

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



WILDCAT STRIKE AT HONDA IN INDIA, SEE PAGES 2 & 4



COMMUNISM VS. SOCIALISM ON MINDS AT ELECTION RALLIES

SEATTLE, USA—How times have changed—and stayed the same! There was no shortage of people fed up with capitalism among the tens of thousands that rallied this past week. Still, too many hope we can get something “significantly better”—even a socialist—through elections.

Thirty-five thousand rallied for socialist presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. Even among the few thousand that showed up for Hillary Clinton, the same questions were put to comrades over and over again. Will communism work? Can socialism rein in the worst aspects of capitalism?

A small group of party members and friends distributed over a thousand leaflets at one Sanders rally alone. Five hundred more were passed out at Clinton’s rally, inside the Boeing factories and even by some homeless people in the newest of the tent cities. Hundreds took *Red Flags*.

“You can’t trust any politicians. We need a communist revolution!” shouted one comrade as she distributed *Red Flags*. A surprising number agreed with her, especially among those that had some experience with elections. Yet rather than mobilizing for communism, they were hoping (in vain) that some candidate would save the day. They were grabbing for the hole in the bagel.

Even more common were those that thought communism might be a nice idea, but won’t

work. They had no choice but to believe democratic socialism can really restrain capitalism.

One worker quizzed another comrade to see if he really knew the difference between socialism and communism. Our comrade answered that communism, unlike socialism, would change “the material basis of society.” (See Cuba article, page 6)

The questioner worked at Boeing so our comrade explained how communist production would work. We would collectively produce for need. We would organize production without the stratification the bosses must insure. Society would be organized to support that kind of production, not the profit-driven, dog-eat-dog capitalist production model.

The discussion lasted about ten minutes while people stood in the cold waiting for security to clear those in front of them. “Good Job!” said the questioner, donating a dollar for the paper and taking a few extra flyers.

We had similar discussions with other Boeing workers and their families in line (as well as many others, young and old, men and women of all “races” and religions). Some Muslim families were particularly receptive. A civilian in the machinist union from a military shipyard swapped stories with Boeing workers about how the bosses are laying off and cutting wages every-

See **ELECTION RALLIES**, page 3

Janitors’ Struggle: COMMUNISM WILL SATISFY WORKERS’ NEEDS

LOS ANGELES, USA—“We are demanding a \$1 increase an hour for every year of our next five-year contract. We want to be making \$5 more than the \$15 an hour California’s minimum wage will be in 2020,” said Ramon about the seven thousand LA janitors’ struggle for a new contract.

They are also fighting for reductions in workload from the 3 floors per worker today back to the 2 floors per worker, which was in place before this last contract, and to keep their health coverage.

“Both of these demands are very important because the majority of us are either over or approaching 50 years of age. Arthritis is becoming a big problem. Many of us are either on temporary or permanent disability,” added Ramon. He has been a janitor for 23 years.

“It seems that this contract’s fight will be hard and drawn out,” said *Red Flag*.

“We don’t think so. We think that by May 15th it will be signed. The governor supports our struggle. So does Mayor Garcetti who got elected because of our union’s efforts.”

“The politicians are servants of the rich. Don’t expect anything from them but a stab in the back. But, my question to you is: Why do you need to fight for a contract every five years? It is an unending struggle as long as capitalism exists. Why

See **JANITORS**, page 4

BUILDING A COMMUNIST COLLECTIVE IN LA TRANSIT PAGE 3

COMMUNISM WILL END WORLDWIDE TERROR ATTACKS PAGE 5

EL SALVADOR: ELIMINATE THE MATERIAL BASIS OF CRIME PAGE 5

THIS IS A 3-WEEK ISSUE

Masses in motion in India:**THE SEEDS OF COMMUNIST CHANGE**

Tens of millions of workers and students in India are enraged about daily horrors of killings and police brutality (see box). Two weeks ago over 80,000 industrial workers in Mumbai held a massive demonstration against the killing of an anti-caste organizer, Govind Pansare. At a Honda factory the workers went on a wild cat political strike and occupied the factory.

The students at JNU are refusing to be taught in the same old way. Daily mass teach-ins outside of class rooms, strikes and reaching out to the industrial workers are galvanizing their resolve to fight fascism. At the university in Hyderabad where the Dalit student Rohith Vemula committed suicide, students are barricading the offices of the racist Vice Chancellor and fighting police violence.

The masses in India are in motion. Many are questioning capitalism that has created a handful of billionaires while the working class faces starvation wages, caste and religious discrimination. The working class that has built glitzy malls, luxurious apartments, modern metros and cars, highways and modern universities is living in rat-infested slums, lacking basic sanitation and drinking water. Transportation is non-existent; schools are dilapidated.

Capitalism is fraught with crisis. In rural India, as modern methods of agriculture replace ancient ones, it creates a huge output of agriculture surplus but also leaves millions without work as fewer workers are required. Every month 10 million rural workers flock to the cities; only 1 million find employment. Those unable to find work starve next to the warehouses filled with unsold food.

Communism provides our vision for the future:

ICWP is providing answers to end capitalism's terror and its building-block—wage slavery—by replacing it with communism. Communist society will end commodity production and money, which makes wage slavery possible. There will be no banks and no debt. Houses, hospitals and roads will be rebuilt for need, not for profit. Each person will contribute to building the communist society according to their ability and commit-

ment.

Capitalist schools and universities will cease to exist forever along with capitalist education, which will be replaced with communist learning to produce and rebuild society for the need of the international working class. Factories and inhuman assembly lines designed for maximizing profit under capitalism will be replaced with new production centers to meet society's need as millions are won to communism. The collective experience of the masses led by the communist principle of collectivity will provide answers to how the new society will be organized.

