

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY * WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORGIf those of us on the bottom move,
those on top will fall

No Layoffs! Rehire those laid off!



ARGENTINA: RESPOND TO MASS LAYOFFS AND CENSORSHIP WITH COMMUNISM, NOT POPULISM

January 31 — Buenos Aires erupted with mass protests after Argentina's newly-elected President Mauricio Macri fired tens of thousands of government workers. That included the popular morning radio host Victor Hugo Morales.

Macri, the conservative mayor of Buenos Aires, narrowly defeated Buenos Aires Province Governor Daniel Scioli, endorsed by ex-president Cristina Kirchner, in Argentina's first national run-off election.

Both rival political coalitions represent factions of Argentina's capitalist class. Both rely on an ideology of populism to win the support of the masses.

Historically—not just in Argentina—populism mobilizes masses around their disgust with “insider” politicians. Its program is putting “outsider” politicians on the “inside” to run the capitalist institutions that oppress the masses.

The working-class masses will not benefit from the “Right” populism of Macri or of Trump in the US. They will not be liberated from wage slavery by the “Left” populism of the Kirchners or Bernie Sanders in the US.

Only by mobilizing for communism can the masses win and build a society that meets our needs.

Macri's coalition promised “change.” In his first month of office he also tripled electricity rates. He further devalued the currency, cutting workers' purchasing power in half. He is reinstating a military draft.

Macri's campaign split the working class. He attacked government workers as “lazy” while calling on private enterprises to follow his lead with mass layoffs.

His coalition represents Argentinian capitalists with closer ties to the US and Europe. He plans to back off from Kirchner's alliances with Venezuela, Iran, China and Russia. However, he will probably continue to strengthen relations between Argentina and Brazil. The growing integration of South America through Mercosur and Unasur (Union of South American Nations) will continue.

Populism: Cover for Fascism or Reformist Diversion

Argentinian politics revolves around personalities, not ideologies: Macrismo, Kirchnerismo and especially Peronismo. Juan Peron, See ARGENTINA, page 3

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION DEMANDS UNITY OF MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM WORKERS

LOS ANGELES — “In the last issue of *Red Flag*, you said that Muslims are our brothers and sisters. How can you say that when they are killing us?” asked an MTA bus operator at Division 8.

He was referring to the following statement in *Red Flag* (Vol. 6 #22): “Many workers and youth are responding to the bosses' racist fear campaign by demonstrating anti-racist solidarity with their Muslim brothers and sisters.”

This operator has been a loyal *Red Flag* reader for years, always taking an extra one for a friend. It therefore surprised the *Red Flag* distributor that he should ask such question.

However, after discussing it with other comrades, we agreed that he was both right and wrong! But he was more wrong than right.

He was wrong in saying “They [all Muslims] are killing us.” Not all Muslims are killing us—people in the US.

Those attacking workers everywhere are the capitalists—like the US-backed rulers of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates—who fund, train and arm ISIS, Al Qaeda, the Taliban, etc.

These terrorists and their capitalist masters are but a very tiny part of the world's more than 2.1 billion Muslims. They represent the less than 1% of Muslims who are attacking workers. Most of their victims are actually Muslims.

It is important to keep this in mind because the main reason the US and European rulers are building fear and racism against all Muslims is to divide us from and pit us against this huge and important sector of the international working class. This racist hysteria has already led to many attacks on Muslim workers and their families in Europe and the US, including the racist attack on the MTA Sikh driver (see last issue of *Red Flag*).

The operator was right that not all Muslims are our brothers and sisters. The vast majority, however, are members of the working-class masses and are our class brothers and sisters.

See MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM WORKERS, page 4

**INDIA:
MASS
STRUGGLE
AGAINST CASTE
SYSTEM
PAGE 2**

**SOUTH AFRICA:
TRADE
UNIONS NO
SOLUTION
PAGE 3**

**YOUTH
MOBILIZING
FOR
MAY DAY
PAGE 3**

**ZIKA:
ANOTHER
CAPITALIST
DISASTER
PAGES 5 & 8**

Indian Caste System: Creature of British Imperialism

COMMUNISM WILL ABOLISH IT

Thousands of students across India have continued protest marches and strikes at major universities in the aftermath of the extreme discrimination faced by a Dalit student that led him to commit suicide. The mainstream media has completely ignored these demonstrations.

In New Delhi the students responded to anti-Dalit racism by marching to the ideological center of the fascist organization RSS that is responsible for organizing mass murders of Muslim and Dalit workers. Not surprisingly, the Delhi police along with the fascist goons of RSS brutally attacked the students.

The suicide of the Dalit student has galvanized millions of students and workers in India to question and seek answers to the centuries-old caste system that the British colonial administrators created and imposed.

Capitalism Created the Indian Caste and Religious System

Seventeenth-century Britain and other European countries were going through the revolutionary transformation from feudalism to capitalism. The rise of capitalism in Britain required huge amounts of natural resources and cheap labor.

The conquest of India by Britain provided both. But to achieve this, the British rulers had to transform Indian villages that produced rice to feed families into landlord-owned farms cultivating jute, indigo and opium. This unprecedented transformation of Indian villages uprooted millions of peasants. They became landless paupers.

Famine, hunger and starvation followed as rice was replaced by the cultivation of opium and cotton for profit. A third of Bengal's population perished in persistent waves of famines. But for the British capitalist rulers it provided cotton for the textile mills in Manchester. It also provided opium to open the markets in Manchuria for British manufactured goods by creating millions of Chinese workers addicted to it and unable to work.

The Bengali handloom weavers known for their craft of producing fine muslin had their thumbs chopped off by the agents of the British rulers so that textiles produced by the exploitation of the British working class could flood the global market.

The newly emerging Indian rural and urban workers did not take this calamity created by capitalism passively. Millions of them rose up in arms against British domination and their local agents, Hindu and Muslim rulers. Every year after 1756, major peasant rebellions threatened the very existence of colonial rule.

The British rulers responded to this crisis by assigning Brahmins, the so-called priestly caste, the role of colonial administrators. They were educated in British schools and ruthlessly implemented British colonial rule. Capitalism desperately required the division of the newly emerging working class that was rebelling everywhere. British historians portrayed Muslims as outsiders and oppressors of Hindus, thus creating artificial division between Hindu and Muslim workers.

The rebellious peasants were classified as the



Dalit women in arms organized by Communists in 1930's

'untouchable' caste and many of them are today's Dalits. Over 3000 castes and 25000 sub-castes were created by British rulers, similar to the way scientists were classifying plants and animals. Each caste and sub caste-was classified in a hierarchy approved by the rulers.

