

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

MAY DAY: WORKERS WELCOME BOLD COMMUNIST PRESENCE

EL SALVADOR—May Day came and thousands of workers overflowed with enthusiasm, showing working class pride throughout the Salvadoran capital in two simultaneous marches. One left from the west of the capital and the other from the University of El Salvador, where the chants of “Fight to Victory, Workers to Power” and “Let’s Destroy Capitalism...Let’s Build Communism” were heard through the loudspeakers of the sound trucks. Comrades of the International Communist Workers’ Party took the microphones in the sound cars and did not miss the opportunity to chant the Party’s slogans on this historic day for the working class.

“Where can we call to continue receiving *Red Flag*?” asked some

workers who had gotten the paper.

“Can we stay in contact?” asked a comrade who was distributing *Red Flag*.

“We are teachers and yes, we are interested in continuing to read the newspaper.”

They gave us their names so we could keep in contact in the struggle for communism.

“Now we have *Red Flag* newspaper and it will be useful for the discussion at our next meeting with the members of the organization,” said a worker.

There were many conversations with workers, students from the University of El Salvador, teachers and farmworkers who participated in the May Day marches in San Salvador. Contacts were made to continue organizing with these workers.

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IN MEMORY AND IN STRUGGLE

LOS ANGELES, May 6th — “Capitalism killed him,” said an MTA driver. Capitalism murdered Alberto, a 13-year veteran MTA driver from Division 15, last week. He was 47 years old.

The LA Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the California Employment Development Department, the United Transit Union – all capitalist institutions – played a critical role in his murder. Alberto’s suicide note read:

“I have been struggling with feelings of depression, despair, worthlessness and anxiety since the loss of my job. I did not want to lose my home, my animals and my life as I knew it. I could not cope with the feelings of despair and hopelessness, trying to find my place at the right job I could excel at.”

MTA fascist racist managers destroyed this worker’s life. They fired him because he was always fighting them for what he considered was right. They applied the “third accident rule” to him.

“Some of my accidents should not have even been labeled as accidents but incidents. Yet I was terminated all the same,” he wrote.

MTA uses this fascist tactic to stress out and fire workers like him who try to apply the work rules to do what’s best for all drivers. They do this to try to terrorize all workers into submission, to steal workers’ pensions, and to hire two new operators with the salary and benefits that are paid to one Tier Two or Tier One operator. Money, as usual, is their only concern—regardless of how many workers’ lives they de-

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Capitalist Murder in Bangladeshi Garment Factory:

WORKERS' HEROISM, FIGHT-BACK SHOW POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNIST WORLD

On April 24th, a garment factory collapsed in Dhaka, Bangladesh, burying alive 3,000 workers (mainly women) under 9,000 tons of concrete. Workers from surrounding factories rushed to the site of the tragedy and organized heroic rescue operations (see box). In spite of their tireless efforts, over 2,400 were gravely injured, more than 900 bodies had been recovered as of May 8, and hundreds are still missing.

Workers reacted furiously to this mass murder. In factory after factory they downed their tools and poured into the streets, sparking a massive strike wave. They burned at least two sweatshops and demanded no less than the execution of the bosses.

On May Day, tens of thousands of garment workers, their families and supporters marched through the streets with raised fists, chanting "Hang the Killers! Hang the Factory Owners!" Masses of other workers marched throughout the country. Thousands more garment workers and other industrial workers marched in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in solidarity with Bangladeshi workers and against the slave labor conditions they also face.

Capitalism-imperialism is the most destructive force in human history. At this stage of its historical development it is only capable of drowning the world in blood, death and destruction, on an unprecedented scale. Only the masses of workers, soldiers and youth, mobilized for communism, can put an end to capitalism's centuries of horrors.

The brave selfless actions of Bangladeshi workers in the face of this capitalist disaster show that the working class can be motivated to fight directly for a communist world. They exemplify the communist social relationships that our class desperately needs to achieve our maximum potential as creative productive human beings, instead of suffering as disposable beasts of burden for profit-hungry capitalists.

Their heroism shows the potential for masses of workers to give revolutionary communist leadership to many more. It shows the need and potential to build a mass revolutionary International Communist Workers' Party. It inspires us to intensify our efforts to make the vision of communism more of reality for the masses of workers.