Eliminating the wage system will also create the basis to end the artificial divisions among the working class created by capitalism. In communist society our party will never tolerate old ideas of nationalism, racism, caste, sexism, etc. We will actively struggle against unscientific ideas of religion and superstition.

Dare to struggle, dare to win:

Many of our friends, regular readers of *Red Flag*, and the international working class in general are posing these question in many different ways: how do we destroy capitalism and build communism? Can a small party like ours succeed? These are serious questions now and in future communist society.

As capitalism sinks deeper in crisis and is unable to ideologically control the masses, it resorts to naked fascism as we see in India and other countries. At the same time, it also builds the illusion that fascism can be countered with "progressive" capitalists like Sanders in the US, the United Front in South Africa, groups like Podemos in Spain, parties like AAP ("Common Peoples' Party") in India.

This is a deadly illusion. The crisis is internal to capitalism. It cannot be resolved by capitalist parties or leaders. This ideological struggle also requires the masses to grasp the scientific philosophy of communism – the philosophy and laws of universal change. The comrades in South Africa are showing the way of introducing the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism to the industrial working class. We must follow their lead.

FASCIST TERROR IN INDIA

A 12-year-old Muslim boy Imteyaz Khan, suffering mental illness, was the sole bread winner of a family of seven after his father, an industrial worker, broke both his legs in an accident. Imteyaz was brutally tortured and killed along with an adult by a Hindu fascist outfit affiliated with the ruling BJP. The sky fell down on Imteyaz' family when they discovered him hanging from a tree.

Not far from where Imteyaz was murdered, Dr. Saibal Jana, popularly known as the 'pauper's doctor' was picked up by the police and charged with sedition. His crime? In 1992, local miners went on a strike. Police started shooting the miners. Dr. Jana rushed to the scene risking his own life and saved as many wounded miners as possible. He has never refused his service to any miner in the last 35 years.

Fascist forces in India are consolidating their grip by mass terror and using nationalism and racism to divide the working class. Dalit and Muslim workers are their target to terrorize the entire working class. History books are being re-written glorifying the past Hindu civilization based on false, unscientific claims. Several historians and anti-religious activists have been killed by the death squads of the fascist RSS and many have been imprisoned.

The only answer to this growing fascism is communist revolution.

As we marshal our forces around the world on May Day, we must make concrete goals of massively increasing and sustaining the readership of *Red Flag*. The international working class is listening to us. From Afghanistan and Yemen to Lebanon, from India to Brazil and South Africa, from the industrial workers in Seattle to Los Angeles and El Salvador and many other areas, workers are asking for *Red Flag* and joining ICWP. **The seeds of communist change are here. Communism can and will triumph with struggle.**

**FROM THE STREETS OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE STREETS OF INDIA,
FROM THE CORNERS OF SPAIN TO THE CORNERS OF EL SALVADOR,
FROM THE CITIES OF THE USA TO THE CITIES OF MEXICO
AND HONDURAS,
THIS MAY 1ST, INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY,
JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY
IN OUR EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM.
WHEREVER THERE ARE WORKERS,
LET'S RAISE OUR COMMUNIST BANNERS HIGH
AND WAVE THE RED FLAG FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD!**



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MASSES FOR
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BUILDING A COMMUNIST COLLECTIVE ON THE JOB

LOS ANGELES—The political development of the communist collective in the bus repair shop where I work has advanced. Members of ICWP, readers of *Red Flag*, and friends participate in this collective. We distribute an average of 50 papers every edition within the shop..

The level of communist political organizing is uneven, both in word and deed. Some want to discuss the ideas more, but they are short on action. Others are more willing to take action than to discuss political ideas.

In the shop there are discussions about whether it is possible to achieve a communist society. Some say it is a brilliant idea, others are not sure, and some say it's a crazy idea. However, communist principles are developing and several of these workers have become members of the Party. Others are willing to distribute the newspaper internally and give some to their friends, and there are those who only receive the paper and donate money for it.

In a recent situation, the struggle with a worker reached unbearable limits. In the past, we had helped get his job back after the company had fired him and we had struggled politically for years against his individualism, sexism, and, to some extent, his anti-worker attitude. The collective met and gave him his last opportunity to change. All of us expressed willingness to help him and give him our friendship if he promised to respect the collective and the rest of the workers.

LOS ANGELES: SANDERS' SUPPORTERS TAKE RED FLAG

"I agree. We need a society without money," said someone in line to hear Bernie Sanders speak, as she gladly took a copy of *Red Flag*. About 2000 people came. We distributed about 240 copies of *Red Flag* along with a leaflet that invited them to Mobilize for a Communist May Day on one side, and on the other showed that neither Sanders in the US nor Podemos in Spain nor any other socialist politician could change the nature of capitalism. To achieve the world we need, we need a communist revolution and a communist society.

It was an opportunity to have good talks with many about communism, socialism and capitalism. Many agreed, as did the person above, that we need a society without money. We said that we want a society without exploitation, racism and war and that we couldn't get that by voting, but only through revolution for communism. We explained that we need a mass party of millions to fight for and organize communism where we would produce for human need and not profit.

When we explained that many are upset by Trump's fascism, like that of Modi in India, and that fascism is capitalism in crisis, there was interest. We explained that only communism can defeat fascism. Some who at first were not going to take *Red Flag* ended up eagerly taking our paper.

There were only a few of us distributing *Red Flag* because we found out about the event that very morning. Seeing that so many are open to communism, we will try to find out sooner and bring more friends, and more *Red Flags* and leaflets next time.

He reluctantly agreed, but his promise didn't last long and again he turned his back on the collective. However, there were co-workers who said that we should be more tolerant of him because he has psychological problems. Maybe it's true. But when a struggle has been made and there is no progress, nor solution, there must be a limit, especially if it is to avoid future problems that can be more damaging for the political development of the collective and the rest of the workers. Unfortunately, due to his attitudes, both anti-worker and anti-company, this co-worker is in the process of relocation to another shop.