This bitter legacy of religious/caste division is used by the Indian capitalist rulers today to keep the workers divided and super-exploited. The ruling BJP party in India came to power after a series of pogroms against Muslims. BJP tried to ideologically win poor Hindu Dalits to see Muslim workers as their enemies.

Today, India is going through a profound crisis of capitalism. Last week in a northern state, the government announced the opening of 114 jobs for street sweepers. These jobs required no education. Over 19,000 engineers, MBAs and graduates applied for these jobs.

Over 2000 people in India die of starvation every day. These masses of unemployed and starving people can be won to fight for communism. So can India's tens of millions of industrial workers.

The rulers like BJP and the Congress Party are misleading these workers and creating religious and caste differences to perpetuate capitalism. The Communist Party of India (CPI) and Communist Party of India (Marxist) are nothing but reformist parties trying to save the Indian capi-

talists seeking to pacify the workers and students by creating the illusion that Indian capitalism can be reformed, and pushing the nationalist lie that a rising India will benefit everyone.

We have many friends and readers of *Red Flag* in India. We want to carry the ideological struggle for communism to the masses. Our friends must spread these ideas that only communism can smash the caste system and the oppression of Dalits and brutality against Muslim workers. There are 50 million industrial workers in India. These ideas must reach industrial workers and soldiers.

Our party is engaged in this struggle among students at various Universities. A student in India was extremely moved when he received a message of solidarity from a South African worker. He proudly displayed a photo of ICWP members in South Africa for others to see. He wishes to go to South Africa one day to organize for ICWP.

Our party is patiently winning over small numbers and if we carry on our work with vigor and dedication, we will be able in the near future to win over tens of thousands around the world. Joining ICWP, reading, writing, discussing, translating and spreading our ideas in mass struggles is the answer to the bosses' cynicism and racist onslaught. Fight for communism; Join ICWP today.

**MARCH UNDER THE
COMMUNIST FLAGS OF
ICWP ON
INTERNATIONAL
WORKERS' DAY
SUNDAY,
MAY 1, 2016**



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REPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA: BUILDING ICWP AMONG METALWORKERS

My comrades and I today went to an industrial area to distribute our material at a company that makes tanks for oil, petrol, for SAPC, Coca-Cola, etc. Those workers are represented by National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) because it's an industrial firm.

The comrade who invited us is very unhappy about how NUMSA is run in the workplace because those shop stewards are far away from the workers. They don't deliver any of the workers' grievances and all those issues. So he invited us to go there and distribute our communist material. When we went there today at lunch time, we distributed almost all the 200 copies of *Red Flag* that we took. We only came back with about 30 copies so we distributed about 170 copies.

The response we actually got from the workers was very positive. We met another older man

who has worked at that firm for 25 years. He's also afraid now to retire because of the new legislation the government passed. The workers will only get 30% of their provident (retirement) fund. The other 70% will be controlled by the government. So people were very angry because NUMSA and other unions were supposed to be fighting this legislation. But they didn't do anything.

So as we listened to the workers we tried to explain to them that it doesn't help only talking about it, that we have to stand up and do something and that they should organize the other workers inside the firm so that they can present a united front to be able to defeat the capitalists.

Most of these workers there have not struck for 2 years because of NUMSA. NUMSA does not organize the workers to strike. So we told those

workers that in order to ensure the defeat of capitalism we should organize the workers so they can be able to strike and also to join the Party. That's the main objective of these distributions, to get as many workers as possible to join the Party to fight the scourge of capitalism.

So that's one thing we touched on with the workers, how are we going to organize the workers. One worker asked, "Can you play the role of the union?" We said we can't play that role because the union will be negotiating for reforms. We said we don't want any reforms to this system. It's too much of a problem, reforms don't work. Capitalism needs to be eradicated, all of it. We can't eradicate it without the unity of the working class. So we should work towards the unification of the working class so that we can be able to overthrow capitalism.

YOUTH INSPIRED TO MOBILIZE FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY

LOS ANGELES, January 23 —The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) met to kick off our work for the May Day March. The opening speech highlighted the growth of the ICWP from El Salvador to South Africa, India to the U.S., and Mexico to France.

The comrade described the worldwide crisis of overproduction and the falling rate of profit, the increasing attacks on the world's working class and how this crisis can only be resolved with World War III. The masses are in motion responding to this crisis and the attacks against them. But they need an organization that can answer their aspirations.

We saw an exciting video of the ICWP international conference in South Africa. Then we divided into two groups (students and workers) to read and discuss a summary of *Mobilizing the Masses for Communism*.

The following are comments from young participants:

I guess teens are starting to realize the problems of the world. The working class worldwide is living in critical conditions, but what needs to be done starts with all of us, whether young or old.

I especially enjoyed the video. We discussed how things would and would not work if communism won the war. I liked how many of us had questions and thoughts. Everyone's comments and feed-

back were great.

Communists don't want to start a war, but capitalists will because they want to protect their empire. They don't want working-class people to unite and change our society and we want to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Communism will work. We will provide for each other, work as one, help each other, teach each other, no poor or rich.

I learned that there will be no distinction between documented and undocumented individuals because there will be no borders. When I asked what is going to happen to the criminals?

I was answered that the bankers and the exploiters are the biggest criminals and that that will disappear.

I really loved the South African song "My mother was a kitchen girl. My father was a garden boy. That's why I'm a communist." To help build for the May Day march I will attend meetings and convince people to be a communist.

It was an eye-opening experience that brought me to realize how much disaster there is in this world and how it can all be changed. I learned how communism is spreading all around the world through Red Flag such as India and Africa.

We talked about organizing things for the May Day March, distributing Red Flag and how we would march with communist chants and communist banners.

I went to the meeting with many questions but I left with much clarification. I will help build for the May Day March by making posters and banners. I'll spread the word and get as many people possible to come.

We talked about how communism would abolish money. I realized there are millions fighting for one cause, young and old and people from all races.

All in all, this meeting was a good start for our efforts to mobilize the masses for communism this May Day. Onward, comrades!



ARGENTINA from page 1

Argentina's president from 1946-1955 and 1973-1974, and his second wife Eva Duarte are cult figures.

Pro-US military dictatorships ruled Argentina from 1955-1973 and during the "dirty war" (1976-1983). Tens of thousands were imprisoned in concentration camps, tortured and murdered. Even today, many see Peronism as the "outsider" alternative to imperialist domination.

But Juan Peron himself admired Mussolini.

When exiled from Argentina he took refuge in Franco's fascist Spain.

