.

Fascism is capitalist rule without its mask of democracy. It's the politics of weakening capitalism in an acute crisis of overproduction, which will inevitably lead to world war. The capitalists must move to fascism – using rabid racism and patriotism, sexism and religion – to terrorize us into slaving for them and fighting in their wars for empire and profits.

Communism will tear down all the borders, nations and walls that class society has created to divide us. The international working class belongs to only one race: the human race. Communism unites us to fight the only war worth fighting: the communist revolution that will enable us to build the world we want and need.

Mobilize for Communism in the Factories and Barracks

Industrial workers in the factories and fields know their lives and safety depend on each other. They can lead masses to destroy capitalism with communist revolution. They can lead in building a communist society.

Communists working in factories (and other large workplaces like transit and hospitals) must build ICWP clubs and *Red Flag* readers' groups. They must forge ties of trust and confidence based on friendship and political struggle. Increasing numbers must spread communist ideas

and lead communist class struggle.

Others, including students, must take *Red Flag* to industrial workers and soldiers. Even better, they should seek jobs in industry and also join the military to help organize these crucial sectors.

Many soldiers and sailors can and must be won to fight for communism. Most are sons and daughters of the working class. Their class interests lie with workers, not with the capitalists who force them to risk their lives and kill for the capitalists'-imperialists' empires and profits.

Liberals spread “doom and gloom” but communists know that the future is bright. Masses worldwide are in motion against racism, fascism and capitalism. We can be confident that many will understand why communism is the only way to meet the needs of workers, soldiers and youth everywhere.

We must start conversations with everyone possible, including those who disagree with us. We must persevere patiently so we and they learn how to build a communist society.

Communism will end the domination of the many by the few for good. This will create the material basis for ending the ideas and practices that today's rulers must use to divide us. Communism, not liberalism, is the answer to fascism. Join us!

RELY ON THE POWER OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS

Hundreds of thousands are marching against the Trump inauguration. Some march against fascism. Others march to “defend the marginalized,” others to uphold liberal values.

We invite all to march with ICWP for communist workers' power. Only communist revolution can end capitalism and its brutal dictatorship, whether blunted by its “glorious” democracy or taken to extreme acts of inhumanity by its fascism.

We are confident that the mighty working class can defeat the capitalist dictatorship in any of its forms. History has ample proof of this. History also proves that only scientific communism – which has not yet been established – can accomplish this.

Russia: Communist Workers Defy Terror, Seize Power

In 1905, the Russian working class erected barricades, picked up arms and fought heroically to overthrow the capitalist czarist regime. It was brutally put down: more than 14,000 people were executed and over 75,000 were imprisoned.

The “Reign of the Necktie” followed. Thousands of working class leaders, students and progressive intellectuals were hung. The Russian communists in particular were targeted and decimated. After 7 years of this terror, in 1912 there were only about 200 Bolsheviks (communist organizers) in a country one sixth of the globe and with a population of 130 million.

Under these conditions, could the Russian working class make a socialist revolution? It had never been done before. However, the Bolsheviks' confidence in the working class never faltered. As the worldwide capitalist crisis intensified, the Russian working class began to rise again. By 1914, on the eve of World War I, the Bolsheviks had recruited 32,000 workers in

Petrograd alone.

By 1917, they had recruited over 240,000 Bolsheviks nationwide – many of them soldiers – and were accomplishing the impossible: leading millions of workers and soldiers to take state power.

Nazi Dictatorship Crushed the German Communists

At the beginning of the 1929 Great Depression, the German Communist Party (KPD) had 130,000 members. It grew in numbers and popularity during the crisis. By November 1932 it numbered almost 300,000 and received 17% (6 million) votes during the federal elections that month.

After the election of 1933, in which it got 4.8 million votes, the KPD was banned and its members were arrested by the thousands. The first concentration camps were set up to jail them because the regular prisons were not enough. Shortly afterwards, the KPD practically ceased to exist.

Although the KPD eventually organized clandestinely, they were only able to maintain sporadic, defensive underground organizing under Nazi rule.

Why Did the German Communists Fail?

Like the Russian communists, the German communists had also participated in armed uprisings for revolution. Like the Bolsheviks they were defeated. Each, however, drew different lessons from this.

The Bolsheviks never lost confidence that workers would rise again in arms. They organized clandestinely in the factories and military for armed insurrection. The German communists lost this confidence and chose the electoral path: peaceful transition to end capitalism.

Thus, they concentrated organizing in neigh-

borhoods which were also electoral precincts, rather than factories and the military. Although communist neighborhoods bravely took on the Nazi's Brown Shirts and SS in bloody street battles, their strategy focused on elections, not revolution.

This also led the KPD to unite with liberal capitalist parties to advance their agenda in the government. It was a fatal mistake. These parties betrayed the KPD and facilitated Hitler's rise to power to destroy them.

With no such illusions, the Bolsheviks had no united fronts with electoral parties or capitalist led organizations. In early 1917, there were 24 other mass organizations – all bigger than the Bolsheviks – vying to lead the Russian workers, peasants and soldiers. With patience, perseverance and openly advocating their revolutionary ideas, these crucial sectors took the Bolsheviks to power.

Crucial to this is these sectors' ability to meet under all conditions. The rulers can ban all workers' meetings, but they have to gather the workers in the factories and work places, and the soldiers in the barracks. They can't stop their gravediggers from organizing!

History's Lesson: Only Communism Can End All Forms of Capitalist Dictatorship

Socialism in Russia, China and other places is a form of state capitalism. It is another form of capitalist dictatorship. As such, it has proven to be as brutal. It also must be destroyed with communist revolution.