The importance of all this is how the collective responded against the individualism that was shown, not only in this incident, but in others that will be disappearing in the process of communist political struggle. We may not be recruiting as many as we would like but we are planting the seeds to harvest seasoned communists in the fu-

ture. As the farmworkers say, if you want to reap, you have to sow the seeds.

The main task now is to mobilize this collective and its base for the coming Communist May Day activities. Each member, reader or friend of ICWP must spread communist ideas, either orally, or through leaflets, the newspaper, pamphlets, videos, etc. All our commitment must be directed to the communist development of those around us in the factories, shops, army, schools, fields, churches, etc.

After a thousand battles, when we are already living in communism, when the working class controls the means of production, money no longer exists, there are no privileges, and the distribution of production is equitable, we will still need a collective and a Red Army to pursue and wipe out the last pockets of counterrevolutionary ideas and forces.



ELECTION RALLIES from page 1 Socialism is still capi-

where. We all agreed the unions are part and parcel of the capitalist system.

Communism Only Answer to Massive Failures of Capitalism

The massive failures of capitalism were apparent to this crowd. Indeed, it is those massive failures that have made socialism so popular, according to the local socialist council member who spoke at the rally.

She, along with Sanders, calls for "the democratization of the economy." We call for changing the material basis of society with communist production; ending the wage system.

Sanders also wants a \$15/hour minimum wage. In communism, we'll end the wage system that pits worker against worker, reinforcing racism, sexism and nationalism. We'll collectively provide for everyone's needs. In exchange, we'll all chip in according to our abilities and commitment.

Sanders calls for tougher Wall Street regulation. Communism won't need financial institutions at all. Money won't determine what is produced. The party will mobilize the masses to make those decisions.

Sanders says public universities should be free. Communist education will abolish these educational institutions, which separate students from workers. Learning will continue throughout life. We will eliminate the division between mental and manual labor. Workers will produce and teach. Students will learn and produce.

talism. As crisis follows crisis, it has become abundantly clear that any system that preserves capitalism has no answers. This infatuation with socialist candidates (and electoral politics) will also be shattered.

Unlike those who sell the socialist snake-oil, we can't rely on critiques of capitalism to do our work for us. Even proving that socialism can't rein in capitalism won't do the trick. We have to clearly and patiently explain how communism can succeed.

The times have changed. Many more want to discuss communism. We aim to take advantage of this opportunity by organizing a communist contingent this May Day. We invite you to join us as we mobilize for the one and only answer: communist revolution.





WILDCAT STRIKE OF HONDA WORKERS IN INDIA

A contract worker at Honda refused to work overtime because he was sick (breathing toxic paint fumes) after working over 16 hours for days. The supervisor abused and attacked him.

Immediately 2000 workers walked out, soon joined by another 2000 at the second Honda plant. Contract and no-contract workers completely shut down the Honda factory. The workers confronted police violence, 500 were terminated, several jailed on fabricated charges of "attempted murder." A factory to factory

level support in north India led to tens of thousands of workers and students defying the fascist police. They organized a march denouncing anti working class attacks and oppression against Dalits.

If mobilized for communism, these workers can give leadership to mobilize the masses for communism, to put an end to capitalism's inhumane production relationships. (See other photographs, page 1)

JANITORS, from page 1

not fight for communism – no money, wage slavery, inhuman workloads or labor contracts – no bosses, only communist workers running the world to serve the needs of the working class?"

"It sounds very good but it never works out like that. There is always corruption."

"You are thinking about Russia, China and places like Cuba. That is not communism but socialism. They kept money, wages, markets – state capitalism. You told me you were on disability."

"Yes and it has been over a month and I haven't received a check yet."

"Are other workers in the same situation?"

"In my group there are three more. One woman has been disabled for life. We have no

pension and she won't be eligible for Social Security until 15 years from now. Her lawyer is fighting to get her insurance company to pay her disability until then."

"Well, the capitalists make the laws to benefit them not the workers. What about your case?"

"The doctor sent me back to work with light duty. But the company will only take me back with no restrictions. I have to be careful because there are easily five workers ready to take my place."

"All these problems would not exit in a communist society. Workers' needs would be met from cradle to grave. One's contribution to society wouldn't determine what one receives from society. One's need would determine that. No one would try to take away your work. We would welcome all helping hands – no one would be undocumented - because the more hands the less we will have to do. We would have more time to socialize with people, study, travel, etc. What couldn't we do with the helping hands of over 2 billion unemployed workers in the world?"

"Eventually we will get there but not by revolution. I think humanity is intelligent enough not to destroy itself. Bernie Sanders is for some of the things you want."

"What we need can't be achieved by elections. The communists tried it in 1973 in Chile with Allende. Pinochet, backed by the US, overthrew him and instituted fascism murdering him and

thousands of Chilean workers and youth. Similarly in Indonesia in 1965, the communist-backed Sukarno government was overthrown by a CIA-backed coup which slaughtered over 500 thousand unionists, and communists and their supporters."

"That really makes one think seriously about joining a movement. You only live once."

"Yes, you have to make sure you are fighting for the right thing. Don't let me forget to invite you to our May Day dinner to plan for the May Day March. If the union doesn't organize janitors to march, you should help organize them to march with our contingent."

"This year I promise to go to your dinner and will invite friends. On April 17, we will find out what the union is doing for May Day. We can speak then."



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Brussels, Ankara, Baghdad, Ivory Coast, Lahore:

DEFEAT TERRORISM BY MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM

“Sadly, this is the new normal,” said a US teenager. She added that she would soon have to decide how to become politically active and asked for the latest issue of *Red Flag*.