Peronist populism is firmly rooted in capitalism. "Left" Peronists today consider their program "Keynesian." They admire US President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

During the 12 years of Presidents Nestor and Cristina Kirchner, the masses received many free educational and cultural opportunities. But about 30% of Buenos Aires residents lived below the official poverty line in 2015. An inflation rate near 40% was increasingly making it impossible for workers to live. And even "Left" Peronists have no plans whatsoever to end poverty, much less class society and exploitation.

Only communism can do that by abolishing the money, markets and wage slavery of capitalist society. That means winning the masses to fight a revolution in their own interests. They must be motivated by a clear vision of communist society.

"That would take too long," replied an Argentinian activist. "It's better to win

state power" through elections.

But one of the main lessons of the Paris Commune of 1871 was that the institutions of capitalist state power, whoever runs them, can never serve the masses. They must be destroyed by revolution. That's the only realistic plan, however long it takes.

Communist workers' power must take a completely different form: a mass communist party and its Red Army. We must draw the masses into active participation in making and carrying out all decisions directly. By joining the International Communist Workers' Party today you can help to begin the process of developing this new political formation.

Industrial workers are about a quarter of Argentina's labor force. The trade unions are universally recognized as "corrupt." They enrich themselves and suppress workers' struggles instead of organizing class war because they support capitalism.

We must use every opportunity to win industrial workers and soldiers in Argentina and everywhere to take the lead in mobilizing the masses for communism.



COMMUNIST INSPIRED MASSES WILL BEAT LEAD CONTAMINATION

Poisoning Flint's children (and adults) with lead contaminated water adds to the long list of capitalism's racist and anti-working class horrors. But you probably know that by now.

As few years ago, Flint started getting water from the Flint River instead of Lake Huron to save money. However, the one remaining GM plant in Flint is now getting its water from Lake Huron! Flint River water is highly corrosive causing lead from the city's antiquated pipes to leach into the water supply. Business as usual!

The city budget was slashed when General Motors closed most of its factories there, laying off over 80% of the workers after stealing billions from the labor of the city's largely black workforce. To hell with the bosses' budgets! Lead poisoning can not stand!

Communist revolution is the only way to rectify the situation. Communism relies on mobilizing the masses, not budgets.

The Flint waterway is so corrosive because salt compounds used to melt snow drain into the river. Salt runoff increases the level of corrosive chlorine.

Cities use salt because it is cheap. Communism will mobilize masses to remove snow instead of relying on dangerous salt compounds. The party will prepare those idled during snow storms to help.

There are roughly 7.3 million lead water service lines in the U.S. alone. There is no plan to get rid of them because it costs too much money.

Here too, the party will mobilize the masses—this time to rip out the old lead pipes and replace them with safe ones.

Huge Struggle, but Doable

Communism can mobilize the masses needed because profits, money and budgets will be out of the equation. Collective struggle will be our method; collective good our goal.

We know we can succeed because we've seen aspects of it done before. Soon after the Chinese revolution, the Chinese communist party mobilized millions to eradicate schistosomiasis, one

of the deadliest diseases known to humankind. It infected 250 million.

To end the plague, the Chinese had to interrupt the life cycle of the microscopic worm that caused the malady. They killed the amphibious snails that played host to the worm's larvae.

The snails lived near river waterlines often burrowing three inches into the mud. More than a million workers temporarily drained the rivers in the right progression and cleared out the banks. They waged war against the snails for a decade till final victory.

They won despite the devastation caused by years of exploitation and oppression; despite the destruction caused by WWII and the likes of the rape of Nanking by the Japanese Army. The "secret" was mobilizing the masses.

Dr. Joshua Horn, an English surgeon and eyewitness to the campaign, described how it was done: "To mobilize the masses does not mean to issue them shovels and instructions; it means to fire them with enthusiasm to release their initiative and to tap their wisdom."

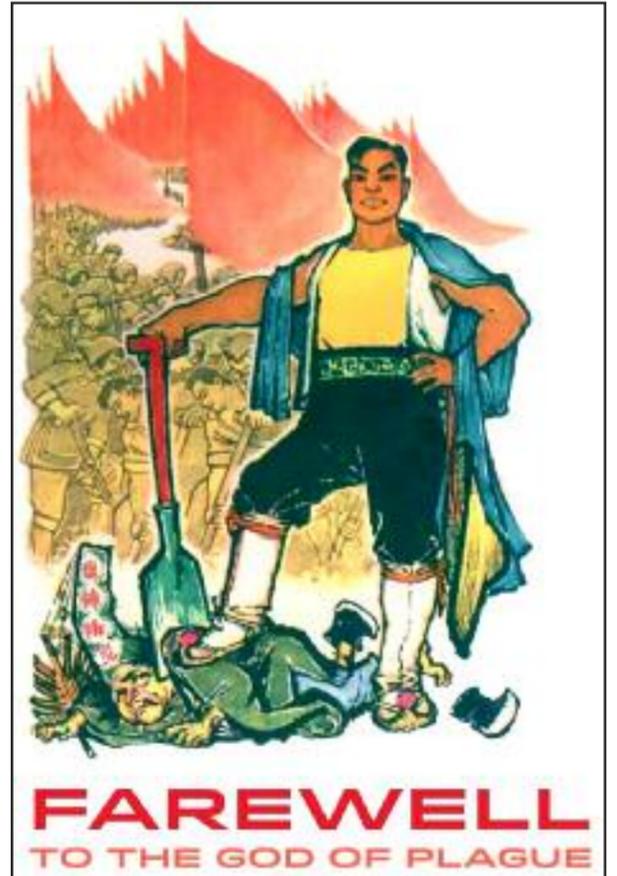
Today, unfortunately, schistosomiasis is back in China. The masses were mobilized to get rid of it, but were not mobilized to fight for communism, but instead for socialism. Socialism is state capitalism. Adminstrating it, the communists became capitalists. Today in China, the profits of these capitalists-imperialists are primary, not the well-being of the Chinese workers.

Lead Pollution Is a Paper Tiger

Cleaning up the mess in Flint will be a huge job, but it is relatively small potatoes compared to eliminating the "snail disease." In Flint, the locals will also play a key role. They know the physical conditions. Most importantly, they know the relationships between people that ultimately will determine victory or defeat.

Replacing all lead pipes is a bigger problem, but just as doable with millions of hands, hearts and minds.

Our outlook stands in sharp contrast to the bosses' doom-and-gloom. They may acknowl-



edge the racist and anti-working class character of the attacks, but can offer no solution. Cost, budgets and the need to continue making profits make the task impossible.

But we view the obstacles as "paper tigers." Real "tigers" because lead contamination destroys lives. We'll need a tactical plan, organization, Party leadership and years of fierce mass communist struggle to get rid of lead pollution.

