

# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)**ICWP****TAKE UP THE RED FLAG AGAINST CAPITALISM  
FIGHTING FOR COMMUNISM!  
MAY DAY 2014, EL SALVADOR**

# FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY 2015

**SEE PAGE 3**Baja California, Mexico:

## FARMWORKERS' STRIKE SHOWS STRUGGLE FOR COMMUNISM MUST GROW

After two weeks of marching, striking and blocking roads, most of the 80,000 striking farmworkers in Baja California returned to work. Some growers promised a 15% raise in the meager wages of \$6.50 to \$10.00 a day. About 10% of the workers are still striking, saying that 15% is not enough. They are demanding \$20 a day, which is still not enough.

Only communism can meet workers' needs. Only communism can and will eliminate wage slavery and the market in buying and selling, not only goods, but also workers' labor power—for the lowest price possible. As long as there is a labor market, the bosses will use racism to force workers into slavery conditions so they can undersell their rivals.

In communism, there won't be a labor market. Nothing will be produced for sale, only for use. We will all work to produce what our class needs, and we will all do many jobs, mental and manual. No one's labor power will be bought or sold. There won't be wages. No boss will profit from our labor.

No one will be deprived of food or water. Workers will plant and harvest collectively, involving many city and farm workers. That way, the work will also be fun and no one will have to work in the hot sun for eight to ten hours a day.

The conditions of farmworkers in Baja Cali-

fornia are similar to those that existed before the Mexican revolution, in which millions of farmworkers rose up against the Mexican bosses and fought for ten years against the brutal slavery they were forced to suffer. Unfortunately, they did not fight for communism, but for land and freedom—which they didn't win.

Today, their descendants are again rising up against brutal racist oppression at the hands of Mexican and US bosses. The conditions they face are also similar to those of farmworkers in other parts of Mexico, El Salvador, South Africa, and the US who are fed up and some of whom are reading and spreading *Red Flag*.

The hundreds of thousands of farmworkers slaving to produce strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, etc. for the US market must take another path. The bosses' press builds "leaders" like Cesar Chavez (see previous *Red Flag*) and his disciples because they fear that workers will reject pacifism and reform and take this revolutionary path.

According to the bosses' press (*La Jornada* and the *LA Times*) the strike misleaders learned from Cesar Chavez, the pacifist reformist sellout UFW President. One of them, Eloy Fernandez, "said he draws from his union organizing experience in California to keep angry protestors in Mexico from resorting to violence." (*LA Times*, 3/28)

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Students join ICWP:

## WILL HELP BUILD RED ARMY

LOS ANGELES--A group of high school students recently met with members of the International Communist Workers' Party, including a veteran of the US Armed Forces who had joined the military to organize for communism.

We talked about how racism is a product of capitalism and how it divides and weakens the working class, preventing it from uniting to fight the capitalist system. That's not what the system wants you to think, however.

We also talked about how building a Red Army is necessary to win a communist revolution and how organizing in the military will help us do this. At the end of the meeting, three more young people decided to join the Party, two of whom are also planning to join the Army.

The capitalists have their army to maintain power and we must build our own to take power away from them. Our Red Army will defend the working class, fight for it and mobilize the masses for communism. In this way we will eliminate the power of the bourgeoisie.

The majority of the people that enter the army come from the working class. They're just trying to get money for college or to provide for their families. Capitalists want the power for themselves when the power should be for everyone in the working class. Why should there be people earning less than others? We encourage everyone

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## Transit Workers Build Solidarity and Ask:

### “HOW DO WE MOBILIZE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM?”

LOS ANGELES — “Hey come to support, we’re having a candle light vigil. Our fellow operator was shot to death with her son in the car,” an MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) worker texted a comrade.

Denise Berry was driving when she and her son reportedly laughed at a car with a man’s feet hanging out the window. The car followed them. Denise, alarmed, pulled over next to a police squad car, seeking help. The other car pulled up next to her and the man riddled her car with bullets from two hand guns, killing her and wounding her son. The cop then shot and killed the shooter.

MTA workers in and out of uniform showed up for the vigil, along with Denise’s relatives and other friends, to demonstrate their solidarity with their fallen comrade. Denise worked for four and a half years at MTA Division 18.

This outpouring of support shows that most workers already have the ethic that we need to build a completely different world: a communist world that values all our lives. It shows the potential for solidarity like this to develop into the communist unity the working class needs to confront all the unsafe and deadly conditions capitalism creates for us.

We hold capitalism responsible for the alienation and insanity, the drug epidemic, the racism and the devaluing of human life that can lead to tragedies like the death of Denise Berry. But let’s keep our eye on the ball. The main threat to our lives is the racist capitalist ruling class itself, not a few corrupted elements among the masses.

The MTA worker who sent the text is a new member of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). In a recent meeting of the MTA ICWP club, he and other transit workers discussed the communist philosophy of Dialectical Materialism. We gave examples of how internal contradictions are the essence of

understanding the nature of a process or thing.

“If I take this paper in both hands and try to rip it, it will rip,” said a comrade. “But if I use the same force on my notebook, the internal composition of the notebook keeps it from tearing.”

“I see,” said the worker. “We want to be like that notebook to the bosses, so whatever force they use will not break us.”

But how do we build that strength? “How do we mobilize the masses for communism?” he asked.

Internal contradictions are primary. The main aspect of winning communism is the ideological struggle between communist and capitalist ideas among workers. That’s true now and it will be true during and after the revolution.

This is why we have to talk to workers at MTA and everywhere about communism. That is why we have to build *Red Flag* networks and ICWP clubs or cells in every workplace.