Capitalist-imperialist terror created the world we live in today. Our response must be to step up the struggle for communism.

Columbus in 1492 described the Caribbean Arawak people: “When you ask for something they have, they never say no. To the contrary, they offer to share with anyone.”

This was a communist way of life. It prevailed worldwide for most of human history. It’s the way we’ll live again, now based on scientific understanding. A society organized around cooperation and sharing will leave no room for terrorism.

Columbus enslaved the Arawaks. He had the hands cut off those who didn’t bring him gold to enrich himself and finance capitalism’s rise in Europe. Capitalist competition and exploitation inevitably bred racist terror.

Four hundred years later, King Leopold II of Belgium enslaved the indigenous people of Congo and massacred ten million. He had the hands cut off those who didn’t bring in “enough” rubber or diamonds. His French and British rivals were just as brutal.

Meanwhile, US imperialism was rising over the dead bodies of 1.5 million murdered Filipinos.

Twentieth-century powers institutionalized mass terror in their frantic competition to redive the world: the Japanese in Manchuria. The Germans in Europe. The British in India/Pakistan and South Africa. The US in Vietnam, Iraq and Central America.

Groups like al-Qaeda, Boko Haram and Is-

lamic State have learned at the feet of these capitalist-imperialist butchers.

In some cases, literally. The US Army “School for the Americas” at Fort Benning, Georgia trained fascist death squads. These continue to terrorize much of Latin America. The CIA’s huge Operation Cyclone armed and financed militant Islamic groups fighting the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Thousands of these fighters later joined Al Qaeda.

For that matter, the US Army trained Oklahoma City terrorist Timothy McVeigh to execute surrendering soldiers during the first Gulf War. Obama’s drones rain terror on Yemen.

Capitalist state terror and imperialist war dwarf the destruction created by clandestine terrorist cells. It would be suicidal to trust these profit-driven murderers to protect us. It would be worse still to fall for their appeals to workers to attack other workers in the name of nationalism, religion or anything else.

Western imperialism praised the “Arab Spring” pro-democracy uprisings of 2011. Now, stronger Islamist parties and more repressive military dictatorships flourish in Egypt and elsewhere. In Syria, civil war quickly became an inter-imperialist proxy war between Russia and Iran and their allies versus the US and its allies.

Terrorism against the masses is never justified. Terrorist groups offer young Muslim suicide bombers something to die for so that a few “caliphs” might rule oil-rich land. Communism offers us all something to live for: a sustainable world where we will work collectively and share the fruits as one family.

Communist revolution will liberate the masses from capitalist tyranny. But as long as capitalists rule anywhere on earth, they will use mercenary

terrorists against us. We will need to mobilize the masses under the leadership of a Red Army to suppress them. Only the victory of communism worldwide can end terrorism forever.

The emergence of a massive global industrial working class in the 20th century should have buried capitalism. Instead, its survival exposed fatal errors of communist movements in the Persian Gulf region and elsewhere. They fought for national liberation and democracy, not for communism. They allied with pro-capitalist forces that soon smashed them. This created space for religious nationalists to mobilize alienated youth around the reactionary, anti-working-class politics of terrorism.

We must never make such mistakes again! That’s why the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) organizes as ONE international party. We fight for a communist world without borders or nations. It’s why we mobilize masses for communism and nothing less. It’s why we encourage mass study of dialectical materialism, the philosophy that guides communist revolution.

The ICWP must build collectives in the townships of Marikana, the Paris banlieus, in the Indiramma Nagar of Hyderabad, in the favelas of Sao Paulo. We must organize in industrial centers, militaries, schools and working-class neighborhoods everywhere. These collectives must mobilize against terrorists and fascists who attack immigrants, Muslims, Dalits and other groups of workers. They must popularize the goal of a communist world. They will be the nuclei of a communist Red Army and, eventually, of communist society.

This time we must not fail. With your participation and that of thousands and then millions of others, communism will triumph.

Capitalism Guilty of Murders

COMMUNISM WILL END THE MATERIAL BASIS OF CRIME

EL SALVADOR—On March 3rd, eight electrical workers and three farmworkers were massacred in San Juan Opico, La Libertad. Gangs have intensified their actions since the end of the latest “truce” with the government. The country has a rate of 91 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, the highest in the world.

Capitalism creates conditions of inequality of resources, scarcity, exclusion, and exploitation to maintain the power and profit of the capitalist class. Bankers, high military officials and the State need these conditions to maintain the status quo.

We are fighting for a communist revolution for a classless society that eliminates all the material bases of crime. The first major step will be the total elimination of money and any kind of exchange. We need a new type of communist production, where we all carry out different tasks within the new society.

New communist education will open the way for a new consciousness within humanity. We will use all our creativity for the benefit of the workers. There will be recreational areas for everyone. Commune committees will be organized to strengthen the structure of the party, to designate tasks, and solve problems within the community.

The eight murdered workers were putting up an electric pole when thugs belonging to a gang kidnapped them. They took them to another place, tied their hands, and murdered them. In the same place, they encountered three farmworkers who they killed for having witnessed the slaughter.

This massacre was an attack on the international working class. It was a barbarity that must be analyzed with a communist vision.

El Salvador has a population of six million, with a rate of 22.6 homicides a day, so far, in March, 2016. All the government measures have been useless. The frontal assault against the gangs with death squads, police repression, and mass imprisonment have all hit a wall of a problem that has no solution under the capitalist system.

The municipalities where there is the most conflict are those that have a huge number of workers. In the municipality of Soyapango, one of the most violent, there are nearly one million people. It is known as “the industrial city.” Here is the greatest number of factories and the most important military bases.

We are facing a this huge potential for communist organization. In this enormous city you find thousands of workers waiting for communist ideas to free themselves from capitalist exploitation and violence. We must wage a fight to expand our *Red Flag* networks in all the industrial areas of the country.