Only a communist world - without money, exploitation, racism, sexism – where production for human need is its main concern, can eliminate any form of dictatorship that benefits the interest of the few.



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Fighting Racist “Migra” Terror

IMMIGRANT WORKERS GIVE LEADERSHIP TO REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE

LOS ANGELES, US, 1979—“The Migra (immigration police) is outside. We have to close the doors,” shouted a worker. This was the warning to launch a plan we had made a few months before. Immediately, several workers ran to close the three big doors of the plant. We could hear how the machines stopped roaring and groups in different sections met to await the action. We were nervous and anxious, but at the same time, we were determined not to get arrested without a fight.

In those years there were many spontaneous struggles against the Migra raids and exploitation, mainly in the garment shops and other industries. The men and women immigrant workers gave leadership in building a rebellious and revolutionary movement.

In the above-mentioned factory about 1,200 of us workers, the great majority undocumented,

worked producing shoes for Fun-Striders. That year, a recently created communist club distributed 100 newspapers internally and sometimes distributed leaflets in front of the factory. The strikes, work stoppages, political discussions and mass social activities were constant.

Every year, it was customary that in the summer the Migra arrived and “emptied” the factory of workers without legal documents. As the time for the racist raid approached, we began to discuss with the workers what to do and published through leaflets what the plan would be: when the Migra got there, we would close the doors, and if they managed to get in through the doors of the bosses’ offices, we would all leave marching as a bloc to the main street without letting anyone get arrested. Most of us weren’t afraid. We were filled with hatred of the Migra raids.

Buses, vans, cars, dozens of Migra agents and

police were in front of the factory. They realized that the workers had locked themselves in and that perhaps they had a plan to confront them.

Inside the factory, the group of communists and other friends talked with the men and women workers in the different sections and tried to keep the plan ready to carry out. Many workers walked around inside the factory with their tools in their hands, hammers, scissors and some carrying sticks.

After an hour of waiting, the owner of the factory came to where the main group of communist leadership was and said, “Don’t worry. The Migra won’t come in.” He knew that the battle could be violent, and his coming to us was a sign of defeat.

After two hours of waiting, some neighbors, relatives of workers, told us that the Migra had left. Some applauded, others smiled. We knew that this had been a small, but valuable, organizing victory. This created much respect for the communists, and the new worker-comrades were very happy. That summer we organized a party in what were the offices of the Party, and hundreds of workers participated. We took a big group to the May Day march and many other events.

At that time our goal was to fight for socialism (state capitalism) and our practice was reformist, with the slogan “Jobs Yes, Migra No!” Today our vision is to mobilize the masses for communism. It is not enough to expose capitalism. Instead, the most important thing is to give the workers the vision of a new world without borders, or money or bosses. This will be a world where the masses of workers no longer have to worry about the raids but instead can concentrate on collective production to meet the needs of humanity.

Join our struggle.



FIGHTING FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD WE WILL DESTROY THE CHAINS OF WAGE SLAVERY

EL SALVADOR, January 11--On December 15, 2016, the National Minimum Wage Council approved an increase in the minimum wage without the presence of representatives of private enterprise. The exclusion of this last group generated uncertainty about whether this increase would actually materialize. There is tension about the response of the bosses. This climate of confrontation represents a big opportunity to sharpen the class struggle and mobilize the masses for communism.

The bosses are required to pay the increase starting in January of 2017. Many companies threatened to close and go to other countries. Two maquilas announced that they would leave the country since they are not “able” to pay the new minimum wage. A week later, they said they would stay. Where would they go? Even with the increase, wages in El Salvador are the lowest in all of Central America and this type of industry is exempt from paying taxes for 15 years. To date, no company has left the country and none plans to do so. This does not mean that everything will happen the way the government wants.

The bosses have created new forms of pay for the workers so that their profits are not affected. Previously, a maquila worker earned \$210.90 a month. With bonuses and overtime hours, some-

times they reached \$300. Today their salary is \$295 a month: \$9.84 a day for 8 hours of work. In the first week of January, one of the maquilas in the central area fired 15 workers and re-hired them the next week on the condition that, like the rest of their co-workers, they could not work overtime, there would be no bonuses, and they had to reach the same production goals as when they worked overtime, now in 8 hours of work.

“Be careful of your work”; “The company is in crisis;” “Behave yourselves,” are statements that the supervisors use to try to intimidate the workers. However, the workers are not willing to be trampled on like this.

The FMLN government and its social movement have called on the general population to defend this reform. Liberal theorists believe that the defense of a reform can radicalize the masses and would force the FMLN to maintain these types of actions without the bosses’ consent. This is a very dangerous illusion for the working class. Over the years the liberals have defended this type of increase and it has never achieved any radicalization.

The only way to really make a change is to eliminate wage slavery and money, to which we are subjected under capitalism. The only source of the capitalists’ profits is from exploiting work-

ers, paying us less than the value of the products workers, and only workers, produce. The less the bosses pay, the higher their profits (surplus value). In spite of wage increases, capitalist wages are only enough to barely survive. The only way to end this is to get rid of the profit system.

In a communist society our human needs will not be determined by the number of hours that we sell our labor power. When money does not exist, wages and exploitation will not exist. Nothing will be bought or sold. Masses of workers will mobilize to use our minds and muscle to plan, produce and distribute based on meeting everyone’s needs.

