

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY

May Day is the historic international working class holiday. It arose in the massive reform struggle for the eight-hour day. Yet there was always another side: the masses' revolutionary aspirations for a world without exploitation or privilege, without racism or borders. Since 1889, May Day has reflected this sharp political struggle: reformism versus revolution, patriotism versus internationalism, elections versus preparation for armed insurrection.

Unfortunately, even communists too often mobilized for May Day largely around reforming capitalism. Reform movements, especially when led by communists, chain the masses to capitalism. Our fight isn't for democracy or justice, labor laws or immigration reform, against cut-backs or for jobs. It's for the world we need: a communist world!

Only mobilizing the masses for communism can achieve our highest aspirations.

Communism will end wealth and poverty, money and markets, private property and privilege. Communism is "from each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need." Communism will unite work and education, "mental" and "manual" labor.

Communism knows no borders. We are one international Party. We fight racism, sexism, patriotism and every other tool the capitalists use to super-exploit and divide us. We struggle against the ways that nationalism, pacifism, socialism, and even anarchism chain us to capitalist inequality and its inevitable wars.

Millions on the move worldwide

Only capitalist illusions stand in our way

Capitalism means wage slavery, racist terror, and increasingly deadly imperialist wars. The racist murder of Trayvon Martin and so many more, and the rise in racist deportations show that

capitalism in crisis relies more on racist terror as it attacks all workers harder.

Today, conflicts are rapidly intensifying between the US and its main imperialist rivals China and Russia. May Day 2012 finds capitalists tightening their belts around our necks in the name of "austerity" from Mexico to Canada and around the world. In Spain and Greece and elsewhere, half of our young adults are jobless.

The fmIn in El Salvador, the pro-Zelaya movement in Honduras, the US Democratic Party, and unions where they exist push the lie that we can peacefully march or elect our way out of the capitalist crisis. The opposite is true. In the US, expect attacks on workers to sharpen and war preparations to escalate after the November elections.

The capitalist-imperialists will stop at nothing. They value our lives and our planet only as disposable tools to be used as the source of their military power and maximum profits. We must destroy their system before it destroys us.

Workers, Soldiers and Youth: Become Communist Organizers!

Our very survival demands millions of active, thinking, fighting communists united to share the responsibility of leading the masses to build a communist world. All must study and apply the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism to advance our work. All must develop as leaders to serve the masses. Only a mass communist Party can unite us to seize power and organize production and distribution to meet our needs internationally and sustainably.

The Russian communist Stalin wrote before May Day 1912, "Let our comrades the workers not be daunted. One must have the courage to undertake complex Party tasks!" We ask you to organize a group of co-workers, family, or friends. Read *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* together. Contact us with your questions and learn what it means for your group to join the Party.

FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS
page 2

RED DAWN IN EL SALVADOR,
page 3

MEXICO: DISTRIBUTING AND ORGANIZING WITH MMC
page 3

HONDURAS BUILDING ICWP
page 4

POLITICAL STRIKE IN LOS ANGELES: MTA, page 4
JANITORS, page 5

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL DESTROY CAPITALISM AND BORDERS

Borders and nations have no value for workers. These were created by the capitalists to mark their territory in their fight against rival capitalist-imperialists. They use patriotism to win us to fight for their interests, pitting workers against workers, with the myth of fighting for “our country.”

But we, the workers, have no nation. We are one class worldwide with one interest and one goal: to get rid of capitalism and build communism. Our flag is the red flag of the international working class.

Communist revolution will destroy borders and nations along with capitalist exploitation. Together, we’ll tear down the physical and ideological barriers that divide us. We will build a world where all workers will be welcomed and needed to produce and distribute collectively to meet the needs of our class.

Wage Slavery forces workers the world over to migrate to survive

African and Latin American workers are forced by capitalism to emigrate to Europe and the US. In cities throughout western Europe, black African immigrants are forced to sell umbrellas and hats on the side walks, always ready to gather them up to run from the racist police. In southern Spain, signs for farmworkers are written in Arabic. In the US, immigrants, hounded by immigration and police, are forced to take the lowest paying jobs.

Workers from Nicaragua and Honduras emigrate to Costa Rica and El Salvador to take the hardest jobs and face constant discrimination. 150 million workers in rural China, forced to go to the cities to be super-exploited, are considered undocumented migrants. Five thousand unemployed Portuguese workers, desperate for jobs, are emigrating to Brazil every day.

Bosses the world over use immigration laws to pay immigrant workers less than others, to exploit all workers more, and to super-exploit, terrorize, and scapegoat those forced to immigrate without “legal” documents. We, the working class, are one class going from country-to-country to survive in a capitalist system that is incapable of meeting our basic needs.

We communists in ICWP expose the capitalists’ lie that workers from different areas have different, competing in-

terests. Nationalism and racism are bosses’ tools to divide us and try to keep us from realizing our vast power, numbers and potential as one international working class to destroy the bosses and to build a world where we produce everything only to meet the needs of our class.

By building a mass international ICWP, we’ll unite the international working class, citizens and immigrants, for our common interest: communism.

In a communist world, workers will migrate because they will want to contribute to the growth of ICWP and communism the world over, learning from and teaching our fellow workers, to build strong communist collectives.

We’ll learn from each others’ skills and experiences to build a world full of



diversity and creativity that meets the needs of all. Every worker, soldier and ally will be needed to develop communist relations and practices, to tear down the divisions that capitalism has created between city and countryside, between mental and manual labor, between education and work, between workers of different areas and “races” and between men and women.

To win that world, we need to build a mass, international communist party to mobilize the masses everywhere for communism. We need to win ourselves, fellow workers and youth to welcome going into the bosses’ arms factories and militaries to organize to destroy capitalism with communist revolution. We have to win the soldiers to turn the guns on the war makers instead of our class brothers and sisters.

Together, we’ll build a communist world that will free us all from capitalist exploitation. Join the fight to mobilize the masses internationally for communism. Join and build ICWP.

US IMMIGRATION POLICY REFLECTS BOSSES’ INTERNAL FIGHT OVER EXPLOITATION AND WAR PREPARATION

The fight among the US bosses over immigration laws is mainly about the question of wider wars and world war to defend US imperialism.