While ICWP continues to grow in different industrial and farming areas of the world and the



revolutionary process advances, communist discipline and consciousness will forge militant communist behavior against these actions taken against the working class. With a mass communist line that reaches the working class neighborhoods, we will see who the enemy really is.

The only way to put an end to the attacks against the working class is with the complete destruction of capitalism and the creation of communist society. The Party has the historic task of focusing the anti-capitalist anger that exploitation and exclusion generate.

The situation is more serious every day and represents a risk for our political work. But direct contact with the masses and their mass mobilization for communism will give us the security to continue bringing our ideas to more workers.

Obama in Cuba:

TRYING TO BUILD ALLIANCES FOR WORLD WAR

After 88 years, a US President again visited Cuba. Obama and his whole delegation came to the island in an event which marks, in the new global context, that these two countries have restored diplomatic relations. Obama's visit to Cuba is part of US imperialism's campaign to install a pro-US government there.

Relations between the US and Cuba have been hostile for many years, since the Cuban revolution in 1959. Eisenhower recognized the new Cuban government but the relations between them rapidly deteriorated. With its socialist politics and reforms, the US government saw the properties of US imperialism threatened on the island, more so when the Cuban leadership got support from the Soviet Union. They responded with a series of attacks: the explosion on the ship La Coubre, the invasion at the Bay of Pigs, assassination attempts against Fidel Castro and the infamous economic embargo.

Although today's new economic policies of Cuba take an increasingly clear direction to market capitalism, Obama's visit and the restoration of diplomacy still surprise the majority of Latin Americans, including the Cubans. Those who have been shown for years as enemies to the death today enjoy a baseball game. This makes people ask, "What is really happening? What are Obama's intentions? What does Cuba gain from this?"

The economic reforms implemented by Raul Castro are dismantling the reforms of socialism. Since 2010, Cubans are allowed to have their own businesses and hire employees. They are promoting wage slavery, as well as strengthening the banks, cutting public jobs, and implementing a new tax law. This opening to private property awakens the interest of US bosses to bring their businesses to Cuba. Cruise lines and airlines are

offering trips to Cuba. State capitalism is being replaced by market capitalism.

The increased trade will not come as a moral question or because it is politically correct. It will come for the profits that the new market will generate for Cuban and US bosses and the need of the US for more allies.

The United States is trying to change its image towards Latin American. The imperialists who funded the counter revolutions, coups, Plan Condor, tortures, and assassinations to maintain control of its back yard, now show a "civilized" and moderate face. At the same time, they encourage and fund "democracy" movements against politicians who support the rivals of US imperialism, and death squads against rebellious workers.

Washington knows that it's a different situation and that it needs as many allies as possible. The interests of imperialism are primary. That's why Obama's visit was seen as "timid and weak" by the opponents of the Cuban regime for alleged Human Rights Violations.

The United States has a priority. Prepare the terrain for World War III. The attempted alliances with Cuba and Vietnam are proof that those countries are not advancing towards communism and that for the United States it is a priority to strengthen their businesses and seek future military support.

A young comrade gave this opinion: "I wonder about many things, but this is a clear sign of the failure of socialism." Nothing is closer to reality. The socialist model implemented by the Cubans has failed. Today that is clearer than ever. Cuba never took a step to communism. It created a new society with privileges. It kept money and the wage system. The nationalization of industry never allowed the means of production to really pass into the hands of the working class. The re-

CUBA IS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO US IMPERIALISM

Cuba has strong ties with Russia, China, Brazil and Venezuela. The US needs to control Cuba to guarantee US shipping and oil from the Gulf of Mexico and control in Latin America in case of war.

Obama's hypocritical speech against racism in Cuba, like his encouragement of Cuban business development, are meant to build a base in Cuba for US imperialism's geostrategy. Obama pushed for elections in Cuba. The US bosses want to win the Cuban masses to vote for a pro-US president or, failing that, to rebel, in what would be another of their infamous "Color Revolutions." In the end, when war with China and Russia is more imminent, if they can't organize a pro-US government in Cuba through elections or a "Color Revolution," invasion will be their last resort.

Cuban socialism was a reform, not the end, of capitalism. It failed to abolish wage slavery and imperialism. Cuban workers, and workers everywhere, need communism, not more capitalists-imperialists exploiters. Join ICWP to mobilize the masses for communism! (see icwpredflag.org/CurrentE/012215/art3.html)

forms they achieved in medicine, education and nutrition are now threatened with the advance of market capitalism.

ICWP is mobilizing only for Communism, not for Socialism. We will immediately eliminate privileges, money, and borders. The party will be the masses and the masses will be the party.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Red Flag aspires to be a newspaper of a new type for a party, dedicated to mobilizing the masses around the world for communism. We're breaking new ground and learning as we go. We will inevitably make mistakes—and disagree about what the mistakes are that we're making. The letters page is a good place for comrades to engage in criticism and self-criticism, and help us learn to write in a way that will advance the work. We ask writers to be brief, and to criticize in ways that are sharp, but comradely. Collectively we have a lot to learn.

Obama in Cuba

When US President Barack Obama comes to any third- or second-world country and discusses human rights with them, the entire working class needs to tell him to F* off, pig. That is what Raul Castro should have said to Obama during his "historic" visit. The blood of the oppressed peoples is elbow deep on the sleeve of any US president. The US war against Cuba has never ended. What an insult to attempt to lecture Cuba about human rights. Total BS, the bloody system.

—Fed Up

Not Enough Communism!

The last issue of **Red Flag** had a thought-provoking letter from "A French Student in Spain". I disagree with the main point, however, that there is "too much communism" in **Red Flag**. I don't think there is enough.