We know that this “wage increase” reform is no threat for capitalism but the response from the bosses was quick and brutal. There is widespread resentment against the bosses for opposing this increase. We must take advantage of this discontent to explain to the masses that this is the way that wage slavery always functions and that to liberate ourselves from these evils we must see the bosses as the class enemies that they are.

Every action against the workers because of the increase must be answered with actions against the bosses, not to defend the increase, but against capitalism and to mobilize the masses for communism.



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FOR A 2017 FILLED WITH FRIENDSHIP AND STRUGGLE!

LOS ANGELES, USA, Jan. 1 – We gathered today, two members of the International Communist Workers' Party and a dozen friends, to share our hopes and plans for the new year. We also shared pupusas, tostadas, corn bread and greens, and lots more delicious food.

“We had great discussions about politics, the economy, political action, and where we each came from (family names and origins),” reported one guest. “If the rest of the year continues this way, it’s going to be a great one!”

The group included black, asian, latino/a and white folks, church people and atheists. Two things stood out. First, we and others we know are feeling a greater need for “connection.” Second, we all have friends who are becoming politically active for the first time. This is true across generations.

Naturally there were important disagreements. (Communist philosophy, dialectical materialism, tells us that there are contradictions everywhere.)

Some believe in fighting for real democracy. They expect big changes will come by gradually changing electoral politics locally. Others of us, as communists, understand democracy and elections as a cover for class dictatorship of capitalists over the masses.

We work for small changes too: changes in political consciousness. Through patient conversation and mass distribution of *Red Flag* we deepen and spread an understanding of what communism is and why it’s possible. Dialectical materialism also tells us that small (quantitative) changes can result in qualitative leaps. Commu-

nism will not evolve peacefully somehow out of capitalism or its democracy. We are revolutionaries, not gradualists.

Our Party collective made some small but important steps forward in 2016. One friend joined the Party. We started a regular *Red Flag* distribution at a large hospital. We began working more collectively and consistently on writing for our paper. We are collecting more money for the Party’s international work.

Mobilizing the masses for communism is our strategy now and always. But it will take qualitatively different forms as the party becomes stronger and more rooted in factories and barracks during this period of global capitalist crisis.

Communist class struggle starts with limited actions in workplaces, neighborhoods and schools. As we grow it will mean organizing political strikes for communism, rebellions for communism, and eventually revolution for communism. Then it will mean mobilizing masses to create communist society under whatever conditions we encounter.

Not all our friends were eager or even willing to engage in this discussion on New Year’s Day. One insisted on steering the conversation away from it.

Later, a comrade gave a copy of *Red Flag* to one friend for the first time. A mutual friend said (only half-jokingly), “Watch out, she’s going to try to convert you.” But the first friend took the paper. She asked why many LA activists supported Cuba. She said that the Cubans she knew were strongly anti-Castro. We explained that pro-

Castro Cubans didn’t flee to the US with their wealth in 1959. We described the Castro administration’s achievements in health and education. But, we explained, Castro was never actually a communist.

Toward the end of the afternoon we all agreed to organize more events like this. A friend volunteered his house for one, saying that he could bring two more people.

Most of us also agreed that opportunities are opening up to start political conversations with more of the people around us. That includes some who probably disagree. One friend later expressed concern that the “inevitable growth of left organizing” will be met with harsh repression. Our Party is confident that industrial workers and soldiers, inspired by a vision of communist society, can lead masses to successfully confront fascism with communist revolution.

Events like this one help build our assurance that we can argue and struggle over disagreements, even big ones, and stay friends. Yes, we do want to “convert” more people to communism. But that doesn’t mean “brainwashing” them. It means listening to them. It means trying to understand their internal contradictions. (Dialectical materialism shows that internal contradictions are primary in development.) It means trying to show them (not “tell” them) that communism is the only way to realize their deepest aspirations for themselves and the world.

If the rest of the year continues this way, it’s going to be a great one.

Workers in Mexico Rise Up Against “Gasolinazo”

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT ELECTIONS, IS ANSWER TO FASCISM

MEXICO, January 10, 2017—The “Gasolinazo,” that is the increase by up to 20% in fuel prices, announced on Dec. 28, triggered massive violent protests during the first week of January in 25 of the 31 states in Mexico.

The anger that has been accumulating for years erupted in the streets and on the roads throughout the country with marches, protests, and blockades. There was also looting of stores in many cities. More than a thousand people were arrested in clashes with the police.

The wave of nationalism that is proposed as an alternative to privatization leaves wage slavery intact. Spontaneous protests are limited. The masses must direct our discontent to the building of a communist society, where there is no exploitation. Help us build the Party (ICWP) that will lead this revolution for Communism!

The business of selling gasoline (regular and premium) as well as diesel, in Mexico is a \$32 billion-a-year business. It is what millionaire consortia are distributing using the policy derived from “energy reform” of the government of Peña Nieto.

Proposed by PAN (National Action Party, a conservative electoral party) for 2016, the “Liberation of the price of gasoline” (and diesel) was postponed by the current government until 2018. However, at the end of the year, they resolved to start it now. For that, they counted on the approval of the Revenue Act of 2017, along with that of all the other electoral parties except MoReNa. MoReNa promotes the struggle against privatization and defending nationalization (See box).

The price of regular gasoline increased 14.2%; premium 20.1% and diesel 16%. According to the government, the increase is not due to structural reforms, but to external factors like an international increase of 60% in the price of gasoline and

to the subsidies (“that [supposedly] only benefited a minority that owns automobiles”).