On one side are the big imperialists who need these wars. They are represented by the Democrats and Obama with their Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) and Dream Act. The CIR will put the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the country on the long “path to legalization” (at least 12 years). During the first five years they could be deported if they’re unemployed more than 60 days. The other six years they’ll spend waiting for their “green card.” This will mean millions of slave laborers for these imperialists’ war industries.

With the Dream Act, the imperialist bosses pretend to be “humanitarians.” They say they want to help about a million undocumented youth, graduates from US high schools, achieve their “dreams” of

having a university career and legalizing their status. They could achieve this by finishing two years of university studies or serving in the military. They would have six years to do this or they’ll be deported.

Given the cuts in financial aid, the fee hikes and cuts in classes, this law will force hundreds of thousands to join the bosses’ army. That’s why the Pentagon supports this law.

At the same time they want to pass “humanitarian” laws looking for millions of slave laborers for their war industries and soldiers for their armies, Obama and his gang

are carrying out mass deportations, 400,000 a year. They use racist terror together with racist attacks from the Tea Party politicians so that the undocumented and their allies see Obama as their “salvation” and in this way win them to vote and to patriotism.

On the other side are the Tea Party Republicans who represent the US bosses who have their economic interests here and don’t want to use their profits to finance wars that the imperialist section need to fight for their empire. These are impeding the passage of the “humanitarian” laws of the imperialists.

However, the racist and fascist laws that they pass serve the big imperialists in the sense that millions of immigrants and their families, legal and undocumented, and their allies see as the only solution the program of the Democrats, the supposed “lesser evil.”

Besides throwing a monkey wrench into the plans of the big imperialists, these smaller bosses also want to super-exploit immigrant workers. However, they don’t have the same interests as the imperialist section in winning them to patriotically work and fight to defend US imperialism in its coming wars, including World War III.

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

Voting or mobilizing for “better” laws won’t change the situation. We communists welcome these millions who will work in the factories and will fight in the army alongside citizens. Together—immigrants and citizens—we can organize for a communist revolution that will put an end to capitalism-imperialism, the bosses, their imperialist wars, their borders and their racist immigration laws.



JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS’ PARTY (ICWP)
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 487-7674
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362
3175 S. HOOVER ST., LOS ANGELES, CA
90007, USA

Red Dawn in El Salvador

COMMUNIST MAY DAY, 2012

Communist Workers

“Are we prepared for the May Day march?” asked a member of the International Workers’ Party of a comrade worker from a textile factory, who answered, “Yes, comrade, sure we’re already prepared. Just from the factory where I work several workers will come, from here readers of *Red Flag* and members of the party will come.” Hundreds of women and men workers from many factories will participate this May Day.

This worker also commented that a friend of theirs from work had died a few days before due to the beating that the police gave him several months ago, which provoked an acceleration of a disease that he had suffered from before. Comrades from ICWP told them, “Marching and organizing for communism is also a way to honor this friend brought down by this capitalist system,” and that since he was a very active leader, it was time that she, like other comrade co-workers of the Party, retake the responsibility of guiding communist political work in the factories.

Youth in the Countryside and the City

“We’ve got the plan ready for the distribution of the party’s literature in the march,” assured a young leader of ICWP when another comrade questioned him. “But do you have plan A and B?” The youth responded “We’ve even thought about plan D.” Some observations about the plan were made, since the involvement of more comrades in another parallel activity that they’ve also organized will be necessary.

The youth of ICWP have had meetings to prepare the route of the march and how they’re going to distribute in the different organizations

where they work or are organizing. Also, they are visiting the youth in the countryside to discuss the plan and how they’re going to mobilize from the mountains to the capital. In the capital there are already youth who have been ready to participate actively in the May Day march since the last cadre school that they had outside the country.

The distribution of the manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and how to get the maximum number of contacts in the hand-over of communist literature was put forward. We discussed and emphasized that the purpose of the distribution of our line is as Lenin put forward in *What is to be Done?:* Communicate, Agitate, and Organize our working class.

The youth who participated for the first time are very enthusiastic about the idea of being part of the class struggle, like members of the ICWP.

Veterans of the Armed Struggle

“What you can do is sleep a day before in the city so that from there we’ll board the buses for the capital,” suggested the leader of ICWP. Some veteran comrades responded, “I think it’s a good plan.” Others said, “We’ll go in the morning to the place the buses are gathering.” Some comrades will ride in cars and others in buses to get to the place we’ll meet on the morning of May Day. “Comrade, give your family my best wishes, and we’ll see each other in the capital.” These were messages that older comrades-in-arms sent who know about our par-

ticipation every year in the great May Day march.

In these days, the visits are intensifying to the places of concentration where ICWP has historic and new bases. It’s important that the Party comrades have already elaborated plans for months before and aren’t waiting for an “order” to plan their work.

The leadership of the party is expanding and young comrades, women and men, are immersed in different tasks of preparation for the participation in the march of the workers and in spreading the communist ideas of ICWP. This is a quantitative and qualitative advance that allows us to see the resolve and discipline of the working class for its party. From this May Day, ICWP will grow. Join us!



MEXICO MAY DAY: FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM

In Mexico, we’ve distributed 1500 copies of *Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC)*. We explain that our goal is to eliminate the wage system, production for the market, money, borders, etc. We expect that many will read it and give us their comments. This is already happening with some teachers who allow us to distribute it in their classes. We plan to distribute many more copies of *MMC* at this May Day March. We invite workers, youth, and teachers to discuss it with us, and to join ICWP to mobilize the masses for communism.

Spreading MMC opens door to the struggle for communism with teachers

We’re advancing in the struggle with the teachers who allow us to present *Red Flag* and *MMC* in their classes. Some teachers are taking the struggle more seriously and raising their disagreements. This gives us the chance to deepen the struggle as well as our ties with them.

A teacher (Ray) has asked, “How do we guarantee that communism won’t degenerate again?” We answered that only the broad participation of workers and other oppressed people, consciously organizing the production, distribution, and the services that the population needs, could guarantee that the capitalists don’t come back to power.