ICWP issued a leaflet calling on the workers of the world to avenge the murder of Bangladeshi garment workers by organizing to destroy capitalism and its deadly wage slavery with communist revolution. This leaflet was translated into Bengali and distributed in Bangladesh. A Portuguese translation was handed out in two Brazilian cities. Workers took the leaflet eagerly in India, Qatar, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, and the US, and an Urdu version is being prepared for Pakistan.

This is an important step toward building the mass communist consciousness that our class needs.

Capitalism-Imperialism: Deadly for All Workers

"Look good, pay less" is the motto of the giant British market Primark that sells clothes made in



sweatshops in Bangladesh, China, Indonesia and Thailand. The global giant Wal-Mart displays its slogan, "Save money, live better" in every store.

US and European imperialists drive down wages and conditions in Asia so they can sell lower-priced clothes to workers in the US and Europe who have less purchasing power due to the capitalist crisis. They want to try to pacify these workers with cheap clothes.

"All I want to do is buy a shirt, not endorse mass murder, but capitalism won't let me!" a comrade told May Day marchers in Oakland to open up conversations about *Red Flag*.

Bangladeshi garment workers average less than \$1.50 for a 12-hour day in Nazi-like factories where they are driven to work faster and faster while doors and windows are shut tight, there are no bathroom breaks, and ventilation is almost nonexistent in sweltering heat.

The April 24 disaster was no accident; over 900 workers paid the ultimate price of the bosses' real motto: "pay less, save money." Garment bosses added three more floors to an already unsafe building to maximize profits by squeezing thousands of workers to produce millions of garments. An earthquake in LA could produce a disaster just as deadly.

Capitalism and its inevitable wars make the world unsafe for every worker and especially for those it targets with sexism and racism to maximize profit. Eighty-five percent of the 3.5 million garment workers in Bangladesh are women. The bosses rake in billions of dollars from their super-exploited labor and care nothing for their lives.

After the building collapse, the capitalist bosses who account for every piece of each of millions of garments were unable and unwilling to organize any credible rescue operations. Instead they unleashed police terror on the workers and their families. Only workers saved workers. Only our class can save the masses from deadly capitalism-imperialism.

Workers in Bangladesh and around the world are crying out for a society without wage slavery. We need to help them see that capitalism must be replaced by a communist society where there are no bosses who profit from our labor. We can and will build a society where we will produce garments and everything else not for money but for need.

Meanwhile, the Bangladeshi masses are helping us to see that communism is possible, when we fight for it.

RESCUE OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY MASSES WITHOUT MONEY SHOWS POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNISM

In remote areas surrounding Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, young women in almost every village borrow money for a bus ride to Dhaka seeking jobs in garment factories that will pay them \$38 a month. In one such village, on April 24, Ishaq (not his real name), heard that a huge building in Dhaka had collapsed.

Ishaq's sister-in-law worked there. Ishaq, 32, had severe arthritis from working in another garment sweatshop. He grabbed the first bus to the site of the collapsed factory, hoping to save his sister-in-law.

When Ishaq arrived, his heart sank. He saw massive mounds of twisted steel and tons of concrete slabs. Thousands of workers were buried underneath. Their agonizing screams led him to spend every minute for the next three days and nights rescuing the trapped workers. And he was not alone. Masses of workers and university students organized rescue teams that saved over 1500 workers with little help from the fire department.

Working tirelessly days and nights, these brave rescue teams lacked sophisticated equipment but quickly devised rescue techniques and learned basic urgent medical care. They didn't do it for money but out of selflessness and commitment to the wellbeing of fellow workers.

This should fill us all with hope. It shows the potential of the working class to run the world according to the workers' needs. It shows that masses of workers already share aspects of communism.

A society based on collectivity, without money, can and will be organized to replace capitalism's wage slavery, greed, mass murders and wars for profit. But to build such society, masses of workers need to mobilize for communism in the International Communist Workers' Party so we can bury capitalism forever.



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FOLLOW-UP WILL REALIZE COMMUNIST POTENTIAL OF MAY DAY

SEATTLE, WA, May 1: “Las luchas obreras no tienen fronteras!” chanted ICWP members as thousands marched this May Day along a route winding miles from the Central District to downtown.

“Good one!” said an immigrant worker from El Salvador. Other bullhorns and marchers took up the chant. Another worker translated the chant into English so everyone would understand: “The workers’ struggles know no borders.”

“No borders, No nations, smash racist deportations!” added still more.