"Student" says that **Red Flag** articles often make the same points about communism and become repetitious and propagandistic. "Student" has a point but the solution is not to cut back on the communist content.

After all, **RF** is a communist paper, the only one in the whole world. Where else will workers learn about communism? There must be tens of thousands of articles published in other

newspapers every day. None of them (even in 'left-wing' papers) have much to say about communism. We should strive to make sure that articles in **Red Flag** do not downplay or skip communism.

That was the weakness of an article in the same issue – the one on the 62 bazillionaires. What does the article have to say about communism? Not much—just that it's hard to say how communism will operate but that it's bound to be better than capitalism.

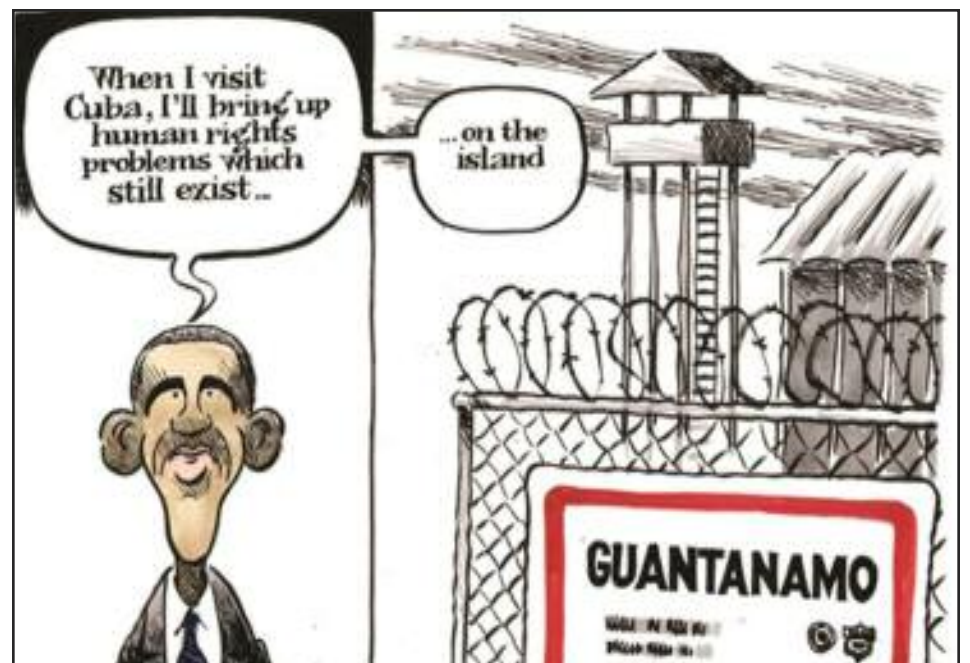
I agree that articles can be repetitious.

Usually, this is because the articles don't take up communism properly and rely on stock phrases tacked on the end. Phrases like "In communism there will be no money, no banks, no wage, etc." The list can go on indefinitely. Or substituting a call for communism for actually explaining how communism will end the particular capitalist evil each article talks about.

The solution is laid out in another letter in the same issue, from "East Bay Progressive." "Progressive" says we should go into more depth about some features of communism, such as living without money. The more we have to say, in depth, about communism, the more useful the articles will be and the less repetitious the paper will seem.

In short, there are no short cuts. The working class must know what they are fighting for to rule society.

—A comrade



LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Dialectics and Political Development

I was discussing the article on the “Twists and Turns of Dialectical Development” with my comrade here in South Africa. He explained it to me because to me the actual meaning wasn’t clear. I could read the words, but what it emphasized and what is required of us to do wasn’t clear to me.

But in our discussion it became clear. There was another comrade in my collective in South Africa and we have a rivalry or we don’t see eye to eye. But this article, when we discussed it, just opened my eyes to understand that just because I don’t agree with this comrade or we don’t see eye to eye, it doesn’t mean necessarily that the work of the Party must suffer. So what I actually got from this article is that these contradictions can either come out one of two ways. Either they can destroy a relationship utterly or, on the other end, the relationship could sometimes come out stronger.

So it’s important that we don’t let these differences manifest themselves in a way that will impact negatively on the party. So we



ICWP Conference,
South Africa, 2015

must have clear guidelines about not only how to manage them but also how to overcome them. And also we must develop mechanisms that will prevent other comrades from falling into the same trap as we did, or making the same mistakes as we did. So I just wanted to

highlight the importance of this piece about dialectics in my development as a comrade, as a leader of the party. It is very important and very insightful and I appreciate it. So keep up the good work, comrades.

--Comrade in South Africa

The Real Movement that Abolishes the Present State of Things

I found this quote in a book arguing for a society without money.

“...And the moment money goes, you can say good bye to fear, tension, anxiety, overwork and sleepless nights. Why even poverty itself would promptly disappear.”

The book, called *Utopia*, was written in 1516 - 500 years ago. I like it because it tells us people have struggled against the role of money for hundreds of years.

Anyway, it’s a struggle that developed clarity in both aims and method in the 1800s with the growth of the first communist movement. Marx then reflected the knowledge drawn from that long collective struggle.

“Ideas,” he wrote, “can never lead beyond an old world order but only beyond the ideas of the old world order. Ideas cannot carry out anything at all. In order to carry out ideas, men [and women] are needed who can exert political force.”

“We call communism,” he wrote elsewhere, “the real movement that abolishes the present state of things.” First and foremost, communism is a reaction to capitalism. Every day capitalism assaults us; every day the masses counterattack.

In the last issue, the front page article on the pot luck building for May Day was firmly rooted in how the struggles against the attacks of capitalism can only be fully countered by the struggle for a communist revolution. The article on the Palestinian teachers strike, however, was

idealistic. It talked about the hardships facing the teachers and then presented the idea of a communist world, barely related to their struggles.