In the long run, the battle against environmental lead is winnable, no matter how many miles of lead pipes and tons of corrosive pollutants the bosses' have unleashed. The masses are incomparably more powerful than the harmful legacy of capitalism. In this way, we can consider the obstacles as like paper tigers.

We will win because a working class motivated by communism is unbeatable.

MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM WORKERS from page 1

Self-critically, we did not make this class distinction clear enough in the article. The word "Muslim" does not define a class. It describes people of a certain religion. As such, Muslims can be rich or poor; exploiters or exploited; oppressors or oppressed. In short, this sector is divided into a handful of capitalists and their lackeys, on one side, and the masses of workers, on the other.

Obviously, the ayatollah rulers of Iran are not friends of the working class. Neither are the Saudi princes or Muslim rulers or Muslim capitalists of any country. Nor are those who, although from the workers' ranks, are loyal servants of the capitalists-imperialists: the police, high ranking military officers and government officials, treacherous union hacks, higher level mangers and supervisors, etc.

Let's also keep in mind that the turmoil in the Middle East, where these terrorists find fertile ground, is a product of the capitalists-imperialists' dogfight to control this oil-rich region for world supremacy.

These capitalists-imperialists—US, China, Russia, England, Germany, France, Italy, India and Japan—are the biggest terrorists in history. They have already murdered, maimed, left homeless or made refugees of millions of Middle Eastern workers and youth. Thousands of others have died fighting in these imperialists' wars. Thou-



sands more – like US veterans of those wars – commit suicide at home for lack of proper mental health and other medical care.

These butchers' rivalry will lead to even bigger and more lethal wars, including World War III. The anti-Muslim hysteria in Europe, pushed in the US by the likes of Trump, is to win workers and youth to support and die for these imperialists' profits and empire. We workers have no dog in these bosses' fight. Our task is to unite to be their and their racist system's gravediggers.

We need to turn the rulers' wars into class wars to build a communist world. It is an impossible task if non-Muslim workers don't unite with their Muslim working-class brothers and sisters who account for 28% of the world's population.

It's good that our article provoked the driver to raise this issue with a comrade. We thank him for his criticism and invite him and all *Red Flag* readers to meet with us to more deeply discuss these ideas and other ideas in order to better advance the struggle for communism.

COMMUNISM WILL WIPE OUT ZIKA

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the Zika virus an international health emergency. The last time they did that was for Ebola.

In communism, masses led by the International Communist Workers' Party will make short work of Zika, not to mention Ebola and lead-poisoned water. Capitalism can't do that.

The immediate cause for concern is Brazil, where thousands of babies have been born with unusually small brains. This condition is called "microcephaly" and can lead to severe health problems and even death.

Microcephaly is likely caused by the mother contracting Zika during early pregnancy. The WHO Director General says the virus is spreading "explosively" through Latin America and beyond. The emergency is real enough.

And how does Zika spread? It is carried by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which also spreads the dengue fever and chikungunya viruses, two more serious diseases that are also rampant.

This is where the bosses step in. Their solution is to kill the mosquitos, and they've mobilized their armies to spread out and fumigate houses and breeding grounds.

Under communism, we'd do a lot more. Why are there so many mosquitoes in the first place? You don't have to fly to Brazil and hire an investigator to find out. It's obvious: lack of public sanitation services and squalid living conditions. As the *Wall Street Journal* (1/29) reported (from Recife):

The metropolis of about 3.7 million had all the ingredients to hatch an epidemic. Recife's sodden topography is interlaced with canals filled with raw sewage. Flooded streets and mounds of rain-soaked garbage are common during the rainy season ... Recife's poorest residents, lacking reliable water, have taken to building cisterns and hoarding supplies in swimming pools and other containers where mosquitoes breed.

In other words, the lack of basic public services: sewage and clean drinking water. This will not happen under communism.

Capitalists' number-one concern is to compete with their rivals. If clean water and sewers don't help them compete, they don't happen. In fact the main reason the Brazilian bosses are worried about Zika may be because it might affect the hundred million or so dollars they've invested in their Olympics.

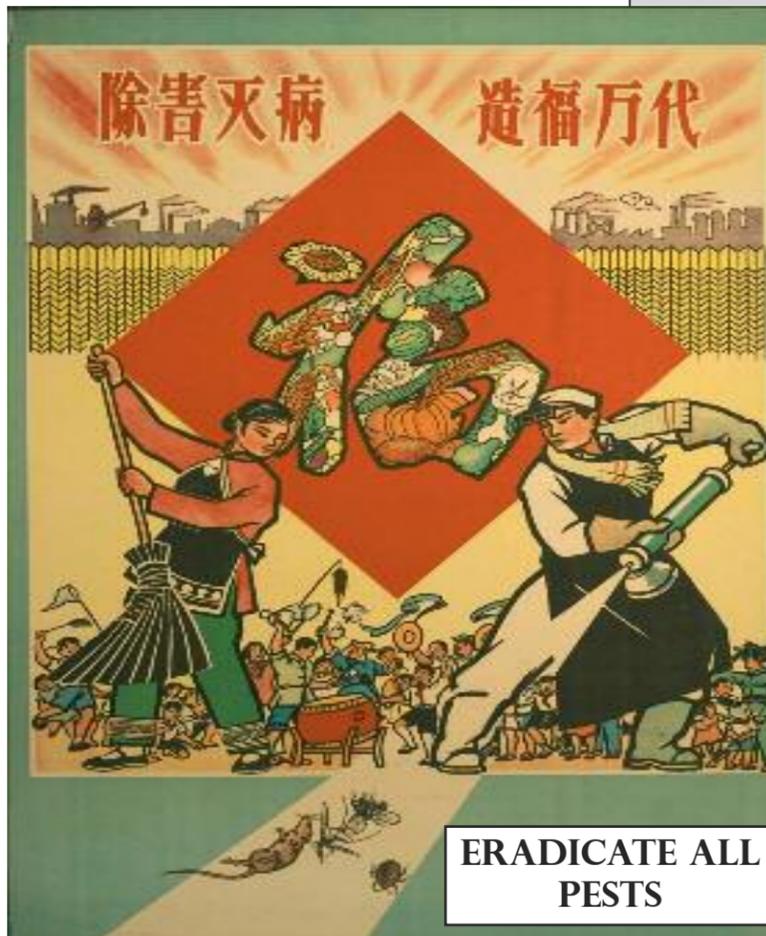
Communists' number-one concern is the health

and well-being of the masses of workers. Once we come to power, basic health services will be a priority. We'll mobilize the masses to replace or install thousands of miles of pipes for sewage and clean water. And while the pipe is being installed, we'll drain the canals and puddles and wipe out the mosquitoes. As the Flint water article explains, this sort of mobilization is possible only with a communist party – the ICWP.