Regular *Red Flag* distribution outside seven MTA divisions has helped to make communist ideas more massive. Many workers take bunches of *Red Flag* to give to friends or to leave in the lunch room. This “internal” distribution must grow for our work to make a qualitative leap in development.

After the death of Denise Berry, the ICWP



MTA club met to discuss what it means to mobilize the masses for communism in situations like this.

Comrades talked about what it would look like to organize a political strike against the whole capitalist system. It might mean stopping work for five to ten minutes against any attack against the working class whether on the job or in our neighborhoods or anywhere else in the world. A political strike for communism would inspire workers internationally.

The MTA comrades left the meeting with a draft of a statement to think about and discuss with co-workers. This group is enthusiastically building for the May Day events.

Let the communist spirit of solidarity and collectivity prevail in our May Day celebrations! Let our communist flags fly proudly and high in May Day marches in El Salvador, Spain, South Africa, Mexico, and the United States, announcing the approaching red dawn!

#### Racist Police Murder in South Carolina not “a bad decision,” but Systematic Racist Terror

April 8 – Protests in North Charleston, South Carolina, USA continue after Michael Slager, a white police officer, was arrested on a murder charge after killing Walter L. Scott, a black worker. Slager was caught on video shooting Scott in the back after stopping him for a broken brake light and then handcuffing the dying man.

The protest shown was organized by a group formed after the murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. US rulers are widely publicizing Slager’s indictment in a desperate effort to restore the faith of the angry masses in the capitalist legal system. They want to steer anti-racist youth into a reform movement demanding “justice” and video cameras. They fear the revolutionary potential of these youth. For the same reason, the bosses’ media gave wide publicity to the election of two black officials in Ferguson this week.

South Carolina has become an important manufacturing center, especially for automotive (BMW, Bridgestone, and 250 other companies) and aerospace (100 companies). Boeing’s Charleston 787 Dreamliner plant alone employs thousands of workers.

According to the FBI, US cops kill over 400 people every year. Other sources put the figure closer to 1000, including disproportionate numbers of black and latin men. The racist murder of Walter Scott was not a “bad



decision” by one cop, as the North Charleston mayor said. It’s part of the systematic racist terror that capitalism needs to divide and suppress the working class, especially in this period of intensified global crisis.

The capitalists particularly fear the revolutionary potential of industrial workers and soldiers. These workers, mobilized around communist ideas, can lead the way in ending capitalist wage slavery, the root of racism.



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# MAY DAY: MAKE COMMUNIST IDEAS MASS IDEAS

**EL SALVADOR**—“This year we want to have a show of strength,” said a young worker member of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

“We are going to go to the march to show that we Communists are present,” confirmed an older farmworker.

“This year we will march together again. As communists and members of ICWP we will distribute *Red Flag*,” said a comrade speaking for a group of comrades who had retreated and now have returned more sure of their communist ideas represented by ICWP.

We will organize, motivate and invite the workers to protest vigorously against the voracious capitalist system. But our goal is to mobilize them to build a system for the working class worldwide that will bestow good things, both great and elemental, on each man and woman worker in this world. This is ICWP’s guide for action this year in El Salvador.

We have held delicious lunches, splendid dinners and even breakfasts to plan the May Day March this year. There have been meetings of men and women workers, farmworkers, teachers and students from different levels, young and

less young have met around the whole country to invite more workers to participate in the demonstration of the working class. And all with the goal of taking our communist ideas and literature to the masses of workers in the 2015 May Day March.

“We have carried out strong work with our co-

workers so that they will come to our march,” said a woman worker leader. We’ve had weekly and monthly meetings this year in the factories to improve the quantity and quantity of worker participation.

“We’ve had meetings in different parts of the country every month. Our collective of workers has met every week to see how we are advancing and to analyze how we will march and how we will distribute our newspaper *Red Flag*,” said a working class leader.

The workers must march that day as an act of struggle that must continue for our whole lives. It’s not a day of rest, or a day to have a party. May Day is the biggest mobilization of the masses all year. We must take advantage of it to motivate the masses to fight for communism. With banners, *Red Flag* and our pamphlet *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, we will massively spread our Party’s ideas.

Urban and rural workers, teachers and students organized in the International Communist Workers’ Party shout the slogan: “No more short-cuts or reforms! Communism is the only alternative for our class!”



**Achieve your dream!  
LET’S DESTROY CAPITALISM  
LET’S BUILD COMMUNISM  
(ICWP BANNER, MAY DAY 2013 EL SALVADOR)**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**, March 29—Members of our Party club/study group marched today in an annual Palm Sunday peace parade organized by Christian friends. We carried signs and (for the first time) distributed Party leaflets there. The march of more than 200 ended with a vigil at the site where a black youth, Kendrec McDade, was murdered by police three years ago.

Some of us hesitated to raise communist ideas at this religious-themed event. But we were welcomed, and everyone took leaflets until we ran out of them. The moment we held up an anti-capitalist sign, several marchers admired it.

The back of our leaflet briefly summarized



early Christian communism. It gave the URL for the *Red Flag* articles about this ([icwpredflag.org/DepthE/HE1\\_4.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/DepthE/HE1_4.pdf)). It said:

*“We appreciate that many religious activists are resisting efforts of organized religion to divert the egalitarian and environmentally-conscious collective aspirations of the masses into a quest for personal ‘salvation’ and heaven. We hope that more will resist the efforts of liberal religion to divert mass struggle into reform movements that aim to salvage capitalism.”*

*“However, our Party is based on scientific communism. We recognize a material basis for solidarity among the oppressed, instead of an idealized notion of all as ‘children of God.’ We aim to create the material basis for the long-desired ‘beloved community’ through the revolutionary abolition of capitalist wealth, markets, and commodity production.”*

One organizer was especially happy to see the leaflet. “I’m going to give it to a Chinese friend. I’ve been talking to him about Christian communism,” he said.