Whether it is janitors in Los Angeles, USA, and teachers in Palestine fighting wage cuts, or Boeing workers in Seattle and miners in South Africa fighting job cuts, they are right to resist with all their might. They are wrong, however, if they think victories in any of these struggles will better their lives in any significant way.

It is precisely here among workers in struggle that we need the passionate, imaginative power of communists, organizing workers to fight the causes of exploitation - capitalism itself - and building the case for the revolutionary alternative - communism. As that struggle grows, so too will our belief in our own abilities to defeat all the complicated political battles a defeated capitalist class will throw at us.

—Red Reader

Political Strikes for Communism

The recent Palestinian teachers’ strike points to the need for communism. It also suggests something we can do to move toward that goal.

The strike started out over reform issues (pay and class size). The union sided with the government. Teachers denounced the union and told the government to negotiate with the strike coordination committees.

Instead the Palestinian Authority (PA) cracked down on them. Fatah forces attacked strikers as “ Hamas proxies” or “Israeli agents” although many were Fatah members or sup-

porters.

Then the original strike for a survival wage became a political strike against the official union and the government. Students and parents joined in massive demonstrations. These revealed widespread frustration with the Israeli occupation and Palestinian Authority corruption.

The strike exposed the dictatorial rule of the PA. It ended with small government concessions toward recognizing the “dignity” that teachers demanded.

Some have mistakenly drawn the lesson that more militant reform struggle is called for. They want to reform the PA or replace Fatah.

Red Flag concluded instead that teachers need to fight for a communist society. But what if teachers had been thinking about this before and during the strike?

Then it would have been realistic to call for a political strike FOR communism, not just AGAINST Israeli apartheid and the PA. Communist teachers and their comrades could have organized others - perhaps many others - around this.

Wherever **Red Flag** is distributed and read massively, we should take seriously the idea of political strikes for communism.

Strikes can’t win communism. That will take armed insurrection and revolution. But they create opportunities to put workers in motion around communist ideas: to MOBILIZE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM.

—Red teacher

HONDURAS from page 8

Here it is worth recalling a very popular proverb among Central American farmworkers:

“Do not ask hunger for bread or the cold weather for blankets”

This very wise proverb—used to say that we shouldn’t ask anything of adversity—is perfect for the political class struggle: it tells us not to expect protection or mercy or justice from our executioners or their governments.

Expecting this is playing the capitalists-imperialists’ game. It is building illusions among the masses that this inhuman system can be reformed to meet our needs. It will lead the masses to the

slaughter house of these fascist butchers.

But workers’ historical task is to be the gravediggers of the capitalist class and the architects of a communist world. This will be the final result of the class struggle—a fight to the death between workers and capitalists.

We are locked in a war without quarter against our exploiters. To win it we need to understand clearly that there is no good capitalist-imperialist or their government, and that our struggle has to be directly for communism, not socialism, which is state capitalism.

Neither can we win this war without organization. We need a communist party—the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). This

must incorporate into its ranks and those of its Red Army the masses of farmworkers, industrial workers, soldiers and youth.

To minimize casualties and guarantee the functioning of the Party under all conditions, it must be clandestine. In some countries, with less repressive governments, our Party functions more publicly. However, we understand that we are an illegal Party, and that we must build a parallel clandestine organization.

Join ICWP and help organize it massively and clandestinely. Let’s guarantee the victory of communism and the end of capitalism-imperialism by helping to mobilize the masses for communism.

Neither protection nor justice from the capitalists-imperialists: LET'S ORGANIZE A MASSIVE ICWP

Honduras is the “most dangerous country in the world for environmental advocates,” according to a report by Global Witness, an NGO based in London. In 2014 alone they murdered 12 environmentalists. The killers are either the death squads of the government or of the Honduran capitalists and the imperialists, mainly the US, who own the government.

On March 3, Berta Cáceres, Honduran indigenous and environmental leader was shot and killed by these capitalist gunmen. Days later in an eviction, they murdered Nelson Garcia, another Honduran environmentalist and Berta's friend.

From 2002 until today, 121 Honduran environmentalists have been killed. “More than 80 of these murders took place only in the last three years in one region, Bajo Aguan,” said Chris Moyo of Global Witness.

“Nothing protected Cáceres,” says Vasquez, another Honduran environmentalist, “neither her international ‘high profile’ (winner of the Goldman Prize) nor the precautionary measures (issued in November of 2015 by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights demanding that the Honduran government protect her).”

And it was to be expected. The capitalists-imperialists (including the Chinese imperialists) will

not allow anything or anyone to prevent them from reaping the obscene profits that the mines and hydroelectric plants generate. For them, displacing entire villages and destroying forests, rivers, and human lives is nothing.

That is why the Honduran working class, and that of world, need to fight directly for communism: a society without capitalists-imperialists, without money or wage slavery, without racism, sexism, borders and wars for profits and empires.

Communism is based on meeting human needs, not in producing profits. Therefore, workers' lives—together with the environment—will be what communist society will most care for and value.

In communism we will plan collectively—in a healthy and renewable ecological environment—what to produce, how to produce it and how to distribute what we produce according to the needs of the world's workers.

Berta Cáceres and the other dead environmentalists and the mass movement they helped build did not and do not fight for this. They fought and still fight to reform capitalism-imperialism. This is the cause of their fatal illusions!

These illusions persist nationally and internationally:

Many mass organizations, nationally and in-

The two most dangerous countries in Latin America for environmentalists are Brazil and Honduras. Peru is next and then Colombia. According to the magazine *Global Witness*, from 2002 to 2013, 908 environmentalists have been killed. The majority of these deaths have gone unpunished. To this should be added a long list of social environmentalist activists in sectors like mining, the struggle in defense of water, in defense of the land, the struggle against genetically modified organisms, among others, who are subjected to threats, intimidation, beatings, forced disappearances, and imprisonment.

ternationally, condemned the murder of Cáceres and asked to demand that the Honduran Government “punish those who committed this vile murder and protect the defenders of the earth, territory and human rights in Honduras.” They also appealed to the UN and the OAS to intercede in the case.