Of course we will not stop at sewage and clean water. We will build housing fit for workers and move millions out of the worst favelas. Everyone will have the best possible medical care – free, like everything else, because we'll abolish money.

The babies already born with microcephaly will have special needs throughout their lives and we will meet these needs. This will not be the parents' responsibility. Under communism, society is responsible for the needs of family members, not the parents.

Communism can put an end to Zika, Ebola, dengue, chikungunya, malaria and whatever else is in store by wiping out the real parasites, namely the bosses. But only a mass party can do this. Join the ICWP and ensure the health of the working class.



ZIKA: THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM IS CAPITALISM

In Recife, it's capitalist development, the explosive growth of cities and racist super-exploitation. By the 1970s, public health campaigns had wiped out the vast majority of mosquito breeding grounds in the Americas. Meanwhile the world's capitalists had seen the potential for moving major industrial production to Latin America. There the legacy of racist imperialism and rural poverty allowed imperialists to reap super-profits. The industrialization of Brazil, Mexico and Central America took off.

Brazil pursued a policy of industrialization and port development in Pernambuco, where Recife is. Recife, with two ports on the Atlantic, is today the industrial powerhouse of northeast Brazil. Textile, chemical, food and mineral processing are the most important industries.

Like the enclosure movement that was part of the development of early capitalism in England, this led to the explosive growth of cities. Landless farmers flowed into the city looking for jobs. Informal settlements, shanty towns or favelas without clean water, sewers or other public services, grow up in the surrounding hillsides to house them. Now the level of mosquito infestation is back to the 1930 levels.

When capitalists concentrated industrial workers in the cities, they created the class that will become their gravediggers. When communists take state power, we will mobilize the masses for emergency campaigns to clean up the cities and wipe out the sources of disease.

But the communist society we envision is not one of a cleaned-up Recife with adequate public services and new apartment complexes for industrial workers.

We will produce for need and not for profit. So, over time, the masses will mobilize to move production and housing out of megacities. We will build new towns where people can live and work in a more human way.

FOR OUR CHILDREN AND OUR FUTURE: MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

Over 8 million babies are born each year with serious birth defects. They are about 6% of all births. Globally, 3.3 million children under the age of 5 die from them each year. The March of Dimes has estimated that up to 70% of the disabilities and deaths from birth defects can be prevented. That wouldn't even cost very much.

But capitalism doesn't value the lives of these poor and working-class babies. Profits come first.

Communism will mobilize the love of our class for our children to guarantee that everything possible is done to prevent or mitigate birth defects.

The fundamental communist principle is: From each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need. Obviously that means that our whole society will be responsible for meeting every child's special needs instead of leaving the parents to fend for themselves.

We recognize that every individual has the potential to contribute to the common good in some

way. Communism will help every person realize that potential, whatever his or her abilities or disabilities.

The root of the Zika crisis is racist capitalism. Why are there no vaccines for Zika or many other diseases that are common in Asia, Africa and Latin America? Because pharmaceutical companies won't develop them unless they smell profits. They won't even produce medications used in imperialist countries if the rate of profit isn't high enough to suit the stockholders.

Communism will abolish money and the profit motive. That will create the possibility of mobilizing many hands and minds to create and produce vaccines and medications as they are needed. It will enable us to make all our neighborhoods healthy and sanitary.

Capitalism has proved that it can eradicate diseases like polio and smallpox. But when it comes to diseases with an environmental component like clean water and adequate drainage, they cannot. In fact, capitalism makes superprofits by

forcing workers to compete with class brothers and sisters elsewhere in a "race to the bottom."

Look at rubella which—like Zika—is relatively mild but can cause birth defects (CRS). A mass vaccination campaign virtually wiped out rubella in the US by 1988. But there are still over 100,000 cases of CRS globally each year.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is responding to the Zika crisis, now that it threatens to spread to the US. That same WHO tried to cover up the massive epidemic of birth defects in Iraq (likely due to depleted-uranium weapons) after the US invasion and occupation.

Communism in contrast needs to destroy racism and nationalism to build the class unity required to end exploitation and wage slavery. Communism insists that nobody anywhere should live better or worse than anyone else. With your help, we will make that a reality. All our lives will be better for it.

CHILEAN HISTORY HELPS US UNDERSTAND OUR FIGHT

In 1970, Salvador Allende Gossens came to power under the flag of the Popular Unity Party. Allende had socialist ideas. Behind him was a massive mobilization of urban workers, students and farm workers across Chile. The left had united in a single block, with the goal that Allende's government would be "a revolutionary and popular government that would open the road to socialism." All of this without armed revolution.

From the beginning of his government, the bosses would not allow Allende to carry out even the most minimal reforms. The groups of the radical right, with the help of the United States government, carried out three attempts to prevent Allende from taking office. One was the assassination of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Rene Schneider. All of this was to generate an environment in which military intervention would be necessary.

On September 11, 1973 a military coup, financed by the CIA and the Chilean bourgeoisie, overthrew Allende's government. Then came the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, who assassinated, tortured and disappeared more than 40,000 Chileans for more than 17 years.

During the Allende government, the leftist movement put aside the military preparation of their working-class base. In spite of the fact that even the old communist movement in Chile

called for armed struggle, on September 11, the scant preparation and mass work meant that only 200 people were willing to fight. In spite of having one of the largest parties in Latin America, they did not mobilize the masses for communism from the beginning. The consequence of this was the coup and the weak response by the movement.

The International Communist Workers' Party must fight directly for Communism through armed revolution, relying on the capacity of the working class to fight for a better world.

The leftist parties were faced with the result of their confidence and illusion in a revolution without weapons. Even armed groups like the MIR (Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria) which claimed to be communist lacked a mass movement among the working class. This is a fundamental lesson for our party.

At the end of the cold war, politics in Latin America took a different turn. The military dictatorships which were repressive and murderous in a direct way would be ended. The capitalists-imperialists would seek new faces to mask capitalist cruelty.

This was reflected in Chile. In 1988, under pressure from international organizations, the Chilean dictatorship called for a plebiscite in which Chileans would vote YES or NO. YES meant that Pinochet would continue being presi-

dent. NO meant that Pinochet would leave the government in 1990 and convene elections after 17 years.