Three of us stopped for tacos before hiking back to our cars. We discussed the contradictions we experienced in trying to do this communist work. Then we

brainstormed ways to raise communist ideas in other groups, including a “repair café” that attracts people (mostly white and well-off) who want to get away from a money economy. We have to deal with contradictions there, too.

Our group has grown modestly. More of us are distributing *Red Flag* and contributing money regularly.

One comrade hosts a party every few months. Typically, dozens attend. One “regular” scolded another comrade once because she hadn’t brought *Red Flag*. She quickly got a stack from her car. This friend wants us to bring papers to all the meetings he attends. We’ve told him that’s HIS job. Recently he helped distribute papers at a mass demonstration.

The same friend asked us to bring a younger comrade to speak at a Norooz (Persian New Year) celebration. The young comrade was a little nervous about speaking to a group where he only knew a handful of people. But he bravely called for communism and was encouraged by a positive response.

Our group gets small stacks of papers out at two community colleges and some neighborhood restaurants and bookstores. We plan to start distributing *Red Flag* to day laborers and possibly at a hospital where nurses are trying to unionize. We expect to bring 10-15 people (maybe more) to the Party’s annual pre-May Day dinner. Those of us who can look forward to marching on May Day.

## RED STUDENTS from page 1

to join ICWP to get rid of capitalism.

A Red Army will eliminate capitalism and the bosses’ power and all forms of money. It doesn’t make any sense to be enslaved to money, it’s just paper. We will put the power in the hands of the working class so they can decide for society as a whole.

Where are we going to get the soldiers, the

fighters for this Red Army? As we mentioned before, the majority of the people that enter the military come from the working class. We must join the bosses’ armed forces to recruit and organize these working-class soldiers to build our Red Army.

“Each one of us can start by getting at least five others, and in turn each one of them can get five more. That way we’ll branch out and become huge,” said a comrade. We also need to be clear

on what our goals are and what we are doing, so that other people will not think wrong of us.

“It’s like a string or piece of hair. If you take one single one and pull it hard it can break, but if you braid them together they become strong,” said another comrade. “When we all come together, we can’t be stopped.”

Others have already done it in the past. We will do it again, learning from the mistakes they made in Russia and China.

## THE WORKING CLASS MUST SEIZE HISTORY, MOBILIZING FOR A COMMUNIST FUTURE

“US and Iran Reach a Historic Nuclear Deal” hailed the capitalist media internationally. They heralded the framework adopted by China, Britain, France, Russia, the United States, Germany and Iran to deal with Iran’s nuclear program.

“Historic” means changing the course of history. Today there are only two classes capable of doing this: the capitalist class and the working class.

The capitalists, insignificant in numbers, can’t change history without mobilizing and manipulating the working masses to support and fight for their capitalist-imperialist interests.

The working class, however, by its sheer size and its role in industry and the military, can independently shape history. It is the main motor of historic change. Unfortunately, our class has not yet succeeded in ending forever capitalism’s “house of horrors.”

However, historic upheavals are approaching. The capitalists are preparing to write history, as their dog-eat-dog competition demands, with unprecedented death and destruction.

The working class, on the other hand, is preparing to change history by burying capitalism and its horrors forever by mobilizing itself, for the first time in history, directly for communism.

### US Capitalists-Imperialists Lie to Hide Their Genocidal Plans

Many geopolitical analysts in the US and elsewhere have exposed the fact that the “historic” Iran nuclear agreement has very little chance of being adopted or holding up even if adopted.

Some also exposed as lies US imperialism’s decades-old excuses for opposing Iran’s nuclear aspirations. George Freeman wrote recently:

“The United States is not really concerned about Iran’s nuclear weapons... The real issue now is what it was a few years ago: Iran appears to be building a sphere of influence to the Mediterranean Sea, but this time, that sphere of influence potentially includes Yemen.” (*Stratfor* 3/31/15)

But even Freeman is at best telling half-truths. The Saudis see Iran’s arc of influence from

Lebanon to Syria to Iraq and Yemen as an existential threat. US bosses are afraid the Saudis might take their war against the al-Houthis in Yemen too far and trigger a war with Iran with unpredictable consequences.

Thus, these US bosses’ strategy in the region now is “not to support any particular power, but to maintain a balance between multiple powers... The current doctrine requires a balance between Iran and Saudi Arabia, with the United States tilting back and forth.” (*Stratfor*)

Consequently, the US is helping the Saudis with logistics and intelligence to be able to restrain them from going too far, while simultaneously attacking Iranian interests.

In Iraq, the US is bombing jihadists including ISIS, who are supported by Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies. They are undermining the Saudis while allowing Iran to become the dominant power there.

### Will WWII start in the Middle East or in Asia Pacific and Eastern Europe?

This debate further explains US imperialism’s contradictory actions and policies. The dominant imperialist wing doesn’t want to fight Russia and China in the Middle East. There they are isolated, while in Asia Pacific and Eastern Europe they hope to forge powerful alliances.

Thus this nuclear agreement aims to hold at bay the US imperialist sector bent on confronting China and Russia in the Middle East. This means accepting Iran’s regional primacy. The alternative is to attack Iran, which is supported by Russia and China. This could explode into WWII.

The agreement is also meant to lure Iran to join the west by promising to lift the sanctions. Iranian oil and gas could then flow to Europe, breaking the Russian chokehold on Europe’s energy market, weakening Russia and making possible a US-Europe alliance against China and Russia.