They also demanded that the Mexican government intercede with the Honduran government to save the life of Mexican environmentalist Gustavo Castro, wounded and taken prisoner when they killed Berta.

[See HONDURAS, page 7](#)

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN END THE CRIMES OF NATIONALISM, PART I

It is part of the nature of capitalism that capitalists can only be a small percentage of the population. Capitalists know very well that capitalism could not exist if the working class that it exploits were to unite against it. Each competing group of capitalists must try to make sure that the workers do not unite against them, and also try to get support from some sections of the masses. Thus capitalists must keep the working class from understanding the truth that capitalist society pits the workers against the bosses, by trying to get us to see capitalist society as divided up in some other way that cuts across class lines.

Racism, nationalism, sexism and caste are the capitalists' main organizational and propaganda tools to do this. Racism promotes inequality and hostility inside the working class, often by using a concept of “race,” which is falsely presented as a biological reality, rather than a deadly social category. In its essence, nationalist hostility to immigrants and foreigners, and to people with different religions or languages is not much different from racism and often involves racism explicitly.

Communism will eliminate all these crimes created by capitalist rule. In communism race will be remembered only as a vicious and unscientific way of classifying people. Men and women will participate equally and fully in all aspects of life. Communism will eliminate nations and borders, and destroy all forms of nationalist ideology and practice. Caste discrimination and caste distinctions will be rooted out everywhere they exist. To win communism, however, the working class must organize determined struggle across the planet now to break down all these walls the capitalists build to divide us.

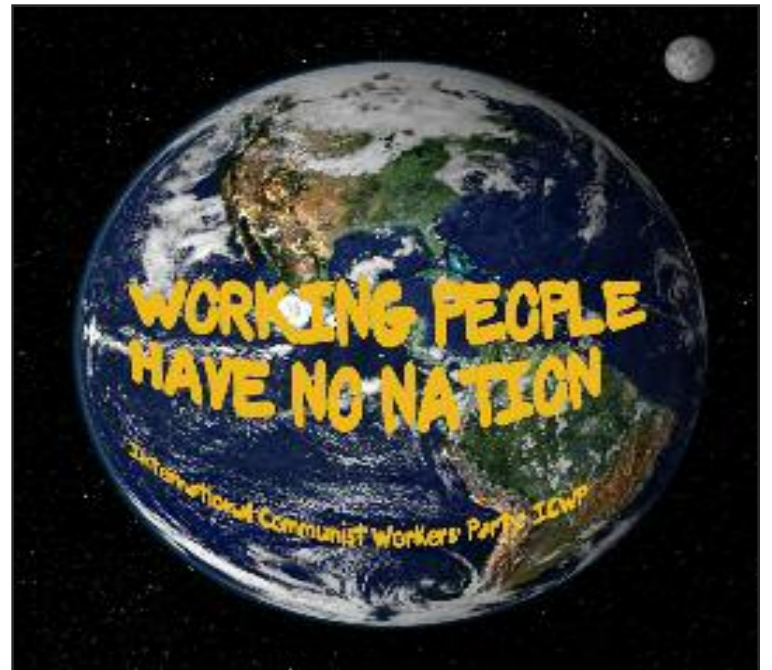
How Capitalists Use Nationalism

Capitalists use nationalism in two ways. They try to organize support among the masses for some group of capitalist “leaders” on the grounds that they share a “national identity” and common

“national interests.” In fact workers and capitalists are enemies. They never have common interests. So-called “national interests” are always just the capitalists' interests, although capitalists use all their resources in schools and the media to convince the masses otherwise.

Nationalist divisions are not ancient, not given by nature and not inevitable. Nations and nationalism are products of capitalism. Kingdoms, empires, territories, tribes and communities have existed for many centuries, but nations came to be major forms of social organization only in the 19th century. National identities that are claimed to be “age old” are actually recent. The category “Hindu” as a kind of religion, not a geographical area, was created by British colonialism by lumping together many strains of religion in India, but excluding Islam and Christianity. They did this to “divide and rule” India. In the 20th century, the British and nationalists in India developed the Hindu-Muslim division further, eventually dividing South Asia into warring countries. Now Hindu nationalists are bringing fascism to India and preparing it for imperialist war.

Whether they control a government or try to gain power inside an existing state, nationalists always try to divide workers into hostile camps so the bosses in each camp can blame the miseries of capitalism on other national groups or other countries. They do this even when people from different groups have been living together peaceably. When the bosses of the former Yugoslavia organized mass killings in the 1990s, they had to use violence and intimidation on a large scale to defeat the many people who rejected nationalist murders. Serb nationalists killed some Serbs and threatened many others who refused to see Bosnian Muslims as their en-



emies.

Nationalism and Mass Violence

Nationalists use mass violence so that their leading group can gain and keep power. Many thousands of Shias and Sunnis have been murdered in Iraq in the last decade and thousands more in Israel/Palestine since 1946. A huge mass murder of both Muslims and Hindus occurred during and after the partition of British India, and killed hundreds of thousands. An even bigger massacre took place when Bangladesh was created in 1971. Thousands have continued to be killed in South Asia since then. Hundreds of thousands died in the mass slaughter of Tutsis by Hutu nationalists in Rwanda in 1994. One of the main aims of these massacres is to destroy integrated communities, so people must side with one nationalist movement or another. The greatest death toll from nationalism, however, is from imperialist wars, where workers are mobilized to do their “patriotic duty” to kill other workers so one group of bosses can get richer.

(Part II will appear in the next issue)