The dictator could never imagine the impact that the publicity campaign of the NO side could have. All of the liberal and leftist parties united in a struggle for the NO vote. This road united different ideological sectors to simply get rid of Pinochet, but benefited capitalism by giving the illusion of victory to the Chilean people after the dictatorship. They take away the essential things, respect for our lives, and we have seen it as a victory.

The NO won the plebiscite. The Pinochet era came to its end. However, as in El Salvador, ending a military dictatorship does not mean that all the problems are solved or that they can be solved.

We have seen in recent years how thousands of teachers, students, and miners have taken to the streets to fight. The fundamental contradictions of capitalism remain, with or without Pinochet. All of this shows again that the worker does not have to fight for reforms, for a law, for a plebiscite. We must build a mass movement for an armed communist revolution. As long as capitalism exists, the movement of the working class to destroy it will be constant.

"Without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement." Lenin, *What Is To Be Done*

History of Dialectics:

MAO'S LATE DIALECTICS, PART II

Revisionism means pro-capitalist ideas and policies that claim to be Marxist. In the early 1960s, the Communist Party of China (CPC) was engaged in an ideological fight against the revisionism of the Soviet communist party (CPSU) and against the CPC's own internal revisionism. As part of this struggle, the CPC organized a conference in Beijing in October 1963 calling on philosophy and social science workers to fight revisionism.

Mao Zedong worked together with Zhou Yang, who gave the main speech at the conference. It reviewed the history of Marxist dialectics and attacked Soviet philosophers who were trying to water down dialectics. These revisionist philosophers claimed that contradictions could be resolved without one side defeating the other, by opposites merging and becoming unified. This wrong idea about resolving contradictions served the Soviet leaders' line that capitalism could be eliminated without revolution, by a "peaceful transition."

"All conservatives and opportunists," Zhou Yang said, "all those who do not desire but fear revolution, dread change and evade or deny contradictions. On the contrary, all revolutionaries who take upon themselves the transformation of the world desire change, courageously face contradictions and resolve them by revolutionary means."

Mao's contribution to this speech included his version of Lenin's idea that the essence of dialectics was "the division of a unity into mutually exclusive opposites and their reciprocal relation." Mao's way of putting this was "in a unified thing, one divides into two, it changes because of the mutual struggle of two parts."

Soon after the anti-revisionist conference, right-winger Yang Xianzhen, head of the CPC's philosophy school, started to teach students that the basic principle of dialectics was not Mao's

"one divides into two" but "two combine into one." This slogan expressed the idea that resolving a contradiction means that the two sides merge, precisely the Soviet philosophers' idea that Mao and Zhou had attacked at the conference. This began a year-long public debate on whether the sides of a contradiction can unify or not.

Mao on Resolution of Contradictions

At that time, Marxist philosophy called the result of resolving a contradiction "synthesis." Mao used a number of unofficial channels to give a new formulation of synthesis.

The leftist philosopher Ai Siqi wrote down a very valuable conclusion by Mao from the summer of 1964. Mao said: "Synthesis is just the completed development of one side, the elimination of one side, and the resolution of the contradiction."

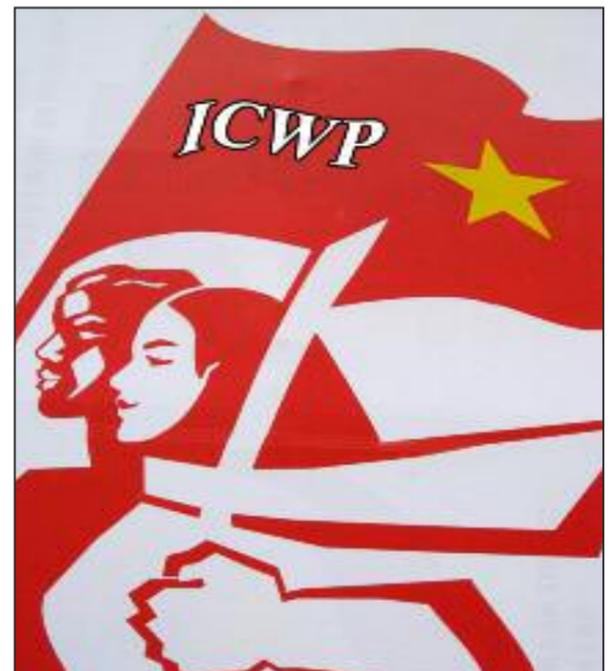
In August 1964 Mao gave a talk on philosophy that was published by Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution. He said: "How can synthesis happen? The [capitalist] Guomindang and the Communist Party are two opposites. On the mainland synthesis was precisely this way—you all saw it. Their armed forces arrived and we ate them up, piece by piece. There was no synthesis of two peacefully coexisting sides. They do not want peaceful coexistence, they want to eat us up.... One eats up another, big fish eat little fish, this is what synthesis is. No previous writings have described such errors [about synthesis], and my writing also has not described them."

In a speech at Hangzhou in December 1965, Mao added a little more: "To synthesize is just to eat the enemy up. How did we synthesize the Guomindang? We captured rank-and-file soldiers but did not kill them. Some were let go but the greater part replenished our army. We seized all weapons, provisions, and all kinds of equipment.

"Synthesizing the Guomindang was just eating it up, absorbing the larger part, and discarding a small part. This is learned from Marx. Marx removed the outer shell of Hegel's philosophy, absorbed the valuable inner core, and transformed it into materialistic dialectics."

In China today, capitalism is triumphant and the philosophical gains of the 1960s have been reversed. Textbooks now claim that the sides of a contradiction can merge together, or that they can co-exist without destroying each other. One text claims that "although there is significant competition among the economies of different countries, the present economic process of globalization should jointly develop on the basis of equality, in a mutually beneficial way." In other words, China can create an empire without challenging other empires—a myth that serves the interests of China's new bosses.

Rejecting this nonsense, our communist movement can learn from and spread widely the true dialectics that China's past revolutionaries helped develop and fought for.



LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Youth Joins ICWP, Begins to Organize

For the past few years, since my introduction to Marx's theory of communism, I have been looking to get involved in activism on a local level. I am originally from the Houston area (where I still live) and grew up in a rather conservative household, but my inquisitive nature led me to question the socio-political environment I was raised in, and eventually led me to the theory of communism. After having a barrage of insults hurled at me by reactionary family members the label "communist" seemed to stick, so I figured I might as well research what it meant. The ideas presented by Marx and Engels in *The Communist Manifesto* immediately struck a chord with me, and I haven't looked back politically ever since. However, since my conversion to the science of Marxism, I have been actively looking for a political party that best suits my personal ideology, outlook, and worldview. I have had very little luck with this endeavor until I was introdu-

ced to the ICWP and *Red Flag* by a comrade through the social media outlet Facebook.