Another time, he asked if we figure that workers and capitalists don’t want to live together, then what will we do with the capi-

talists? We explained that to live, we workers need each other and the capitalists don’t accept working alongside other workers on equal terms. That’s why they’ll fight to reinstall capitalism, and we workers need to fight them by every means possible.

In a very friendly way, he put forward his opposition to our document. It seems that he prefers “democracy.” We explained how democracy has always been used to enforce class rule, and that it can’t eliminate the exploitation of the labor power of the workers by the capitalists,

Since the electoral campaigns have started, one teacher, B., felt uncomfortable with our call on the students to change the whole system. He said that we need to be critical and analyze the proposal of Obrador of the PRD for peaceful change. He said that he respects us for so many years of struggle, and that we should be more flexible or tolerant of other points of view. We told him that the students already had two different points of view and that they had to use their judgment, and that we’re grateful for his willingness to allow us to talk to his students.

Given that, we talked with another teacher, Yur, asking him if he felt uncomfortable with our talking to his students against the trick of elections. He said he had never registered to vote, so he had no problem with that. (70% of the youth of voting age, disillusioned with the electoral system and the lack of a future for them under capitalism, won’t vote.) Yur does have some disagreements with us, possibly about fighting directly for the elimination of wage slavery. We haven’t yet advanced more in the struggle with him, but he does allow us to present *Red Flag* to his students.

The teacher KL has been very friendly; we hope she accepts our invitation to come to a study

group. Her students have also received *Red Flag* and *MMC*, which is a very important contribution to the struggle for communism.

There are no substitutes for communism.

Democracy is the capitalist farce that allows workers to occasionally “freely decide” which capitalist hangman will govern us. Capitalist liberty means the liberty to exploit us and to kill our children in their wars. Who is free to do what? We workers want to free ourselves from the bosses, from their exploitation, poverty and wars.

As the bosses push “democracy,” fascist control of the population by the capitalist state has increased under the pretext of struggle against drug dealing. Reforms to the penal code have legalized spying on the population and prepared the establishment of a “State of Emergency” to try to prevent workers’ rebellions. In northern cities like Monterrey a curfew has been imposed from 5 pm. The subjugation that the State can’t achieve “legally,” these criminal groups have achieved.

Millions of workers around the world are fighting against the evils that capitalism creates: exploitation (the use of workers’ labor power by the capitalists), oppression (abuse and violence against the workers), poverty (more than half of humanity lives in poverty), unemployment, wars and death. ICWP calls on them to fight against the causes of these evils: the whole capitalist system, and to build a society of equality among workers, without bosses, without money, in which everyone receives according to their needs.

Communism means eradicating wage labor and the exploitation of our labor. In communism we’ll enjoy what’s produced according to the needs of each one; everyone will work for the common good, without the need for money. The difficulties will also be shared. Join ICWP!

ORGANIZE A POLITICAL STRIKE AGAINST MTA'S MURDEROUS HEALTH PLAN CUTS AND CAPITALISM!

"This is exactly what I wanted to hear!"

"There is no way we're going to let that go down."

"They must be crazy!"

"Revolution? I'm with you!"

These are some of the many responses we got recently from MTA drivers and mechanics while distributing *Red Flag* and a leaflet about the following at 8 transit divisions:

In the last mechanic's union meeting at Division #1, ATU's President Neil Silver was exposed for keeping from the members the fact that MTA is mismanaging the Health Plan. This was disclosed through the contract negotiations. Now to make up for the shortfall, MTA is demanding we contribute \$400.00 or more a month for our health insurance.

This is another racist, fascist attack in MTA's unending reign of terror against MTA workers. It is further proof of the treachery of Neil Silver, James Williams and all union officials who preach better times and contracts would come. Their treachery is based on their complete belief in and allegiance to capitalism.

But, facts are stubborn. Things are getting worse, not better. The cutback in our health insurance, frozen wages and increased taxes are going to feed the US bosses' murderous military machine, slaughtering millions in small wars, on its way to a world war to slaughter even more. This is the world run by capitalism.

Capitalism's sole purpose for existing is to make profits for a handful of capitalists. These profits can only flow from our labor power. The more they exploit us and the less they "spend" on us, the more money they make. For them we are not human beings, but expendable beasts of burden to produce their profits or cannon fodder to fight their wars.

We aspire to and need a different world: a communist world

We need a different world: one without exploitation and money, the material basis for racism, sexism, patriotism and borders that divide and enslave us to the capitalists. We need a world where we all contribute according to our skills and commitment and receive according to our needs. We need a world where everyone will have the best health care possible, and our lives and well being will be the most important things.

That's why we are mobilizing the masses for communism.

We need a political strike that points the way to fight for a communist world

We need to strike! But we need a political strike: a strike that advances the political understanding of our class, nationally and internationally, of the need to destroy capitalism with a communist revolution.

Unfortunately, for centuries our class has been trained to strike for jobs, higher wages and better benefits. Besides being dangerous illusions in these times, these demands perpetuate the capitalists' shackles around our necks. We need a strike that raises slogans calling for smashing wage slavery, exploitation, money, racism, sexism and all borders with communist revolution.

We need a strike that calls for a world where every aspect of society is governed by the social and work relations of communist ethics, not the dog-eat-dog mentality of capitalism's ethics.

We call on MTA workers - mechanics, drivers and service attendants - and all other workers, students and soldiers everywhere, to help organize and support such a strike.

Contact *Red Flag* distributors and ICWP members in and outside of MTA to organize this strike and advance our fight for communism. Join us!



Transit Workers Criticize and Support *Red Flag*

We were distributing *Red Flag* at a transit division. Several took extra papers for friends and family and gave donations for the paper and the party. When we offered the paper to one worker on his way out of work, he said, "I'm not sure I want it. In the article called 'frequently asked questions' asking how disabled workers would be treated in a communist society, you didn't answer the question."

One of us said, "Let's say, I couldn't use my legs, but my arms worked fine. I'd do work that I could handle using my hands, arms and brain. It would be work that helped the collective meet all our needs. I'd receive what my family needed, no matter how much work I was able to contribute. My work would be valued like everyone else's."