But with the international drop in the price of crude oil, gasoline is produced today at lower cost. According to Margarita Zavala, aspiring presidential candidate for PAN in 2018, “in the PAN governments, the price of gasoline was not used for tax purposes. And the gasoline that was bought from the US cost 11 pesos and sold for 7 pesos a liter. There was a subsidy for more than 20 billion pesos a year that had to be “corrected” and that was done. The government of Peña Nieto buys gasoline for 11 pesos and will sell it for up to 20 pesos a liter. Now there is no subsidy to correct.”

Service station owners will be the beneficiaries. These are large consortiums, like FEMSA, the largest bottler of Coca Cola in Latin America with Pemex franchises that will now operate as OXO stations. They now have about 350 stations, and this year intend to expand to 500. Others include “7 Eleven” which has a goal of 300 stations, followed by Hidrosina and Texaco.

The protests and mobilizations will continue. However, the leaders believe that fascism can be confronted peacefully, or through elections. They do not see it as capitalism in crisis, whose violence is inevitable and which can only be destroyed with a communist revolution. This means today that we need to constitute ourselves in a Party. We need to discard all these illusions the bosses have created among the masses of workers and mobilize the masses for communism instead. Other leaders promote the slogan “Peña Out,” as if the revocation of his mandate would resolve the problems caused by capitalism.

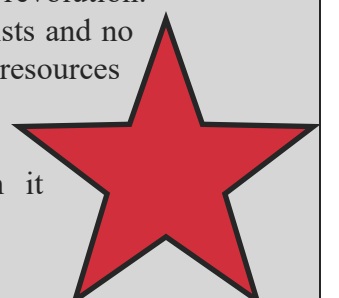
Capitalism only benefits a few exploiters of workers’ labor power. We need to overthrow it. By fighting for communism, a bright future awaits us. Join our struggle, join ICWP!

Workers Power, Not Nationalization!

The nationalization of natural resources under capitalism only serves the interests of the national capitalists. In 1938, oil workers went out on a massive strike that caused a national crisis. To crush the strike, President Lázaro Cárdenas nationalized some US-owned industries, giving a bigger share of the profits to the Mexican bosses. The oil companies were compensated by public funds and donations from workers, benefitting the Mexican capitalist state and the functionaries who have administered PEMEX ever since.

Nationalization was supported by the communist movement, which wrongly believed that it would pave the road for the emancipation of the working class. The national capitalists took advantage of this fatal error to mobilize the masses to strengthen their dictatorship over the working class. There are no “progressive” capitalists! They are all exploiters.

The worst thing about nationalization—and nationalism itself—is that it created ideological confusion which is still an obstacle to the development of workers’ communist class consciousness. Our line of mobilizing the masses directly for communism makes explicit our opposition to the death-trap of nationalism. The only way to make it “our oil” is with a communist revolution. Then, with no capitalists and no profits, we’ll share all resources for the well-being of the international working class. Then it will be “our world!”



Worried About Attacks on ObamaCare?

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN GUARANTEE WORKERS' HEALTH

USA, Jan. 10 –ObamaCare (the Affordable Care Act) went into effect in October 2013. Three years later, over 33 million people have gotten health insurance through it. But over 30 million still don't have any, including 12 million undocumented workers. And what kind of system boasts platinum, gold, silver, and bronze options? Why do the more "affordable" plans require extra fees for any but the most "essential" services? Because the health care system reproduces the inequality that is the basis of capitalist exploitation and profit!

If you care about health, you have to fight for a completely different social system: communism.

Communism is a classless society organized to benefit the masses. It will end money and profits, wage slavery and poverty. That will allow us to end racism and sexism and to build a healthy society.

We will work together to guarantee the best possible health care for all workers and their families. Health care, like all necessities of life, will be available based strictly on need. Communism will not have different levels of healthcare for different groups of people.

ObamaCare was never meant to end inequality in health care. It never even aimed to provide decent health care for everyone. Health care reform was meant to maintain a minimally healthy workforce (and future army) while guaranteeing profits for companies selling insurance or health services or products.

On the "plus" side, it has saved the lives of some formerly uninsured people with pre-existing conditions who have finally been able to buy

medical insurance. But it has maintained all the capitalist aspects of the health care system for profit, including racism.

Now even the limited benefits of ObamaCare are under attack. Trump and Congress can't agree on when to repeal it or what to replace it with. While they quarrel, tens of thousands could die from lack of medical care, while the banks reap more profits and the rich pay lower taxes.

Racism Is Cutting Edge of Capitalism's Attack on All Workers

The attack on ObamaCare is part of a broader attack on the working class that goes far beyond just Trump. Capitalism is a system where a few profit from the misery of the masses. Racism is the cutting edge of its constant attacks on the health of the planet and the working class.

Billions of our class brothers and sisters around the world live in desperate poverty. Deprived of the necessities of a healthy life, more than ten thousand people died from Ebola in west Africa and more than that from a preventable cholera epidemic in Haiti. Thousands of babies, mostly in Brazil, have Zika-related birth defects. In Flint and other US cities, drinking water is poisoned with lead.

Racism too often leads some workers to think, "that wouldn't happen to me." But where workers, like US bus drivers, do have jobs that provide basic necessities, they often die young from stress-related heart attacks.

Republican attacks on ObamaCare trade on the racist lie that it (and other government programs) only help black and latino/a people. But if they destroy it, some eight million white workers will be among those who lose access to health care.

All workers need to fight for a system – communism – where we tear down the walls that the bosses use to divide us. Communism will create the material basis for a successful struggle to end racism finally.