Hundreds grabbed our leaflet asking the marchers to avenge the mass murder of Bangladeshi garment workers by burying capitalism with communist revolution. Comrades also distributed our manifesto, **Mobilize the Masses for Communism** and a party pamphlet on the South African industrial workers’ revolt. Marchers read more than 450 Red Flags with front-page articles on building May Day from El Salvador to Seattle.

For the first time, a contingent of a 16 Boeing Machinists participated. Even better, no pro-capitalist top union leaders dared show their faces.

Our comrades and friends from the plant made sure these marchers got our literature. International solidarity for communist revolution became a hot topic the following days as comrades discussed and debated the meaning of this march with the Boeing marchers and their friends on the shop floor.

World’s Workers on the Move! What Does It Mean?

“When I see the May Day reaction of Bangladeshi workers to the mass murder by the capitalists, I can’t help thinking we’re standing on another powder keg in the U.S.,” said a veteran *Red Flag* reader to a comrade the following Friday.

“Let me introduce you to a new worker in this building.”

He picked up a copy of our paper and the Bangladesh leaflet to hand to his friend. “Oh, I’ve been reading this for a while. I pick up copies at your bench,” said his friend, giving us a contribution.

He didn’t agree we were on a powder keg, but did think he should pay more attention to workers’ struggles around the world. The *Red Flag* reader was astonished that his friend didn’t see the potential.

“Let’s talk some more after I read this,” the seller’s friend said after a half-hour discussion on May Day and the potential for communist revolution.

Another young worker commented how big and diverse the march was. “I was encouraged, maybe now we can really change things,” she told an ICWP Machinist.

We talked about how the bosses’ plan for immigration reform was really aimed at creating millions of indentured workers to super-exploit and more recruits for the bosses’ volunteer imperialist army. Change for the better was an illusion.

“Yeah, but the system should work to flush out the reactionary forces every few years,” she answered repeating the union misleaders propaganda.

“No, the faces may change, but the big bosses still run the show.” She couldn’t disagree with that. “Only communist revolution could bring any meaningful change.”

We agreed to talk more here too, even as she prepared to go on an organizing trip for the union.



May Day:
International Workers’Day

Bosses’ Media, Cops Escalate the War on May Day

Unbreakable political, personal and social ties to workers like these are our weapon against the drumbeat of anti-communist propaganda dished out by the local bosses’ media this May Day season.

Huge May Day headlines ran the width of the front page of the Seattle Times. Initially, they threw out some sops to the thousands of workers marching, but soon the headlines only praised the cops.

You would have thought the cops were fighting WWII with the riot control phalanxes and exploding “flash-bang” grenades splashed across the front-pages and TV screens. In fact, it was a

made-for-TV minor dust-up with a few silly anarchists arrested for mostly resisting arrest.

Action Leads People To Want to Talk Politics, Let’s Not Disappoint Them

This May Day season we’ve met many people who want to “talk more” about the potential and reason to mobilize the masses for communism.

To facilitate these talks, we’re scheduling our pizza and politics discussions for the first weekend of every month. We’ll hold a weeklong project this summer with daily social/political events, movies and mass distribution of our paper. A retired Latino worker and a young veteran already signed up for the LA communist school at the beginning of August.

We’ll have to put in long hours in the factories and schools following up with these potential recruits from this year’s May Day activities if we want these events to be successful. We’ve barely started. The follow-up promises to be even more important than the march itself.

L. A. MAY DAY: COMMUNIST CONTINGENT SHONE LIKE A BRIGHT RED STAR

LOS ANGELES—“This May Day March was something I won’t forget. You’ve got all these people marching for legal rights and different things. Then there we were, marching for communism!” said a young participant.

In preparing for this year’s May Day March we youth and workers were mobilized for communism. Prior to the march the ICWP organized a political dinner that included speeches, communist songs and plans for the march. The youth took great leadership in all of this.

On the day of the march we piled onto a bus that would take us downtown. On the way we practiced our communist chants: “Este puño sí se ve, los obreros al poder,” “Long live communism, power to the workers,” and more.

We got off the bus and quickly organized our communist contingent. Under the banners of “Mobilizing the Masses for Communism” and “Production for Need, Not Profit” we marched through the streets.

“Covered with red shirts, we filled the streets with banners and chants and, most of all, we marched with great pride,” said a student organizer.

“I liked my particular task of distributing *Red Flag* to people on the sidewalks because I got to speak with them about the march and helped get



the word out about communism,” added another young organizer.