But most important, US bosses hope to coax the Iranian rulers to refrain from

sending that energy over land to China, especially in times of war. Then the US could starve China of the energy that feeds its industry and military because the US Navy controls the sea lanes and choke points through which other imported energy must travel to China. In WWII this would be decisive.

### World Communism: The only hope and future for humanity

Capitalism is based on deceit, treachery, and massive destruction and dehumanization of our class. Their wage slavery can’t exist without racism, sexism, nationalism and patriotism to divide and weaken our class and to get us to butcher each other for their profits and empire.

However, the struggle between capitalists and workers is sharpening. It will eventually blow up into open warfare. The final victory will be ours because we have learned from history that we must mobilize for communism. We will build a society based on cooperation and collectivity, sharing scarcity and abundance according to need.

Building that communist world is our task now, during and after the revolution. Forward, comrades, forward!



## FARMWORKERS’ STRIKE from page 1

Another such misleader, Fidel Sanchez Gabriel, also says he learned from Cesar Chavez and organized a union of farm workers in Florida. Many churches and NGOs from the US are trying to steer this movement into a pacifist movement for reforms.

This reformism and pacifism contrasts sharply with the anger and needs of farmworkers and their families, forced into slave conditions in unsanitary labor camps for low wages. They are forced to buy food, diapers and soda from stores

which charge them high prices and keep them constantly in debt. They have little to no water. If caught trying to escape from the labor camp, they can be beaten, and their belongings taken. About 100,000 Mexican farmworkers are children under 14 years old.

The pacifism and reformism of these leaders also stands in sharp contrast to the needs of Mexico’s industrial workers, who produce cars and other manufactured goods at wages lower than in China.

Farmworkers should reject the no-win policy of these leaders. Cesar Chavez’ policies have not helped California farmworkers. They are a cruel

joke. Today, the vast majority have no union. Only 2000 work under UFW union sweetheart contracts, and these only because the bosses want to keep the UFW and Chavez’ pacifist politics alive. Those under UFW contracts, which include a no-strike clause, get even lower wages than those without contracts.

The bosses fear that workers in the fields and cities will take up the fight for a communist society that meets our needs. Let’s make their worst fears a reality by mobilizing masses for communism.

We invite all workers to join and build the ICWP and to march on May Day for Communism.



**This is the paper of the working class.**

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

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## Critique of Frantz Fanon, Part III:

### CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS VERSUS “NATIONAL” CONSCIOUSNESS

Fanon did not see class struggle as the dominant fact determining how society works and changes. He saw colonialism as the domination of one nation over another, Algeria against France, not as the brutal rule of capitalism over the masses of the regions it had conquered. He saw the uprising against colonial rule as a national movement of “the people,” not the working class.

Fanon tried to distinguish between nationalism and “national consciousness.” Nationalism, he said, “aroused the masses against the oppressor but disintegrates in the aftermath of independence,” as the national bourgeoisie takes over and becomes the new oppressors. He described “national consciousness” as a set of political ideas, supposed to be developed in stages, that goes beyond mere nationalism. In his contradictory descriptions of it, Fanon tried to rescue something good about nationalism from the oppression that it had maintained in Africa.

#### Stages of “National Consciousness”

The earliest stage of “national consciousness,” said Fanon, was the aim to kill or drive out every European. As the anti-colonial war progressed, some European settlers supported the war, and some blacks and Arabs oppose it, so “national consciousness” could get beyond a “racial and racist dimension.” Next tribalism and regionalism were supposed to be overcome, and nationalism must be replaced by a “social and economic consciousness,” about whose content Fanon is very vague. According to Fanon, any kind of internationalism requires “national consciousness,” which he claims to be the “highest form of culture.” (All quotations from Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*, R. Philcox, trans., New York, 2004)

There is an amazing unreality about this whole scheme. Fanon pretends that “national consciousness” only unifies, overcoming tribalism and regionalism. But this is not true. Any kind of

nationalism also divides the masses. Developing “national consciousness” means giving overriding importance to particular features of a group of people who have a common history or language, features that supposedly distinguish them from other groups. Both now and in Fanon’s time, however, the masses of these groups are oppressed by the same capitalist system. The masses of Mali and Bolivia, Pakistan and France, or of any other countries, not only have a common enemy, but they are more similar than different in their capabilities for fighting back and supporting each other.

Nationalism does not promote internationalism. Instead it raises barriers between workers of different countries and races. It also aims to unite the masses with their rulers. This is why bosses love nationalism. In each country they cook up some supposedly unique and flattering characteristics of their nation that they give speeches about and teach kids in school.

#### Working Class Consciousness and Internationalism

Fanon saw “national consciousness” as something that a nationalist political movement needed to struggle for, not something spontaneous. Communists understand that we need to fight for working-class consciousness. The fact that workers have the same interests the world over does not mean that they always understand this. It is up to us to use our press and political actions to bring out the nature of global capitalism and the struggles of the masses against the system in every country. This is why ICWP exposes state murder, racism and oppression and the masses’ fight back against these things. ICWP has organized and taken part in many protests of racist police murders in the US. We have protested the government murders of 43 students in Guerrero, Mexico and the deaths of 1100 Bangladeshi garment workers, killed by the



bosses’ greed. We have publicized, in a pamphlet and *Red Flag*, the heroic struggle of striking miners shot down by police in South Africa. Our leaflet supporting workers protesting the World Cup was distributed in Brazil. These efforts will continue and expand.

Mobilizing the masses for communism means combining struggles that take place in many countries, learning from and coordinating with workers everywhere. Constructing communism includes doing away with the bosses’ national boundaries and working closely to see that workers’ needs are fully met everywhere, even if their local production is not yet enough.