He said, "Ok, now you answered the question. Now you made it clear, but the article didn't. So now I'll take the new paper."

We apologized for being unclear in the paper, and asked him to write a letter with his criticism. He asked us to write the criticism and the explanation instead, which we're glad to do.

Another young worker had never seen *Red Flag* before. We explained that it's a revolutionary communist paper. We said that both the proposed cuts to mechanics' health care and the fact that veterans don't get the care they need after coming back from fighting the bosses' wars show the bosses don't care about us but only their profits. "You're right," he said. "I'm a vet. Did you know that a vet commits suicide every 80 minutes?"

"Yes, and that's one reason we need to get rid of capitalism with a communist revolution," we said.

He said, "I'm with you."

--A comrade



Nurses in the San Francisco Bay Area, 2011.

California nurses are preparing to strike on May 1 against a contract that would cut their own health benefits. Under capitalism, they, like other workers, can't afford what they, themselves, produce. Communism will bring health care and meaningful work for all.

RECENT VISITS OF IMPERIALIST VULTURES MEAN WORSE PROBLEMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

May Day arrives at a crucial moment in Central America: The region has recently been visited by two imperialist vultures. We're talking about Joseph Biden, who has played a decisive role in the formulation of US foreign policy, and is one of its main experts on subjects like terrorism, Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, arms of mass destruction, and especially the "war on drugs."

With him came Oliver Garza, mysterious pro-consul sent by Washington to Honduras to take charge of this province for US imperialism. Since the region is going through an unstoppable process of transformation, and the local oligarchy is incompetent to solve it in their own interests, or those of the geopolitical interests of Washington, Garza has been sent to take the solution to the conflict into his own hands. That's the only explanation for the arrival of these shadowy personages, especially this latest superman of the

US, who—according to him—will wipe out the threat of drug traffic and organized crime and who the US rulers have promoted to intervene in other countries as well.

Given this, we can only conclude that contradictions in Central America will sharpen. In Honduras, Obama has promised to increase military aid for 2013, mainly increasing military installations in the Palmerola base, where the majority of US troops in Central America are stationed, and which is the largest of the six bases that the US has in Honduras.

All these imperial strategies lead us to the conclusion that the US is planning to increase its military presence in Honduras and in the region, with the sole aim of occupying a strategic zone that they need to have under their control. The US bosses see the presence of other imperialists in Latin America—those who "support" populist struggles to appear to be the lesser evils—as a

threat. That's why they have opted to make Honduras the pivot of the Pentagon in Central America and from there to develop their plans for domination and political intervention in Latin American affairs.

Faced with this evidence we have no alternative but to denounce and fight against these dangerous plans. We must build a base among the masses against the national bourgeoisie, their lackeys and against all imperialists. Our job this May Day and every day of the year is to build consciousness of the need for a communist party like ICWP, that can lead the working class to a new, communist, society. Together and united we will be able to achieve this. Let's march this May Day under the red flag, under the banner "Death to Capitalism! Long Live Communism! Abolish Wage Slavery! And Workers of the World, Unite!"

LOS ANGELES JANITORS CAN PLAY CRUCIAL ROLE IN MOBILIZING THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

“Imagine, I have to clean three floors of one of those buildings in 8 hours! I come out half dead,” said a janitor to a *Red Flag* distributor, pointing to a tall building in West Los Angeles. Later she added, “But, those that have to clean 18 restrooms in the same time come out even more exhausted!”

This is what capitalism does best! Only communist revolution can end this vicious exploitation and the racist capitalists that profit from it. In a communist society we will abolish money and all privileges. There won't be any bosses, or managers, or anyone whose job will be to give orders. Producing for our needs, there will be room for the millions who are unemployed. The more arms willing to work, the less we will each work and the more we will produce together.

That's why in a communist society there will be no need for us to kill ourselves in these buildings. We will turn them into apartments or public places for us to meet or work. And, since no one is born to only do the cleaning, everyone, starting with our leaders, will take part in whatever cleaning is needed. We will all do “mental” and “man-

ual” work.

Union struggles can't stop the bosses' super-exploitation

These workers have been brave and militant fighters against these blood-thirsty bosses. Yet in spite of all their sacrifice of more than two decades of struggle, their working conditions are constantly getting worse.

“Before,” said the same worker, “I only had to clean two floors, now I do three.” Some workers said they are forced to clean three and a half and even four floors. “Before, we had people (utility workers) who did the details. Now we do it all,” said another worker.

This is clear proof that union struggles are unable to end the bosses' racist and fascist attacks against the working class. That is why we need a communist revolution.

New bosses' onslaught, means a possible strike

Not satisfied with the vicious exploitation described above, the owners of the buildings and the companies they contract to clean their buildings want to squeeze these workers even more.

They want to increase their work load and impose on them a six-year wage freeze contract. They also want to take away a sick day.

And if this were not enough, they are going after the workers' health care plan. To be covered, they must now work 110 hours per month. The bosses want to raise it to 160 hours. Besides, they want to force them to pay \$75 more a month for their coverage and when they are absent for illness not allow them to use sick days to complete the 160 hours.



No medical coverage: possible death sentence

To the bosses our lives are worthless. To steal the \$780 per month per worker that the bosses pay for workers' medical coverage, the bosses are willing to practically condemn many of them to death.

This is no joke. A worker told how a few months ago, an unemployed friend of his suffered a heart attack and was taken to White Memorial Hospital in East Los Angeles. He was seen in the emergency room but since he didn't have insurance, he was sent home. He died that same night.

That's why the struggle for communism is a life and death struggle for the working class. Under communism we'll all have the best medical care possible because no one will leech off our suffering. Neither will there be money to limit the quality of our care, because nothing will be sold.

Strike against capitalism and for communism

Our lives are priceless. That is why our struggle is to destroy this murderous system. The union struggle is not our struggle. Instead of smashing the bosses' wage slavery, it justifies and legalizes it. Trade unionism is a dead end street.

Our liberation lies in mobilizing the masses for communism. We need a communist world without bosses and their racism, sexism, borders, exploitation, money, and imperialist wars.