Organize for Communist Revolution, Not Reform

The US health care system is by far the worst, and the most expensive among industrialized countries. For decades, advocates of a "Single-Payer" (government-run) insurance plan (including Bernie Sanders) fought for "universal" health care.

National health insurance (or even a national health care system) hasn't guaranteed decent health care in countries that have it. It doesn't address the social conditions that make people sick. And in every country with national health care, the rich buy better care.

Many of those who fought for single-payer health care dropped that demand and joined the fight for ObamaCare. They hoped it would be "a step in the right direction." Now it's on the chopping block. So much for gradualism! Let's organize for communist revolution, rather than fighting for temporary reforms that build illusions in deadly capitalism.

Communism will transform health care in ways that we can only begin to imagine. We'll mobilize masses in collectives that care for each other and promote everyone's physical and mental health. Masses will help develop new knowledge about the human body, advancing medical science collectively through practice.

This is no time for fear and despair. It's time to seize the future!

India: Banks Steal Workers' Cash

COMMUNISM WILL END CAPITALISM'S MONEY SYSTEM

Over half a billion people in India waited in endless lines after the fascist Modi government cancelled Rs. 500 (\$8) and Rs.1000 (\$16) bills to replace them with new notes. This "demonetization" diverted 86% of India's economy to large multinationals and banks.

Here's how it works. If a worker had 1000 Rs. (old bills) they had to turn them in for new bills. But they only get back 100 Rs. in cash. The rest goes into a bank account. They can only use that with a credit or debit card. Meanwhile the banks can reap huge profits by investing it.

And only large companies accept such cards. Small neighborhood stores and street vendors don't. So, for example, a small vegetable vendor lost his livelihood because potential customers were only left with one tenth of the cash they had before. Now they must use digital money to buy vegetables from a supermarket.

There are tens of millions more like this vendor. Small farmers, too, along with millions of day-workers who are paid in cash, lost their livelihood. Thousands have died waiting in those endless lines. Others have killed themselves.

The broad masses in India and everywhere need communist revolution to end the bosses' deadly system of money and wage slavery.

Money is the life blood of capitalism. Capitalism's driving force is to maximize profits. Money connects production and distribution. It is the means through which capitalists accumulate the surplus value they steal from workers' labor. Money in the form of credit enables them to expand their production and compete for market share.

Demonetization changes only the form of money (from paper cash to electronic credit and

debit cards) but not its place in society. It is not a step to a world without money.

Communism will really be a society without money.

The life blood of communism will be social relationships, not money. There won't be cash, credit cards, bit coins, or work points (as instituted in China under socialism). There will be no exchange, period. Nothing bought or sold. Everything will be produced for use, not sale. Workers, organized through our mass party, will produce and organize to meet the needs of everyone.

Food, housing, transportation, healthcare, child care and learning will be collective responsibilities. Massive collectives will determine the need and organize production and distribution.

Wherever there's money, there's corruption. The Indian government claims they needed demonetization to eliminate corruption and terrorism coming from Pakistan. All that changes is whose hand gets into the till.

Actually, all capitalists are terrorists and thieves. Their profits come from stealing our surplus labor. Their cops, armies and goon squads terrorize us into submission – and will continue to do this – until we organize communist revolution.

Capitalist bosses are the biggest organized terrorists. Modi and his fascist party came to power after organizing massacres of Muslims. Since then they have organized violent attacks on Muslims, Dalits, and women workers. Only communism can and will end this exploitation of the working class.

Modi represents the Indian capitalist class as it tries to expand amidst the global capitalist crisis of overproduction. Five of the largest Indian



multinationals are in huge debt as they desperately try to flood the market with cheap commodities. Demonetization helps the banks reduce interest rates for them.

Meanwhile the working class becomes more dependent on these multinationals for life's necessities. This is a leap towards monopoly capital at the expense of small owners and the working class. It sharpens the world capitalist-imperialist rivalry.

We are one international working class and we are building one International Communist Workers' Party. ICWP is organizing the international working class to seize power through a violent revolution and build a communist society.

As capitalist crisis deepens, our numbers can grow. Readership of *Red Flag* is growing in India and Pakistan and forty-eight other countries. New and young comrades are grasping the need to organize the masses for communist workers' power.

FRANCE: BUILDING SOLIDARITY AND FIGHTING FASCIST ATTACKS ON MIGRANT WORKERS

January 8--“I am Cedric” read a sign carried by one of 300 supporters outside the courthouse in Nice, France.

“Cedric” is Cedric Herrou, a French farmer on trial for helping dozens of mainly African immigrants cross into France, giving them shelter and food.

In his trial, Cedric explained that he was horrified by the conditions these migrants endured. Many of them are unaccompanied children.

Cedric and his supporters in many ways think and act as communists. They must be won to join ICWP to fight for communism. Only communism can eliminate the horrors that drove him to help these African migrants.

Only communism can build a world without borders or nations. No human being will be “illegal.” To shelter and feed people will not be criminalized but will be done naturally and as collectively as possible.

But most important, in a communist world nobody will be forced to migrate to look for a job to survive or provide for their families. In a world without money and wages there won’t be wage slavery jobs – just useful creative work to satisfy everyone’s needs collectively.

Humans have always migrated, populating the whole world from our birth place in Africa. Migration will not stop under communism. A communist world will encourage migration to integrate society locally and worldwide. Everyone will be welcomed as visitors or as permanent members of the society where they choose to visit



Crime of Solidarity

or reside.

We can’t win the communist world we need in the capitalists’ courts or with marches or actions no matter how massive or militant. It will take an armed revolution led by millions of workers and soldiers with a clear understanding of communism to destroy capitalism-imperialism and build a communist society.