The ideals of the ICWP initially appealed to me due to their ability to improve on the successes of previous applications of communism, but also their ability to realize the shortcomings in some nations' past endeavors into communism and to build upon those shortcomings. Communism's name has been tainted by the bourgeois imperialist media to be associated with totalitarianism, mass purges, and full-government control over the individual's life. These silly and preposterous notions could not be further from the truth! Communism is a force for liberation: liberation from exploitation, liberation from racism, liberation from nationalism, and, most importantly, liberation from the oppressive restraints of capitalism. ICWP represents all these things, and has inspired me to finally get involved politically in my community, but also, at the same time, show solidarity with the international people of the world.

How do I plan on getting politically involved? Well, for starters, the comrade has put me in contact with several comrades in Houston who I hope can teach more about revolutionary communism by distributing *Red Flag* and learning how it can be applied to the modern political struggle. I also plan on attending "The Houston Socialist Reading Group" which will help educate me on Marxian philosophy and the philosophy of other leading communist scholars. I will also be actively organizing protests against racism, police brutality, homophobia, sexism, healthcare rights housing rights, homelessness. ICWP has prepared and equipped me to get involved with local activism and fight the battle and wage the war to establish a communist society. Thanks to all my comrades both domestically and internationally who have helped guide me in my developing ideology, and in preparing me for a lifetime of activism. In solidarity,

—A youth in Texas

Internal Struggle Helps to Strengthen the Party

A sharp struggle broke out among our three comrades here. One, a single-parent teacher, wanted to organize a Union rally at the school board demanding a decent contract (like better health care benefits). The others, retired teachers, argued that the Union had no intention of taking on the local power structure and the California Teachers Association to organize a strike for better health benefits, or any other item that could make 'a decent' contract.

In reality though, there was an unvoiced contradiction in this struggle. The unrelenting financial demands on our single-parent comrade created an urgency to her situation. On the other hand, our collective practice in organizing for communism could be summed up as "comfortable but not urgent!" Perhaps our younger comrade saw her choice as "Do something" or "Do next to nothing!"

In any event, full of energy, she organized 600 plus (out of 1500 teachers) to rally outside the school board meeting. The rally was built around the Union demands of "Equity" (meaning equity of pay with other local school districts). Of course, teachers' individual picket signs voiced more pressing concerns like smaller class size. Nevertheless, when the rally entered the meeting the teachers were chanting "UTR! UTR!" (United Teachers of Richmond). This must have been a great relief to the schoolboard as it signaled that even the activist teachers saw no alternative but to rely on the very institutions that over the years have delivered to them conditions that served the needs of capital and not the community.

The rally, however, gave us the opportunity to present our revolutionary vision of education. We introduced communist ideas in a mass way for the first time to Richmond teachers. Using our pamphlet on education, the *Red Flag* and a leaflet we argued for a new type of schooling that would replace the individualist and competitive nature of capitalist education with the collective and co-operative learning our class needs now. We don't want our kids to rise up above their class (and get stuck with a huge debt along the way). We want them to rise up together with their parents to build a new share-and-share-alike communist society.

As it turned out, of course, the rally made no substantive difference to the outcome. The con-

tract offers nothing in wage increases that cannot be eaten up by the almost-certain increases in health care costs. It does nothing to hinder the school board's plans to introduce more and more charter schools. However, the larger-than-usual turn-out to vote (700 for, 400 against) does suggest a political awakening among Richmond teachers. That, like the rally with all its political weakness, has opened us up to the possibilities to build the ICWP. The struggle goes on... and now with some urgency!

—Comrade Veteran of the Struggle



Long-Term Fight to Win Soldiers to Communism

"You with your people and me with mine, we can achieve many things," said a young soldier in a year-end discussion, while we ate pizza and talked about the national and international situation.

At that moment I was filled with great joy. I can't deny that I got excited when I heard those words. However, deepening the discussion, I noted that the young soldier belongs to an evangelical religious group. Before enlisting in the army he constantly participated in its meetings.

He is a caring, optimistic person with true love for our working class. But, he thinks that revenge does not lead anywhere and that "God" will bring justice for all. He agrees that there is much poverty and that this will inevitably end in war. But he said that it is not up to us to bring this justice, that God will do this.

As he spoke, I analyzed all that he said. I knew of the potential to continue a friendship and in the future to be able to win him to our struggle for communism. Therefore, I was not very sharp in the discussion. I only commented that many like him (soldiers and sailors) are

dying in wars that are not their wars.

I asked him if he was willing to die to defend the bosses' interests. He said that was his job and even though he did not agree, he or they had to do it. I said that to achieve what the Party wants, we would have to organize all the soldiers in the country, but he saw it as impossible.

He suggested that we should talk with Obrador, a pseudo-leftist in Mexico, and with all his people and with the Party's ideas we could achieve a lot. I explained why we did not do that and I mentioned the danger that Obrador represents for the interests of our class.

He became thoughtful. He gave me examples of how soldiers deserted in the conflict with Marcos in Chiapas in 1994, mentioning that some soldiers are not capable of shooting their own people.

It was our first discussion. I left the *Communist Manifesto*. Now he is late in writing to me, but even so I have contact with him and we are planning to see each other again. Next time I will take him our military pamphlet and a Russian novel that talks about the experiences of young soldiers in the Russian Revolution.

I have learned not to get too excited. The main thing is to continue bringing the Party's ideas to people who allow political meetings like the one mentioned. But it is also important to build these ties of friendship so the ideas will be embedded in the working class.

I had discussions like this with two other soldiers. One of them told me that I seemed like his sister who goes around rabble-rousing. Another told me that he loves his country, his job and his family, but that if one day I needed him, he would be there to help me, referring to questions of the Party. I told him that I appreciated it. He asked me for the newspaper to read. I gave it to him along with the military pamphlet.

In these processes, I try to be as dialectical as I can in order to not take actions precipitously. I continue to have confidence and hope that one day we will win soldiers to the fight for the liberation of our working class.

Soldiers of the world, unite! Let's fight for Communist Revolution! Let's fight for our liberation and not for the capitalist bosses' profits.

--Young Comrade in Mexico

COMMUNISM AND THE FIGHT AGAINST SEXISM

EL SALVADOR—The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) is developing communist leadership of women from the maquilas to the teachers' sectors. It struggles hard to do away with sexist behavior that discriminates against men and especially women, who today bear the brunt of sexism. The ICWP is a mass party in which women and men workers organize the struggle to smash capitalism and build communism.