Seven thousand janitors on strike against capitalism and for communism could help inspire and mobilize millions more, nationally and internationally, to see the possibilities of a better world. We urge all these workers to join the International Communist Workers' Party to advance this struggle.

WORKING CLASS SOLDIERS: KEY TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Throughout history, when presented with the alternative, masses of soldiers have chosen to side with revolutionary workers instead of the imperialist bosses. During WWI, workers and soldiers organized the Russian Revolution. One of the greatest accomplishments of the 20th century, it was the first time workers led by communist took power in a country. The Russian communists agitated, and organized, politicizing soldiers in the Czar's military for 14 years, winning working class soldiers to revolution. When World War I came, many soldiers at the German front deserted. They took their weapons and joined the Russian workers and made a revolution.

During and after World War II, millions of Chinese workers and Red Army soldiers mobilized to take power from the bosses in China.

World War III: Our turn!

The capitalists have their plans to wage more wars, including world war, to maintain their power and empires. We must have our plans to strip the capitalists of their power, to take power and build a communist society to meet our class' needs, not the socialism that our predecessors built. Soldiers are crucial to any revolutionary strategy. In a revolutionary situation, the bosses will call out the military to try to crush the uprising. The soldiers will either obey orders to attack their class brothers and sisters or join the workers and students in an insurrection and turn their guns on the bosses. In the current period of imperialist war, soldiers play an especially decisive role.

With the ongoing occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan and looming wars with Iran and China, the capitalists need a military they can count on. Today the most influential imperialists,

the US, Russia, and China, are all investing massively in their armed forces. Whereas US imperialism has enjoyed imperial hegemony since World War II, its power is clearly in decline. News of Iranian bosses trading oil in the currencies of China, India, Japan and Europe creates panic among US imperialists who have enjoyed trading oil only in US dollars.

For the coming wars, US imperialists need a motivated standing army. And that is the bosses' Achilles' heel. They plan a military draft. They need to rely on the most oppressed working class youth to fight their wars for them.

Can we win soldiers to our ideas?

After WWII, US GI's massively refused to fight communist-led rebels in the Philippines and demanded to come home. During the US war in Vietnam in the 1970's, thousands of US soldiers, sailors and marines rebelled against their officers, fragging many and refusing to fight. Black soldiers took the lead in these anti-racist rebellions.

During deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, some soldiers refused to go on “suicide” missions and stood up to “gung ho” brass and anti-Arab racism. One soldier explained to his friends that “hajji” was being used as a racist term to dehumanize Arabs, to justify attacking them. Many agreed.

Some soldiers have distributed communist literature to their fellow soldiers and seen that many agree that the main enemy is the capitalist-imperialist bosses who put soldiers in harm's way for their profits, not workers of other countries.

Youth and other members of ICWP have taken *Red Flag* to soldiers and marines near military bases. Many have

gladly taken the paper and supported the idea of fighting for a communist society that meets the needs of the workers, instead of fighting for the bosses' profits and empire. They're open to talking about the real reasons they're being sent overseas and how communism will work.

Recently, a soldier overheard a conversation between other soldiers about communism. They said that communism would be the best way to organize society, except most people are greedy, so it wouldn't work. The soldier joined in and asked each of the ten people if they were too greedy to live in a communist system where everyone shared what there was. Each one said, “No.” “Well, if among all of us, we all could live in a communist system, I guess it shows that it's possible,” he said. They agreed.

There's much work to do now. Soldiers are sons and daughters of workers. They can be motivated to fight for their class, not the imperialists. That's why we need more communists mobilizing their fellow soldiers to stand against racism and nationalism, for internationalism and communism.



YOUTH GIVE LEADERSHIP TO PREPARATIONS FOR MAY DAY

El Salvador: May Day, International Workers' Day.

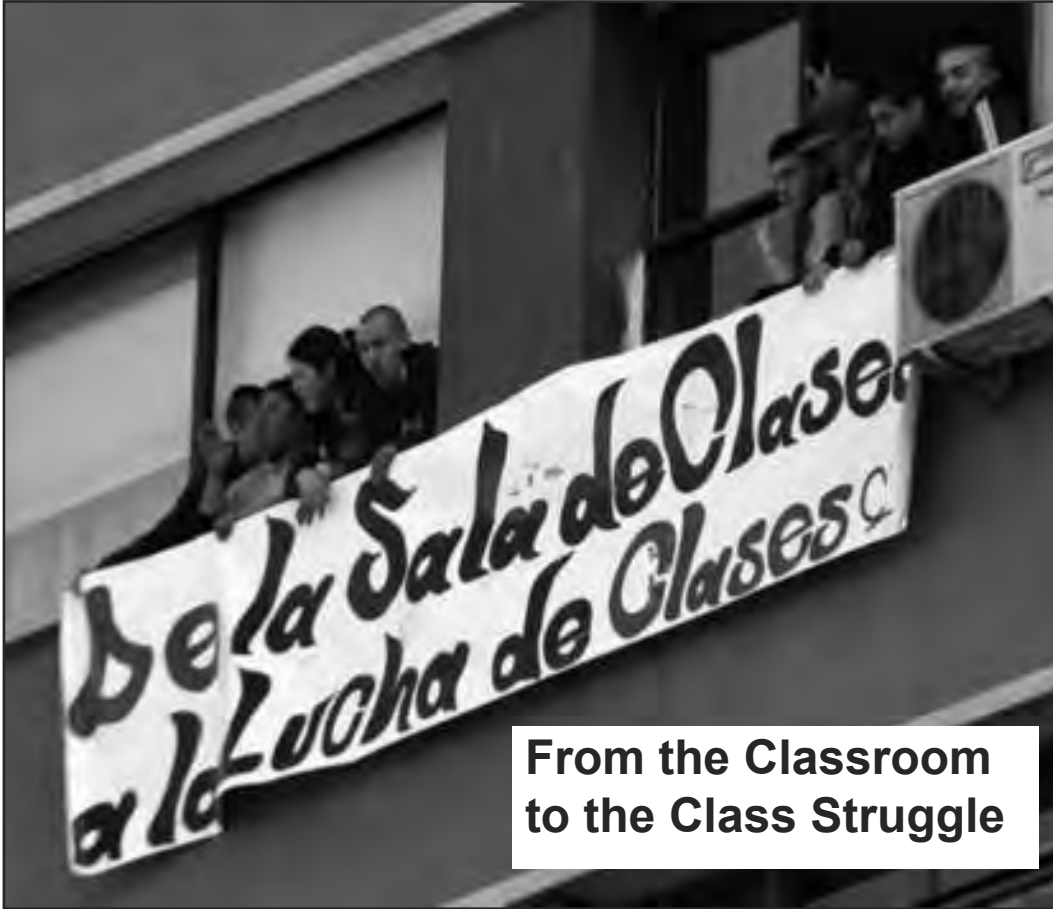
Millions of workers around the world, including thousands in El Salvador, go into the streets every year to commemorate the heroic deeds of the martyrs of Chicago.