We admire Cedric’s empathy and courage but we recognize the limits of this kind of action. Herrou is a humanist, not a communist. His trial publicized humanism and not communism. What’s the difference? Humanism is based on supposed solidarity of the whole human race. Humanists are idealists and think there are basic humanistic ideas - like caring for your fellow man or woman - and that once everyone adopts these ideas we’ll have a better world.

Communism, on the other hand, is based on solidarity of the working class. Furthermore, we’re materialists. While we believe that changing ideas is important, we also believe that we must destroy capitalism with its production and social relationships which engender, cultivate and propagate capitalist ideas.

When the law used against Herrou was passed, many in Europe were disgusted. It reminded them of the laws the Nazis passed against sheltering Jews. In fact, the European bosses are borrowing more and more tricks from the original Nazis.

In Denmark and other countries they confiscate the possessions of refugees when they enter the country. Refugees are crammed into camps behind barbed wires. Politicians call them “roaches” and “rats” and suggest shooting them when they try to cross the border.

During the Brexit campaign in the UK the neo-fascist UKIP party had a poster showing a long line of refugees—a clone of one published before WWII by the German Nazi party.

Herrou and his supporters show that many Europeans are not being taken in by neo Nazism. But to really change the world we need a millions-strong ICWP and a communist revolution.



Borders are the Scars of the Earth

The capitalist press has tried to make Cedric Herrou into an individual hero. But this is a mass movement—a solidarity collective of about a hundred people in five small mountain villages near the Italian border. It started as an act of charity, giving food and water to African migrants. Similarly, some in Mexico throw food and water to the Central American migrants passing through on top of freight trains on their way to the US. This movement has developed into a semi-clandestine network of safe houses, feeding, sheltering and transporting hundreds of migrants per night on their way north. Many railroad employees look the other way when migrants get on trains.

The rise of anti-immigrant racism in Europe and the US has received a lot of publicity. And there are those who call the cops on these migrants in the Roya Valley. These same people would have turned Jews over to the Nazis. But it’s important to understand that the resistance to fascism has a mass character. In response to this mass solidarity, many cops are also turning a blind eye to migrants. Others who have been arrested, including a University lecturer and a railroad engineer, have been acquitted, like Cedric, or given suspended sentences. Building mass, illegal networks to fight fascism is not enough. But it’s not a bad place to start.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

The Masses Make History

In a recent meeting, we downloaded the newest issue of *Red Flag* because we wanted to discuss the editorial. That reflected a proposal that we discuss the editorials in our meetings.

The editorial was about Fidel Castro and the Cuban revolution and how they failed to deliver on their promises. I think it is one of the important ones that we have produced as a party. Most of the comrades in my collective viewed Fidel Castro as a communist revolutionary, which I think he was not. As the editorial clearly states, he was anti-communist until he got aid from the Soviet Union. This has been an eye-opener for us.

As we were discussing this article, a comrade raised that in capitalist society the emphasis is around a central figure, a hero. This means that the masses, the ones who are actually pushing for change, who are actually effecting change, they are not getting mentioned.

History by the capitalists, by the liberals, only remembers the heroes, the Mandela’s and such. But ordinary people who suffer from brutality from the police, and other attacks, are not mentioned. The comrade said that the picture of the placard next to the article also reflects this point when it says, “The Masses: not ‘a

hero.”

We had a productive meeting. The editorial really made a difference. It opened our eyes to the dangers imposed by imperialism, not just by capitalism. One of the points that I liked in this editorial was that there is no difference between capitalism and imperialism. Imperialism is only the advanced form of capitalism. Some so-called communists here in South Africa either don’t know this or don’t want to admit it, but it really helps open our eyes. It brings our collective closer to ICWP’s whole political line.

—A Comrade in South Africa

South African Comrades Plan for Mass ICWP May Day

This is a report about our first meeting of the New Year. Its purpose was to re-visit our plans and to try to make some concrete steps of how we are actually going to achieve what we embark on achieving. That is a minimum of 500 people for the coming May Day March led by ICWP.

Today we made some concrete plans.

I think the first step for me is to engage with the comrades who live in a town where we have recruited comrades but don’t see them enough. I will engage with them about the May Day march and then I will have a concrete re-

port about this. Then we will come back and meet next Sunday. We will be able to make clearer plans after talking with them.

Comrade P: “I will visit a comrade who can give me the details about the comrades who live in another industrial town near here so that we can engage more masses from there to the May Day, to talk with the comrades there about our May Day plans. I will go to the comrade’s house after the meeting and get their numbers and call them today.”

Comrade L: “As the comrade just said, we need to focus more on the comrades we do have now from all over. There are comrades in another town that we especially need to engage. I agree with this. In order to mobilize the masses for communism, we shouldn’t lose the ones we already have because we want others. So we have to concentrate more on the comrades we have so we can work together as one to bring more comrades.”

Comrade F: “This was really a good meeting. Our last meeting was on Dec. 5th I think. Today we re-visited our plans and drew up plans about what we need to do. We will try to meet our targets.”

The meeting today was a step toward making sure we reach all of our goals. Happy New Year!

—Collective in South Africa

WORKERS MUST READ, WRITE, PUT COMMUNIST IDEAS IN PRACTICE

A comrade recently sent a passionate letter to *Red Flag* that said, "The masses learn only from through bitter experience ...after [getting] ...beat in the street." I don't think this is true.

You don't learn about communist solutions from getting your head bashed in. You do learn to hate capitalism, but that is not the same thing.