In this country as in the entire world, sexism has become a powerful weapon of capitalism to divide and exploit the working class. It is the product of an ancient class-based culture with an ideology that discriminates against women, including the patriarchal cultural component.

Sexism is shown in the attitudes and behaviors that introduce unequal treatment between men and women on the basis of sexual differences. We must unravel these attitudes and behaviors from their roots, which are found in capitalism and all class society.

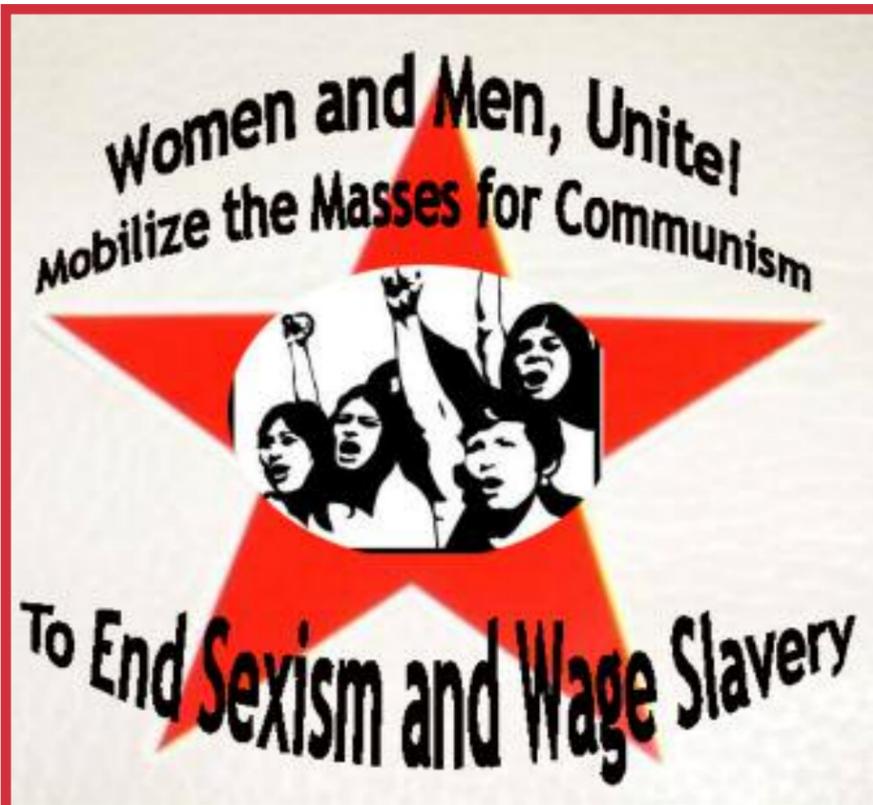
Sexism is a problem that is rarely discussed and has passed unnoticed, to the point that it even seems "normal." This is inculcated every day, in many social institutions like the schools and the churches, where gender norms are dictated through study programs that are designed for this goal and which they want the children to learn.

The media use women as objects to sell goods and reinforce the domination of some and the subordination of others, thus achieving their objective of making sexism seem natural. Also, women get lower wages, are assigned tasks based on their gender, and have fewer job opportunities.

Thousands of women around the world have been involved in the revolutionary struggle. Nevertheless, in daily life these contributions have not been translated into a better life for women. This shows that the struggle for reforms makes the road longer and more winding and that women must fight directly for a communist system.

In the ICWP the participation of women has been significant. We must develop a conscious and constant ideological struggle so that women and men workers give leadership to mobilize the masses for communism.

In 1939 in El Salvador, a woman named Prudencia Ayala ran as a candidate for president. She knew it was impossible, since the law at the time did not recognize women as citizens and there-



fore they couldn't even vote. Instead she ran to make the issue visible. It wasn't until 1950 that women could vote.

Today women can participate in elections, but the real causes of discrimination continue intact. It's not about electing people to public offices. If the system is the same, nothing substantial will happen.

Communism Will Eliminate Sexism

We will not have an education based on domination, but instead a communist education. Girls and boys will be educated as people, not limited by their condition of being a man or woman. In communism any person will carry out tasks like taking care of children, taking care of the sick, growing crops, working in a factory, hospital, carrying out research work, among others. These tasks will be done collectively regardless of the gender of those doing the work.

Women are and will be an essential part of participating in meetings to make decisions and resolve the problems of the community. Housework will be carried out by all the members of the family. There will not be feminized professions like nursing or teaching since both men and women could develop this work.

The media will use nonsexist language which is respectful towards people.

That is why it is important to organize tirelessly to mobilize the masses for communism. The work will be done according to society's needs. An important aspect to fighting sexism is the disappearance of money, the material base which maintains sexism.

Women organized in ICWP do not fight for "rights." We fight to liberate the masses from capitalist misery. We fight for communism. *Red Flag* is our newspaper. Let's read it, organize, and distribute it. The working class deserves communism.

SEXISM, CAPITALISM AND THE ZIKA VIRUS

Zika, sexism and capitalism will kill hundreds of women of childbearing age before the current epidemic is brought under control.

How can we make this claim? Nobody dies from the Zika virus. It's a relatively mild illness, often with no symptoms at all.

But the consequences of getting Zika when you're pregnant, and then giving birth to a child with microcephaly, can be devastating.

Government spokespersons in El Salvador, Ecuador and Brazil have told women to avoid having babies until 2018. But abortion is illegal and basic contraception is hard to come by in the countries where Zika is spreading. So this comes down to the ludicrous advice to postpone sexual intercourse for two years.

Sexism means that women are not always able, in practice, to give or withhold consent. Women workers will get pregnant during this epidemic, whether they want to or not. And they will see terrifying photos of babies with microcephaly.

Most of these women will lack basic medical services that would tell them if their fetuses are developing normally. They know there aren't good services for developmentally disabled children. They know they have to hold a job for their families' basic survival. And many women workers who become pregnant during this epidemic will seek out illegal abortions.

Britain's public health services provide abortions for women who live in countries where abortion is illegal. If a wealthy woman (whose house definitely has screens and no standing water) happens to get Zika and wants an abortion, all she has to do is get a visa, fly to Britain, rent a hotel, and get a perfectly legal abortion.

This solution is not available to our sisters in the favelas. Many of them will seek back-street abortions. Many of them will die from infection and/or hemorrhage. It's estimated that even before the Zika epidemic, every two days a Brazilian woman dies while trying to end a pregnancy.

In their names, and in the names of all those murdered by capitalism, women and men workers must fight for a communist world where women's voices are heard and respected alongside men's voices. Where the health and wellbeing of every man, woman and child is protected. And where poverty and exploitation are abolished—not abortion.



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