The need of workers to fight for communism brings us to the responsibility of passing out pamphlets and our newspaper *Red Flag*. The workers, students, and farmworkers accept the communist ideas in our literature and expect it year after year.

This year the ICWP youth collective has taken on the task of passing out our communist ideas to the workers, farmworkers and students at the march. This task is not simple, and as youth we've been preparing for this responsibility for several months. We've gone from the city to the countryside, from the factories to the universities. Meeting after meeting, the theme of May Day was an important point on the agenda that we developed, how to mobilize the literature, where to start to distributing it, when to start passing it out, and more.

In El Salvador, due to a history and current reality of repression, this must be prepared with much caution, but not with fear. We prepared well a presentation about passing out literature and another about security, so that our comrades can take communist ideas to the workers.

Taking communist ideas to workers through *Red Flag* is a need and an obligation of each one of us. This will be a big step in building a communist society. But this task isn't just for



From the Classroom to the Class Struggle

one day. This task must be continued in every factory, in every university, in the fields, in the military, with the goal that the workers, students, farmworkers, and soldiers grasp that the only solution is a communist revolution.

We youth of ICWP take this responsibility with enthusiasm, since we are convinced that as more workers take *Red Flag* in their hands, the road to revolution will be shorter. But not only are we youth part of this; our more experienced comrades will help us create a link between youth and experience.

May Day is an historic and very important day in the struggle of the working class. This is the perfect occasion for more and more workers to fight to mobilize the masses for communism. Youth, adults, workers, students, farmworkers, and soldiers are all exploited by this criminal, murderous and repressive system. That's why this May Day the working class must be united only under one flag, the red flag.

--Red Youth

Los Angeles: Youth Guarantee Communist May Day

LOS ANGELES, April 13--The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) organized a dinner to plan this year's May Day March. Great presentations were given, great discussions took place and good plans were made.

Some of our newer friends had questions such as why does revolution need to involve violence? This question started a lively discussion.

A comrade answered, "Well, capitalism doesn't give us as workers the peace we want. We must fight back with organized revolutionary violence and not rely on peaceful means." Another comrade added that the very existence of capitalism is violent to the world's workers. This discussion about pacifism and violence was very important because it highlighted how the capitalists send us, the working class, to war to kill and die to protect their interests. Why

not fight for the interests of the international working class, why not fight for communism?

Another question came up, "Where are the guns?" A comrade answered, "The guns are in the military along with our soldiers, our class brothers and sisters. *Red Flag* is being used to inform the soldiers of what's really happening and what really is being done by the capitalists so that ultimately the guns can be turned around."

As part of the planning for the march, we divided ourselves into different committees; the banners committee, the chants committee, the security committee and the literature committee. Each committee met separately and made specific plans for the actual day of the march.

We need to fight back and May Day is the perfect day to come out, march and inform the masses of workers and students that the only way out of the capitalist hell that the bosses create for us is to fight for communism.

--Red Youth

My endless debates with my family about religion and what workers need...

As I think about the ideas they say are "Christian values" such as humility, being of service, generosity, selflessness, honesty, and the things they say are "sins" such as pride, envy, gluttony, lust, and greed, I can't help but think they are basically describing communism vs. capitalism.

Communists are fighting for a world where money no longer exists and everyone has their needs met. This may seem idealist to some, but with our current production capabilities there is no reason that anyone should go hungry or without a home. Capitalism thrives on competition and pushes us to be individualistic. Communists want to build a society where we live collectively—struggling against

our individualism by being self-critical and accepting of criticism from the collective. Everyone will work according to their collective commitment to create this new communist way of life. Things such as hunger/starvation, homelessness, unemployment, racism, borders, and wars will be eliminated.

Capitalism slowly destroys our mental health and well being by pushing us into extreme selfishness. Capitalism forces us to act in inhumane ways—such as brushing away a homeless person because we know there are thousands more and too often feel powerless to effect change. It foments greed, pride, and envy. It is an isolating system that encourages us to aspire to have more than we need—to look outside of ourselves for happiness. The constant stress and worry causes us to look to

escape our lives rather than fully live our lives.

The difference between me and my parents is that they blame "the devil" for the ills created by capitalism and leave it up to individuals to find their happiness with "God". They do not believe that changing the structure of society will lead to the change they wish to see in individuals and/or society. Communists understand that we become what we do. Changing our social relations and the structure of society will be our "saving grace." The practice of creating a communist society will help individuals find happiness, hope, integrity, courage, love. Humanity will finally be able to develop to its full potential because the recipe for this will be built into the system

--Proud Communist

SUBSCRIBE TO *RED FLAG* - \$20/YEAR

Name _____ I want _____ copies per issue

Address _____

Send to P.M.B 362, 3175 S. Hoover, Los Angeles, CA 90007



THIS IS THE PAPER OF THE WORKING CLASS. WE GET NO FUNDING FROM THE CAPITALISTS, THEIR FOUNDATIONS OR NGOs. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HELP PAY FOR THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FIGHTING FOR A WATER FILTER TO FIGHTING FOR A COMMUNIST SOCIETY

Today in a factory in El Monte, California, the workers who cut threads on blouses are paid \$20 a DAY, working 12 to 14 hours, 7 days a week. Besides, for 3 years the workers had to bring their own bottle of water because the boss didn't want to buy a water filter, and when the workers complained, the boss answered, "Those who like water should buy it, besides it only costs \$1."