“National liberation” movements were tried, decades ago. It is obvious now that the struggles and sacrifices of millions who took part in them accomplished nothing for the masses. We have learned our lesson: working-class internationalism is vital for the communist future of the working class.

**Next column:** *Fanon’s love-hate relationship with capitalism*

## THE TROUBLE WITH RACIST CAPITALISM

“The Trouble with Race” is the theme of *Foreign Affairs*, the mouthpiece of U.S. imperialism’s leading think-tank. “The Trouble with Racist Capitalism” would be more appropriate.

Six articles reach similarly pessimistic conclusions. Proposed solutions are weak and unconvincing. Communist revolutionary enthusiasm stands in stark contrast.

“Race in the Modern World” sets the tone. “The dream of a world beyond race ... is likely to be long deferred,” concludes the author.

“Does Affirmative Action Work?” advises, “politicians [to] set modest targets” because “affirmative action policies can ... be symbolically important, even if economically ineffective.”

Communism will mobilize masses to undo centuries of racist practices, unlike the capitalist affirmative action charades the author researched. Communist revolution will eliminate the material basis of racism inherent in the capitalist profit-centric production model. We’ll produce for our needs, relying on the strength of a united working class for communism to succeed.

Racist pay differentials will end along with wages. We will launch a mass campaign to wipe out the division between mental and manual labor.

“Affirmative” hiring will no longer threaten jobs of those already working. New hires will mean helping hands.

New workers will not be pigeonholed in job categories. They will no longer compete with veteran workers for higher-paying positions. There

will be no higher- or lower-paying positions.

The whole concept of training and education would be uprooted and replaced. For example, machinists would be engineers as well and healthcare hierarchies will end.

Compare this mass mobilization to abolish racism on the job with the pathetic solution offered in “Racial Inequality after Racism:

“One idea that holds promise is ... diagnostic methods similar to [bank and financial firm] stress tests.

“For example, a [racial-equality stress] test for large employers might reveal whether their hiring practices treat white and black ex-felons unequally.”

The capitalist financial model with its stress tests, regulations and laws is precisely the model we must reject.

The article cites a study showing racism distorts retail markets, saturating African American neighborhoods with unhealthy foods: another of the racist results of school “no-tolerance” policies. His solution? Still more studies! Now with stress tests!

Why not just eliminate markets? While we’re at it, let’s abolish the banks and the rest of the bosses’ financial apparatus.

Communist education will have “no-tolerance” for separating youth from the working class in isolated classrooms, breeding grounds for elitism and racism. Learning will be centered on collective work.

The remaining *Foreign Affairs* articles focus

on Europe, South Africa and Latin America.

European governments “have multicultural policies that place communities in constricting boxes or assimilationist ones that distance minorities from the mainstream.”

“South Africa will never be free of interracial animosities. ... People too often rely on stereotypes to understand members of other groups.”

Black and indigenous “in Latin America [160 million out of a population of 600 million] remain the most disadvantaged in a region that ranks among the most unequal in the world.”

These capitalist expert writers offer only vague and uninspiring answers. Europe “needs ... a renewal of civil society.” South Africans “must be willing to tolerate each other.” The “need [for new] policies in Latin America is incontrovertible.”

Communist revolution will quickly destroy the foundation of racism, the production-for-profit model. Communist mass mobilization will root out racist vestiges left over after the seizure of power like racism on the job, in the communities, or in education.

The bosses perfected racism to keep workers apart and fighting each other. Now the imperialists’ most important think-tank cynically says there can be no thought of destroying racism in the foreseeable future--if at all.

Masses mobilized for communism will prove them wrong.

## LETTERS

**“The Revolution Will Not Be Televised.”**

The famous 1970 poem argued that no part of the state - the politicians, the generals, the news or entertainment media - would help us because “the revolution will put (us) in the driver’s seat.”

It’s an argument that bears repeating. On Tuesday, March 31, over 600 teachers, aides, parents and students rallied and marched in Oakland. They demanded an increase in school funding for teachers, special ed. and wrap-around services.

The demonstration was part of an ongoing mobilization which has seen Oakland students walk out in protest against police brutality and organize against charter schools, and has seen almost half the teachers in the school district ‘work to rule’ as a way of pressuring the contract negotiations.

The movement (classroomstruggle.org) has developed a vision that is inspiring but flawed. It reflects the anger that is growing among working class families but it also expresses the reformism that still grips a significant portion of our class.

**Red Flag** teachers joined the demonstration determined to meet this deadly reformism head on. “Government is an instrument of class rule,” our education flyer pointed out,

“In capitalist society, all schools serve the interests of the capitalist class.”

“There’ll never be a revolution in this country,” a colleague who is very committed to his students told me. “We don’t need communists. We’re going to win the elections and take over the school board,” he insisted.

“That’s exactly why we do need communists,” I replied. “We need to battle this illusion that the government can be bent to our will. It’s **Red Flag** communists who bring a crystal clear analysis that all branches of government serve the needs of the capitalists against the aspirations of workers. One day, winning a revolution will be on the agenda. Today, bringing a clear understanding of the class nature of the struggle and building a communist party of a new type (ICWP) is the vital issue.”

My colleague wasn’t won over but he took a **Red Flag** and our interaction has moved to a new level.

Others were more open. We got out about 50 **Red Flags**. A friend who teaches High School History welcomed the idea of having a communist come to her classes. Perhaps we can start by reading and discussing “The Revolution will not be televised.” Then we can look at the **Red Flag** flyer on education before rewriting the poem to meet our challenges: “The revolution will not be televised” can become “The education we need will not be subsidized...” And class room struggle will take on a revolutionary communist flavor

--Bay Area Comrade

## LETTERS

## LETTERS

**In communism, nothing will be for sale**

El Salvador—“Water cannot be free. If I make an investment, bottling, installing pipes, the water cannot be free.” These were the words of a representative of ARENA (electoral party) on the subject of water.