In truth, workers read. Potential working class leaders study communism. As they should.

If many didn't know how to read, communist parties have taught them how. During the Long March, the Chinese Communist party had everyone pin a character on their back so the comrade behind could practice reading it.

A communist must know about the struggle and history of many workers beyond his or her

immediate experience. For example, we're running an article on Italy's Hot Autumn in this issue to show the potential for communist revolution. Our anti-racism pamphlet includes an article on the strengths and weaknesses of the communist movement's fight against racism in the U.S.

We should continue to print articles like these that reflect the struggle around the world. We should study them with other comrades and friends.

Secondly, we want everyone to know about revolutionary theory and how communism works. Our immediate struggles won't automatically provide communist solutions. That must come from "the outside." It too requires reading and collective study.

When workers take these communist ideas

as their own, their experience will give these concepts life. Communists must stand with workers in the street and factories. Nonetheless, only close personal and social ties will allow us to carry out the protracted struggle necessary to develop new communist revolutionaries.

Leadership rests on the practical struggle to win our brothers and sisters to see communism as the solution. And to motivate them to fight for it.

Leaders must read, write and distribute *Red Flag*. They must contribute to the party's understanding of communism. They must participate in all aspects of mobilizing the masses for communism. That means we all must read and study more so we are clear about our goal.

—Industrial Red

Talking with Men and Women Workers about Sexism

In a recent meeting, in El Salvador, we talked about sexism and how it manifests itself at work and in other places. A comrade shared some ideas of ways that sexism supports the structure of domination.

This meeting was attended by a young couple, both of whom work. They shared some experiences of living together in their home. She said how hard it was at the beginning since her partner didn't "help with the housework, but little by little he has been getting involved and taking responsibility for a few tasks...its not his fault, that's how he was raised," she said.

Capitalism uses sexism to divide the working class and to discriminate against women. This is reflected in the way society is organized, creating laws and strengthening sexist culture.

Social relations must be transformed. This can only be possible in Communism. No one will be together for economic or other similar reasons. We will all be responsible to organize our shared lives together and collectively resolve all the problems that present themselves. Communist principles and values will be those that direct our lives.

It is a problem that has to be discussed to understand that we must organize, in the factory, at school, and any other place possible for the International Communist Workers' Party, the Party that fights for a Communist system.

"I think that it is an important issue that should be talked about more frequently," said a comrade. Sometimes we make mistakes because it is what we have always considered as "normal," but it is true that it shouldn't be this way. As Communists, we must change certain sexist behaviors."

Capitalist culture has created certain sexist ways of thinking and has assigned roles for men and women that historically have been conceived as natural. These only respond to the interests of the ruling class.

We believe that reading and distributing our newspaper *Red Flag* will help us all to have a better understanding about sexism: its origins, consequences, and how to organize to build a system that will eliminate money and exploitation, as the material basis of these problems.

We must put an end to wage slavery and sexism by mobilizing more men and women workers directly for Communism.

—Comrades in El Salvador

Fighting Sexism Is Critical for the Communist Movement

We're not sure what comrades in Mexico meant in their letter (last issue) by saying that sexism "is not decisive in the Communist movement." Maybe that the masses could successfully mobilize for communism without a sharp anti-sexist line? We don't agree with that.

The basis of communism is production and distribution "from each according to ability, to each according to need." Sexism includes not taking full account of women's abilities and needs. How could we build communism without overcoming this sexism?

Capitalism continues a gender division of labor rooted in earlier class societies.

So, while starting to build communism we will need to rely mainly on women to organize some types of work. For example, in many households a woman often does most of the thinking and planning about what's needed.

That's true even when men "help" with house-

work.

We need to struggle against the idea that traditional "women's work" is somehow less useful or valuable than traditional "men's work." Or any less important to organizing communism.

Capitalists often pay women, especially non-white women, less than men for the same work. In addition, jobs traditionally done by women are more badly underpaid. This reflects and reinforces the idea that women are worth less than men.

This is bad for workers of both sexes. It is like how the super-exploitation of non-whites helps the capitalists exploit all workers. These divisions keep workers from acting together. It can even lead the slightly-more privileged to identify with their exploiters.

We must fight, starting now, for all comrades to learn and do different types of work. Women often have more experience in organizing and preparing dinners, for example. But men can learn to do that. Often women have less experience speaking in public or leading meetings. But we must help them learn.

We can't accept arguments that only men (or only particular men) are capable of doing certain tasks like developing theory or taking leadership roles. The communist principle of "red" versus "expert" has an anti-sexist edge. Without understanding that, we can't win.

Fully imagining and building communist society requires a much better understanding of sexism. If we are to move forward, this must be addressed. We can't build the unity needed to mobilize the masses for communism without a sharp fight against sexist ideas and practices.

—Comrades in LA

ITALY'S HOT AUTUMN from page 8

unionist." But student and worker fighters called the shots. They labeled the trade unions (and their backers in the party) "bodyguards of capitalism."

The hysterical bosses' press screamed that Milan and Turin had become "war zones." The streets resonated with chants like "The bosses state is for smashing not changing" and "What do we want? Everything! When do we want it? Now!"

Government repression was vicious and sabotage by the pseudo-communist party-led unions was ever-present. On the other hand, nine million southern migrants were open to a communist alternative to dead-end militant reform. Many oth-

ers would follow their lead.

From Insurrection to Communist Revolution

The situation was ripe for a party like the ICWP. Millions would have embraced a newspaper like *Red Flag* that focused on communist solutions. The calls for working class violence would center on communist revolution, not just around the immediate demands of the rebellion.