We garment workers have confronted the same bad conditions of exploitation for more than 100 years. This is reflected in piece work, the pressure by the bosses and the supervisors, factories without ventilation where the lint that workers breathe goes directly into the

lungs, without talking about the long hours of work for a pitiful wage.

In the 19th century it was mandatory to work 16 hours, 7 days a week, not only for adults but also children, under dangerous and toxic conditions. At this time, then, in the US, manufacturing began as a newer form of wage slavery, creating much poverty and immigration and an increase in all the evils of capitalism, including stress, from the beginning of the industrial revolution through today.

In the 1800's, the reform struggles to improve conditions under the capitalist system led to the forming of trade unions, and other organizations demanding the 8 hour day. Now, the struggles have been less organized and only demand the workers' immediate needs, like demanding that the boss buy a water filter.

But we communists are not satisfied with just cutting the hours of exploitation nor with a few cents more, nor with drinkable water. We

must make it possible for *Red Flag* to get into the hands of more of these workers so that they see the need for a communist society to be able to produce with love and commitment for the needs of the workers. And so that a capitalist society like this one will no longer exist where children are exploited in the mines looking for diamonds in Africa or making footballs in Brazil, with so much poverty and where they don't have the money to meet their basic needs.

ICWP and *Red Flag*, our party and newspaper of a new type, are preparing the basis for this May Day, changing the reformist slogan of an 8 hour day to one of "No Borders, No Racism, No Money, No Bosses. For a Communist May Day!"

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY,
FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD!

Building the Party

Some of the more anti-capitalist activists in the Occupy movement here have been reading our paper and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. The question of the leadership of the party has come up in the course of struggle.

Most agree that all capitalist parties, Republican or Democrat, serve the interests of the bosses and only the bosses. But they also wonder how the supposed communist parties became agents of capitalism, despite the sharp struggle of the last hundred plus years.

Reformism, trade unionism and socialism have been big hitters.

Submerging our communist vision in reform fights and trade union struggles not only doesn't mobilize masses for communism, but eventually will undermine a communist party as well. Using the "mass movement" as an excuse for opportunism is traitorous.

For instance, the Boeing union, as described in previous articles, is actually promoting speed-up, pacifism and a no-strike regime to "create jobs." With friends like these who needs enemies!

The CEO of a major Wichita supplier actually had the nerve to promise the company that "his" IAM workers would be back to a "drum-beat" of production after the repairs from last week's tornado.

"What are they, slaves at the oars on a ship?" asked an outraged worker in the Puget Sound plants.

"What, exactly, don't you understand about capitalism?!" commented his friend, a *Red Flag* reader.

Communist parties are doomed if they fight for socialism. Socialism is state capitalism under the leadership of a revolutionary

communist party. It was originally conceived of as a halfway house to communism. It never worked.

The idea was that as wealth increased, you could transition to communism. But there were never enough "riches" to do that. Instead, the wealth gained was used to build capitalist institutions that inevitably consolidated the new bourgeoisie.

Right from the get-go, we'll eliminate private wealth and money, banks and mortgages, and exploitative jobs. The material basis of racism and sexism will disappear.

The ICWP is a mass party open to all who agree with our guiding principal that power comes from a communist mobilization of the masses. We will never limit political debate to a few chosen ones.

We've learned you can have these communist discussions on a mass scale as you build a base on the job and off the job. *Red Flag* networks spread the word.

The ICWP is a party of a new type with a paper of a new type. We want to carry out this debate in the pages of *Red Flag* so that all can learn how communists arrive at decisions.

Mobilizing the masses for communism requires more, not less, dedication, discipline and organization. Hence, the party!

This letter only scratches the surface. We'll be having our next ICWP "pizza and politics" on May 12th to learn the lessons of this year's May Day. We invite all our friends to attend to collectively discuss the need for a party of a new type and how that would work after the revolution and how it works now. Then write up your thoughts for *Red Flag*!

--Seattle Comrades

Revolutionary Consciousness is the Main Thing!

I read with interest the editorial in the last issue of the paper: "U.S., China Wrestle Over South China Sea: Turn The Tide Toward Communist Revolution." Right from the beginning, the article explained how the "rich natural environment" of this region could be used for the benefit of all humanity under communism.

The capitalists have turned this bountiful resource into a focus of sharpening imperialist rivalry, increasing the potential for war and eventual world war.

I don't know when the U.S. will be forced to "confront China." I don't think anybody knows at this point. But I do know the horrors of capitalism know no end!

There was, however, one section I thought confusing. "In the final analysis, the industrial base of an imperialist country determines its military might," the editorial asserted.

The industrial base is certainly important. The commitment of the troops, however, is of primary importance.

History has shown this to be true. The Vietnamese defeated a technologically superior U.S. force during the Vietnam War. Many of us in the U.S. armed forces at that time were "radicalized" as well.

Other examples abound. They don't call Afghanistan the graveyard of empires for nothing. The newly victorious Bolsheviks defeated fourteen capitalist invaders plus reactionary Tsarist forces in 1917. The communist aspirations of soldiers in the newly organized Red Army and fraternization with the rank-and-file in the bourgeoisie armed forces led to victory.

This fact is of particular importance to the communist movement. The masses mobilized for communism are the strongest force possible on this earth. When we discuss any political issue, even war, it is always useful to first consider how these contradictions would be resolved under communism.

--Red veteran and industrial worker

Red Flag responds: We thank the writer for this helpful letter and agree that the commitment of the troops is primary. What we meant to say in the editorial is that without an industrial base, a ruling class can't even aspire to be an imperialist power.



Technicians locked out by ATT



May Day, Madrid, 2011

1912: MASSACRE OF SIBERIAN MINERS SPARKED MASS REVOLUTIONARY MAY DAY

The gold heaped in the vaults of British and Russian capitalists came from the Lena mines in Siberia. In 1912, over ten thousand gold miners and their families lived and worked under appallingly harsh conditions. Tsarist Russia was in the grip of reaction after the failed revolution of 1905. The Russian communist party was tiny and fragmented.