Diverse social organizations have tried to get the “Water Act” approved that, according to these organizations, “will ensure the fundamental right to water.” This law has not been approved and the process of privatization of water is not being stopped by the reformist struggle.

Services for the working class are of poor quality. The service of water supply is intermittent, varying from 16 hours a day in some areas, to less than 4 hours a day or even once every four days in others. In some parts of the country the community services of water are private and with extremely high rates.

Water is a natural resource that the bosses have given a price. Whether public (controlled by the capitalist state) or private (controlled by a boss), the bosses profit from these natural resources.

The services that the State offers today in the government of the FMLN (electric power, health, education) continue in the same conditions as in the time of the previous governments.

Whenever they have privatized services, the politicians in service of the boss who has an interest in this resource, use the bad service to bring “an investment to improve” the service. The only ones who can manage and distribute the resources correctly are the working class. Without the need of government institutions or private property, with the leadership of ICWP; this is the way we will administer what the earth provides us in Communism.

The capitalists make profit at the expense of our lives and of the resources that we need to live. It’s not enough for them to send us to wars, or to exploit us in their factories. We must put an end to all private property. ICWP must lead the masses of workers to mobilize ourselves for communism and administer society in a way that goes hand in hand with our ecosystem and meeting our needs.

It will not be the State, or the capitalists, or the struggle for reforms that will assure us the resources for a healthy and dignified life. It will be the fight for Communism.

--Comrade in El Salvador

**Water and Shale Gas**

MEXICO—The initiative of the General Water Law, approved on March 4, 2015 by the United Commissions of Drinking Water and Water Resources, will limit the use of water to 50 liters (10 gallons) a day per person, criminalize scientific research and intensify environmental conflicts.

## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

77% of the population of Mexico is concentrated in the north and center of the country but only 31% of renewable water is found there. The south and southeast areas, where 23% of the population is found, has 69% of the renewable water.

In Mexico, the surface covered by water includes 3.8 million hectares (9.5 million acres) of which 2.9 million hectares (7.3 million acres) are saltwater and the rest is fresh water.

In 2010, the US International Energy Agency (AIE) estimated the hydrocarbon reserves at 680 million cubic feet in widely distributed areas of Mexico.

Water is an indispensable resource for the extraction of natural gas by fracking. This involves techniques of hydraulic injection that demand enormous volumes of water. From 9 to 29 million liters (about 2 to 6 million gallons) are required for the fracking (fracture) of a single well.

Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX Oil Company) began exploratory work for shale gas-oil in 2010 and identified 5 geological provinces with the potential to produce hydrocarbons:

On the recent visit of the President of Mexico to England, the governor of Chihuahua commented that England is interested in investing in the extraction of shale gas in the state, since there are 500 kilometers (310 miles) rich in hydrocarbons.

The major risk factor is the insecurity of the area, in areas where the Gulf and Zeta cartels are fighting for control, which makes the militarization of the area and the country indispensable. Cases like that of the students of Ayotzinapa, the port of Lázaro Cárdenas, drug trafficking, etc, are not isolated. They all have something in common, the rivalry between the bosses to control the natural resources for profits.

In the interimperialist struggle and preparation for World War III, the capitalists are not interested in spending for life itself. They convert natural resources into generators of profits.

“Then will we die for lack of water?” asked a relative while this article was being written. I answered that not only from lack of water, but from poverty, from genetically modified food, contamination from mining, repression, from wars, etc. and she made a sad face. She knows about the Party and therefore knows very well what the solution is to get rid of this system.

In Communism, workers will mobilize to develop safe energy, water, food and water collectively for the benefit of workers everywhere. Workers of the world, let’s unite to destroy the capitalist bosses, who do not rest from sinking us into poverty and who live off our work. Let’s destroy capitalism, join ICWP!

--Comrade in Mexico

# March on May Day with ICWP

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES  
FOR COMMUNISM!**

San Salvador

Mexico City

Seattle

Los Angeles

Spain

South Africa



## High School Students Distribute *Red Flag* to Garment Workers in Los Angeles

"Would you like *Red Flag*?" was the question that two other high school student comrades and I asked at least a hundred times this morning. It was our first time visiting a garment factory to distribute *Red Flag*, although other comrades distribute our communist newspaper regularly at this factory. The workers got off the bus in large groups of at least twenty. Some were arriving late and were practically running toward the factory. They looked tired, with dark circles under their eyes, as they faced another long day at work.

When they were crossing the street, we went quickly to catch up to as many as possible to give them *Red Flag*. Some came up to us asking for the paper. Others came back for another copy, probably for a fellow worker or family member. Unfortunately, some couldn't

take the paper because they had their hands full with their bags, their coffee, their breakfast.

"It made me glad when a woman came back for another paper for a friend who couldn't take it because her hands were full," said Guadalupe.

As we tried to distribute the paper to those who were getting off the buses, another comrade was near the entrance distributing to those we didn't get to.

"It makes me sad that some people don't take it. They don't know it's for their benefit," said Samuel.

There were some people who really didn't want to take it. They don't know that the articles in the paper are written by workers just like them. They don't understand that the bosses exploit them and that capitalism has

taught us to be afraid of communism. That's why some people refuse the paper.

In half an hour we distributed more than 200 papers. It was great. Even though we got there a little late, we were able to distribute a lot.