The mass meetings could have discussed not only the plans for the next rebellion (as essential as that is) but also how communism would work. Communist centers of production would focus on collective work to provide for everyone's need. Mental and manual labor would merge into one.

Migrants would no longer perform only the hardest, most menial tasks. There would no longer be migrants or immigrants, only workers. This model would spread throughout society.

The assemblies could have armed the working class with a clear understanding of their goal: to mobilize the masses for communism. For starters, these industrial workers in the north would have found comrades among their friends and family in the south, many of whom were literally starving.

We see similar heroic anti-racist class struggle around the world today. Many are no longer the mere victims of the bosses' crisis. New fighters have the potential to become the makers of history. Join the ICWP. Make that potential real!

TODAY'S STUDENT REBELS: FUTURE COMMUNIST WORKERS AND SOLDIERS



LOS ANGELES, USA, Jan. 11--Thousands of high school students all over the US walked out of school and took to the streets in protest when Donald Trump was elected. Now, with his inauguration, they promise to do the same. We invite these young people to join the ICWP in mobilizing the masses for communism.

These brave young people show that youth are not passive, but active against everything that Trump represents: racism, sexism and xenophobia among others. These young people are leading the way in the struggle against these capitalist ideas and practices.

Many of these young people are realizing that capitalism doesn't work. So these protests and student strikes against Trump aren't just against him, but against the whole capitalist system.

However, many of these young people don't realize that it will take a communist revolution to overthrow capitalism and replace it with something better. For this revolution to happen we need more communists. Young people must join the ICWP, form study groups around *Red Flag* newspaper, as well as building *Red Flag* distribution networks. All these are parts of mobilizing the masses for communism.

We can create a communist world. In that world, everyone will be welcome. There will be no racist, sexist or nationalist divisions. Borders will not exist. We will eliminate every form of money and exchange. We will share the same standard of living. Everything that we need to have a full life will be organized, produced and distributed through collective processes on

every level. In other words, we will all have a say in what happens.

The young rebels of today are the future workers in the bosses' factories and the future soldiers in the capitalists' armies. These two sectors, basic industry and the military, are key to the victory of a communist revolution. The lessons that these young people learn in the mobilization for communism today will be valuable in the future when they continue their struggle as workers and soldiers for the elimination of capitalism and the construction of communism.

We must all dedicate and commit our lives to making communism a reality. This is our present, this is our future.

Italy's Hot Autumn of 1969:

MIGRANT INDUSTRIAL WORKERS LED ATTACK ON WAGE SLAVERY

Alfonso Natella worked at the Fiat car works in Turin during The Hot Autumn of 1969. Southern Italian migrants like him turned these factories into cauldrons of rebellion. The novel *We Want Everything* tells his story.

The character based on Natella gives a rousing speech at the end. It reads in part:

We say no to the reforms that the unions and the [so-called communist] party want us to fight for. Because we understand that those reforms only improve the system that the bosses exploit us with. Why should we care about being exploited more, with a few more apartments, a few more medicines and a few more kids at school? All of this only advances the State, advances the [bosses]' interest... Our aims, the interests of the working class, are the mortal enemy of capital and its interests.

We started this great struggle by demanding more money and less work... And now we must move from the struggle for wages to the struggle for power.

Comrades, let us refuse [exploitive] work. We want all the power; we want all the wealth. It will be a long struggle, years, with successes and setbacks, with defeats and advances. But this is the struggle that we have to start now, a violent fight to the end. We must fight to end [exploitive] work.

We must fight for the violent destruction of capital. We must fight against a State founded on [exploitation]. We say: yes to working class violence.

Words like these were repeated many times during The Hot Autumn at worker assemblies inside the plants and together with radical students in warehouses near the factories. They were spoken at the daily marches that crisscrossed the cities of Turin and Milan. They were distributed around the road-blocks that workers from hundreds of factories and thousands of students erected and fought to protect.

Insurrection Outside the Plants

The center of the struggle was the 150,000 person Mirafiora Fiat factory in the northern city of Turin. But it didn't stay there and it went far beyond even other industrial plants.

The first insurrection occurred in the neighborhood surrounding the car works. Tens of thousands of southern workers were forced into this run-down area, if they had a home at all. In July of 1969, migrant Fiat workers turned a run-of-the-mill union demonstration over housing into a days-long street battle with the cops.

During the insurrection, worker-student groups issued leaflets that called rent a theft of salary. In communism, there will be neither salaries nor rent. Housing will be provided for everyone. We will collectively end segregated living. Southern Italian migrants will never be separated from northern Italian workers, nor will black from Latin from white workers in the U.S. No more racist slumlords will profit from the super-exploited in Turin or in Detroit. As soon as possible, we'll replace slums with collective housing.

Bigger insurrections were to fol-



low. *L'Unita'* began calling it the Hot Autumn referencing "the long hot summer" of ghetto rebellions in the U.S.

... And in Them

Workers called the factories their Vietnam. Political posters were pasted outside and inside the factories, consciously imitating the wall posters of the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Delegates (shop stewards) were ignored; mass meetings made the decisions.

For months, 300,000 workers a day on average rebelled. Super-exploited southern migrants led continuous marches through the plants. "Red handkerchiefs" (named for the masks worn by the punishment squad) beat up hated line bosses or chained them to railings. Rebels would shut down one line, then march through the factory. Other lines would follow until production stopped. Then workers would stay in the plants to meet.

The communist party and the unions called these coordinated wildcats "illegal and un-trade-

See ITALY'S HOT AUTUMN, page 7