But on February 29, 1912, hundreds of miners could take it no more. They went on an economic strike and were soon joined by six thousand more who shut down the entire district. In mid-April, soldiers fired on a mass march, killing or wounding five hundred.

Workers across Russia were outraged. “Nothing can help us, neither tears nor protests, but an organized mass struggle,” factory workers resolved. On May Day 1912, Communists led 400,000 workers in huge political strikes. Nearly two thousand strikes during 1912 (compared with 222 in 1910) gave the lie to those who preached defeatism and despair. In 1912, too, armed troops rebelled in Turkestan and revolutionary ideas stirred sailors in the Baltic Fleet and Sevastopol.

“The huge May Day strike of the proletariat of all Russia and the accompanying street demonstrations, revolutionary proclamations, and revolutionary speeches to gatherings of workers have

clearly shown that Russia has entered the phase of a rise in the revolution,” wrote Lenin.

Fake revolutionaries attacked the movement, calling for a petition campaign instead. Only 1300 signed their petition for “workers’ rights” while hundreds of thousands mobilized around the most radical political ideas they had: the program of the communists.

But it was not a revolutionary communist program. May Day strikers called for the “eight-hour day,” not the abolition of wage slavery. They called for a “democratic republic,” not workers’ communist power. They called for “confiscation of the landed estates” but not an end to the exploitation of workers’ collective labor.

The gold miners’ strike was smashed, but the revolutionary movement grew. Escalating crises in north Africa and eastern Europe already signaled the approach of world war. In the midst of that war, five years later, communists would lead the workers, soldiers and peasants to seize power. Unfortunately they built socialism.

Workers will again respond to revolutionary communist leadership as crisis and repression intensify and a third world war draws closer. History shows that we must mobilize the masses for nothing less than communism!

Join our Summer Project!
Bring Red Flag to workers, soldiers, marines
and youth from Seattle to San Diego!
Participate in our study groups about
Communist philosophy and mobilizing
the masses for communism!

Anti-Struggle Philosophy Aids Bosses:

DALAI LAMA HAS COMPASSION FOR IMPERIALIST WAR MAKERS

SAN DIEGO, April 19. The 14th Dalai Lama is completing his tour of college campuses in Southern California, preaching “Compassion Without Borders.” The DL has been the leader of the Tibetan nationalist movement since the feudal government that he headed was overthrown by the Chinese Red Army in 1959. Preaching compassion for everyone, he has often shown his own compassion for leaders of the U. S. empire.

Hypocritical Pacifism

The DL got the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 and has been hailed as a “man of peace.” Although he claims that “war is outdated and illogical” [1], he says that “you can’t blame America” for “still relying on showing force” in international relations [2]. The DL has long refused to say that the U. S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are wrong, claiming that “it is too soon to tell” about Iraq but “Afghanistan may be showing some positive results,” [3] and may lead to “perhaps some kind of liberation.” [4] The DL has announced his affection for George W. Bush: “I love him. Because since my first visit, I noted he is a human being [who is] very nice, very open, very straightforward” [5]. He also endorsed Bush’s “War on Terror”: “Terrorism is the worst kind of violence, so we have to check it, we have to take counter-measures.” [6] Although the DL expresses sympathy for Palestinians, he doesn’t denounce Israeli oppression, but asks them to appreciate Zionist economic development: “To the Arabs I say, it is sad, sad what happened to you. But look at what the Jewish people have done here. Take the good.” [7]

“Don’t Fight for Equality”

Although he is an anti-communist, the Dalai Lama claims to be a “Marxist as far as economic theory is concerned” and says that equal distribution is a correct moral principle. [8] He rejects fighting for equality, however, and attacks “agitators” who “claim to be fighting for equality or for justice.” The rich “have to decide on their

own that it is good to share what they have.” They should realize that “in the long run it is in the interest of the richer people themselves to make sure that there is a less extreme gap between themselves and the poor around them.” [9]

Tibetan Nationalism and U. S. War Preparations

Tibetan nationalism has been useful to the U. S. empire since the 1950s when Tibetan guerrillas were trained by the CIA. These days, as the rivalry between the U. S. bosses and China’s capitalist rulers intensifies, Obama has met the Dalai Lama several times, and “underlined the importance of the protection of human rights of Tibetans in China.” [10] Like all capitalist countries, Chinese capitalism produces racist inequality and conflict like that between the Han majority and Tibetans and Uighurs. But nationalist movements, which don’t see racism as an attack on the working class, help generate racism, not destroy it, and can help imperialists make propaganda against their rivals, as Obama does against China.

Non-Struggle Philosophy

The DL’s consistent message is not to fight the bosses. Don’t act out of anger or hate, he says, but forgive instead. Everyone should become a “peaceful person” (except U.S. imperialists?) and “inner peace creates useful energy.” [11] Getting a “peaceful life” is supposed to be the main thing, which Buddhism claims to make possible even in the midst of unemployment, the bosses’ drive for imperialist wars, and racist murders. The truth is that there is no peace under capitalism, and hatred of the bosses is a good thing that can drive us to fight harder. It is internal contradictions, not “inner peace,” that cause change. Communists understand that collective struggle not only moves us towards communism, but is the best way workers can live under this system. Workers and students shouldn’t search for an impossible subjective peace, but join the struggle for com-

munist and serve the working class.

References:

[1] Dalai Lama, *Beyond Religion*, 2011; [2] NYC Town Hall Speech, 9/23/03; [3] Interview *The Progressive*, January 2006; [4] Associated Press, 9/10/03; [5] *L. A. Times*, 7/23/08; [6] *N. Y. Times*, 9/19/03; [7] Speech in Israel, *Jerusalem Post*, 2/23/06; [8] Speech at Aspen Institute, 7/26/08; [9] Interview in *Rolling Stone*, 5/24/2001; [10] *Huffington Post*, 7/16/2011; [11] Speech at San Diego State, 4/19/12;



ICWP has published our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. It’s available in English and Spanish. Order your copy or copies. Please send donations for the costs of printing and mailing. We also ask for your suggestions and criticisms.

Write to : PMB 362
3175 S. Hoover St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90007