It's important to keep visiting the factory to distribute *Red Flag*. And we would like to encourage others, here and in other places, to participate with us in the distribution of the newspaper. If more people help, we will be able to distribute more papers, and as some people distribute, others can talk to the workers about how communism is good and why we should all fight for a world without borders, money or bosses. We'll visit the factory again soon, and hopefully next time we'll have more help.

--A comrade

### How Will Communism Prevent and Manage Anti-Social Behavior?

An article in *Red Flag* (v. 6 #3) showed clearly and helpfully that there are few differences among capitalism's slavery, prison labor, and wage slavery. All are tools to maximize the profits squeezed out of workers.

I'm not convinced, though, that communist society will want to send those who commit seriously anti-social actions to "isolated places" to live with each other. And it's not helpful to say vaguely (as the article did) that if they leave "we might have to deal with them more severely." With no jails or prisons, does that mean killing them? Or what?

Let's try harder to learn from history. *Red Flag* has begun to tell the story of Makarenko's colony for anti-social youth in the young Soviet Union. They lived and worked together, but not in isolation. Makarenko and other communists worked hard to help them develop new collective values. More should be written about this.

Another *Red Flag* article described how the model Chinese village of Tachai treated neighboring villagers who tried to steal corn from the fields during a regional famine. The communist leader of Dazhai sent the culprits home with full stomachs, extra food, and a political lecture.

Books like William Hinton's *Fanshen* and *Shenfan* describe in vivid detail the kinds of problems that arose in the first two decades of communist rule in China. These included rape and other physical assaults, thefts of personal and public property, counter-revolutionary organizing, and abuse of power.

Hinton and others also describe how communist village leaders and city cadre tried to handle these problems. Their strategy was mainly mass mobilization of villagers to confront the wrong-doers. Those considered unreliable in the long term were made to work in the village under close supervision. They were not sent away to an "isolated place" with others like them.

Only a few of the hardest cases were sent away at all. They went to regional centers where they worked and studied under supervision. Rarely were they locked up.

The Chinese Communist Party's fight to build socialist (rather than communist) society limited its ability to solve social problems. In particular, it failed to mobilize masses for communism or recruit them massively into the Party.

We are historical materialists. We need to build on the best of our history and think about how to do better at preventing and, when ne-

cessary, handling anti-social behavior. How do we handle it in the Party now? How should we handle it in the future?

Some of our comrades have personal experiences with revolutionary "liberated zones" in El Salvador and elsewhere. They should write more about these, too.

A comrade



### "There's no place like home"

Recently, some ICWP members and friends were having a discussion after dinner when a neighbor asked, "Why are we seeing so many more homeless people than we used to?"

Someone else commented on the surprising number of empty houses in the neighborhood. Another remarked that lately it's impossible to do your grocery shopping without two or three people approaching you asking for money.

We talked a little about the crisis of capitalism and how workers' needs will never be met as long as it exists. Only communism can do that. In a communist society we will produce what workers need and provide services like health care, education, transportation, and entertainment, all without money, banks, mortgages, landlords or realtors!

Another comrade referred to a *Red Flag* article describing how the Chinese communists dealt with issues like this. Friends read it right then.

The story dealt with some hungry people who stole food from a commune. The party leader refused to punish them. Instead, he fed them!

That's the way we will deal with the homeless. First, we will make sure they have a roof over their heads.

"That's what I want to hear!" said a friend, tired of all the capitalist bullshit excuses. "We solve the problem!"

Maybe the bosses can sell us a house, but it will never truly be a home because they can take it away from us tomorrow if we lose our job or become ill or disabled. Think of the victims of Katrina, whose homes were destroyed

or badly damaged, and then stolen away from them by the banks and the politicians.

Then think about joining the ICWP to mobilize the masses worldwide to fight for communism. Then we will really be home!

--Comrades from Seattle

### Capitalism = Brutal Poverty for the Masses

As comrades of ICWP know, including some in the working class, we live in an era of capitalism. I experience this brutal system every day of my life. Poverty is getting worse and worse every day.

A few days back, I visited a family who are friends of mine. I went there mainly to sell my sander tool machine because the husband of the house is a handyman. He needs the sander machine more than I do, and I needed money urgently to buy food. The last time I saw the wife was last year in December.

When I got there the husband was out, so I just stayed to catch up with the wife about life in general, about how things have been going. Out of the conversation the wife asked me for 20 rands to buy food for supper. I answered back, "Mama, I am broke. The reason I am here is to sell your husband this sander machine so I can buy myself food to survive just a couple of days.

"And I understand it's very near your payday, the 25th of the month, and that's why you are broke," I said.

She immediately replied, "Nooooo, I was re-trenched [laid off] last year, in the second week of December, so I have been unemployed ever since. And bear in mind that I have a kid who goes to school and we hardly eat meat these days.

"I can't remember the last time we had meat in this house. And my husband hardly gets a job these days for his handyman skills because people don't have money, even those who are employed. People in our days do handyman jobs themselves."

This lady's story is not new. The situation is the same or even worse everywhere, because it's too much of the same story everywhere I go. And I just had enough of it. I was just angry. I just felt like, "let me just attack this brutal capitalism in a way that will end this suffering, this lacking of food."

I just know that ICWP is the only solution. I need to be more disciplined and recruit more workers to the party.

—An angry comrade in South Africa

## US & Chinese Imperialists: More Deadly than Jihadis

# AFRICAN WORKERS NEED A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS OR EXPLOITATION

On April 2, Al Shabaab jihadis on a suicide mission from Somalia killed nearly 150 students at a college in northern Kenya. In western Africa, Nigerians recently elected a new president. His campaign promised to wipe out corruption and the local jihadis, Boko Haram, who kidnapped more than 200 schoolgirls last year.

The appearance of both events is Muslim jihadist groups attacking African Christians, and the Kenyan and Nigerian government responses. The essence, however, is the increased destabilization of Africa created by the rivalry between US and Chinese capitalists. This created the conditions in which groups like Al Shabaab and Boko Haram recruit disaffected and marginalized youth and workers, and engage them in suicidal adventures.

Our job, as the International Communist Workers' Party, is to mobilize these same youth and workers to struggle for a communist society. Our comrades in South Africa have already taken up this task.

US-China rivalry throughout Africa is prompted by an increasing penetration of Chinese imperialism in oil, natural gas, and mines. This accompanies Chinese diplomatic initiatives into what had previously been the turf of US and European imperialists.

The long-term strategy of the US to confront China is its pivot to Asia. But it cannot afford to ignore the resource-rich African continent. It can't ignore the strategic chokepoint of the Bab al Mandab strait between Africa and Yemen. So the US has increased its African military presence via AFRICOM (United States Africa Command).

Somalia's provisional government was imposed by the US client government in Ethiopia. It is backed by troops from Kenya and Uganda, but armed by the US. However, Chinese investors are challenging the US for control of the resources of the region.

China is building a railroad to transport oil from South Sudan and Kenya to the Indian Ocean

port of Mombasa, Kenya. This allows Chinese companies to bypass the Bab al Mandab strait, patrolled by troops from Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, the biggest US military base in Africa.

The ongoing war in East Africa has created a crisis for the increasingly marginalized Al Shabaab. Trying to recruit jihadis, Al Shabaab launched two major attacks on Kenyan civilians: one on a Nairobi shopping mall in September, 2013, and the recent attack on a school in Garissa in the north.

### Nigeria: US-China Tug of War

Nigeria, in West Africa, has emerged as the largest economy in Africa. It has Africa's second-largest known oil reserves and is the world's fourth leading exporter of national gas.

Under the current government of lame-duck President Goodluck Jonathan, China emerged as a leading investor in Nigerian oil. It also increased investments in banking, construction, and power generation and distribution.

Jonathan moved in late 2014 to cancel a US-sponsored program to train new Nigerian military units. US officials responded with public threats that Jonathan's policies were damaging US-Nigerian relations.

The US followed through by supporting Muhammadu Buhari, a graduate of the US Army War College and former military dictator of Nigeria (1983 to 1985), in his successful campaign to replace Jonathan as president.

Buhari was the keynote speaker for a conference on Nigeria held by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a ruling-class think

tank close to the White House. Obama's former campaign manager David Axelrod advised his campaign.

The US can count on Buhari to work hand-in-glove with AFRICOM commander General David Rodriguez. In February, Rodriguez called for a huge counter-insurgency campaign throughout West Africa. Buhari's promise to get tough with Boko Haram means that he will be relying on the US military, instead of the South African mercenaries that Jonathan has been paying.

More importantly, the US will be in a position to counter growing Chinese influence in West Africa—its real worry.

### African Comrades Mobilize for Communism

The capitalist media feature Islamist jihadis like Al Shabaab and Boko Haram. But the real fight in Africa, and world-wide, is the inter-imperialist rivalry between the US and China. Neither imperialist has anything but exploitation and death to offer the African masses.

Workers must unite to destroy the thoroughly corrupt capitalist system where both the small capitalists and the big imperialists cause chaos to divide and better exploit us.

Communism unites workers across the bosses' borders, across oceans, and across religious di-

vides. Comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party in South Africa have expanded their work to build the Party in Nigeria. Industrial workers and soldiers in both countries must take the lead in mobilizing the masses in Africa and everywhere for the communist world we need.



### South African Worker Writes: "Socialism is Capitalism"

I'm challenging the South African Communist Party (SACP) to change its political name because they are not communist. They are sleeping with one blanket with the nationalists. The leader of SACP, Blade Nzimande, owns a million-dollar car and they endorse shop stewards to be paid thirty times more than ordinary workers.

NUM (National Union of Mineworkers) General Secretary Frans Baleni earns US\$160 000 per year. In 2011, workers went on strike. I was shocked by this fake lefty. Mr. Baleni recently advised the bosses of Karee mine to fire 9000 workers. That is why workers quit NUM and joined AMCU (Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union).

SACP negotiates with bosses on behalf of workers. They are selling out workers to exchange their labour power for slave wages. It's shocking. How come you negotiate to keep exploitation of workers?

All I'm saying is that SACP are socialists. Socialism is capitalism. No doubt they allowed the brutal capitalism to rule.

We fight with police. We need soldiers, who are part of the working class. They exploit them the same as industrial workers. The contradictions are growing to the maximum level. All these workers are related somewhere, somehow. Instead of working together the bosses are fuelling anger between them.

Chris Hani once said that you can't negotiate with the capitalists because money is going to be involved in those negotiations. And they killed him. They are hiding the real contradiction from the masses, camouflaging the problem by using racism. They are black capitalists like white capitalists.

Lonmin is the most exploitative company in South Africa. Former World Bank chairman Jim Yong Kim said Lonmin is the future. Only international communist revolution can end this horror without end. Last year I joined the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). It is the only Party that fights for communism, not nationalism or socialism.

¡A LUTA CONTINUA!

—A comrade

**MOBILIZE THE  
MASSES FOR  
COMMUNISM!  
MARCH UNDER THE  
RED FLAGS OF ICWP  
ON MAY DAY!**

**IN SOUTH AFRICA,  
EL SALVADOR, MEXICO, SPAIN,  
AND THE U.S. IN LOS ANGELES,  
SEATTLE AND OAKLAND**

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