Many comrades and friends distributed communist literature to workers and youth who eagerly took it. We distributed 1850 *Red Flags* and 1500 copies of our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. We also distributed some 3000 leaflets denouncing the deaths of garment workers in Bangladesh at the march, at garment factories, and at transit divisions.

Another student commented that he didn’t know everyone in our contingent, and that meant that *Red Flag* was getting bigger. “We were down with the red, down with the ICWP and we were down for every worker of the world!”

Another marcher said, “Almost everywhere I walked there were people reading *Red Flag*. It was just amazing, something like never before. I’m not a communist yet nor a *Red Flag* comrade but I know that soon I will because I believe that communism is the right way to live life to make

this world a better place. Mobilize the masses for communism!”

All in all, our participation in the May Day March was a great advance. Our small but powerful multi-racial and international communist contingent shone like a bright red star. From leading chants, to carrying the red flags and banners, to the distribution of literature, to the political and physical security of the march, youth leaders and older comrades, men and women, all played their part.

At the end of the march, a student who brought friends and led the chants said enthusiastically, “I have never seen such a sight! For a group to get together and express their opinions and thoughts with such strength and devotion was amazingly unbelievable. I’m so glad and fortunate to have participated in such an event.”

We invite this student, and everyone else, to join the International Communist Workers’ Party.

May Day in Mexico:

WORKERS GREET RED FLAG WITH PLEASURE

As thousands of workers protested against capitalism's poverty and exploitation, members of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) distributed our newspaper *Red Flag*, and our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC)*.

Miners, telephone, university, and electrical workers, received—many very gladly—our literature which promotes the idea of abolishing the wage system, capitalism, to establish a community of free workers, without borders, racism, or sexism. The front page of our latest edition of *Red Flag* stated exactly this.

Members and friends of ICWP enthusiastically talked with workers to invite them to read *Red Flag* and to join the Party. We distributed 550 *Red Flags* and 300 *MMCs*.

Unfortunately, the majority of those who protested haven't yet taken communist ideas as their own, including the idea of abolishing commodity production, wages, borders, money, and the other implications of workers' communist power. They are still dominated by the idea of reforming capitalism, which their leaders push.

However, the masses in motion, like the striking teachers in Guerrero, are fed up with capital-

ism's attacks and are open to communist ideas. That's why we need to increase our efforts to build communist class consciousness.

As the May Day edition of *Red Flag* showed, even the leaders of the teachers' mass struggle, at best relegate to second place the idea of ending capitalism. They focus on improving capitalist education, demanding that it be "free and public" without questioning its goal of integrating students into the capitalist system of commodity production.

We made some contacts and, most importantly, strengthened our relationships with our friends who are beginning to develop as distributors of *Red Flag*.

Two days before May Day, we had an impromptu dinner with twelve people, in which we talked about our communist convictions and invited them to come with us to the May Day march; the majority came.

We still have a long road to travel in persuading workers to join the fight for the emancipation of humanity from capitalist exploitation and oppression. We have much to learn. However we are on the road. We call on the workers of the world to unite, not to support other capital-

ists who present themselves as our saviors, but instead to mobilize against capitalism and for communism!



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stroy.

The government "of the people, by the people and for the people" – this "wonderful, democratic" US government – also contributed greatly to his death by denying him his unemployment benefits. This took a tremendous toll on him:

"What stems at the root of some of my most bitter and heartfelt feelings is how could the reason for my termination be labeled Misconduct by the California State Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board. An accident, since my termination was based on safety, is something that is unintentional, but yet was considered Misconduct by them."

MTA, knowing that the Unemployment Office automatically denies benefits to anyone terminated with the label "misconduct," labels all termination cases as such. Thus, they don't have to pay their share of these benefits. Art Leahy, the CEO of the MTA board that denies those benefits, is paid more than \$440,000 a year.

This further increased this worker's levels of anxiety, stress and depression. Since:

"I was denied Unemployment Insurance; it

also denied me benefits that your average American citizen could obtain to aid in assisting them from having their homes foreclosed on... I refuse to become homeless. I just rather die!

"Being terminated and unemployed is like a 'Kiss of Death.' When you apply for work and have to answer the question, 'Why did you leave your last place of employment?' I have to check off the box that reads termination. I have been worst off during this time than an ex-con getting out of prison... with every application to prospective employers. I lost all pride in myself and sense of self-worth."

The UTU officials did not help. They are servants of the capitalists. They appealed his termination just to go through the motions. When it came to fighting for his unemployment benefits, he wrote: *"I love it how my Union did not wish to assist me with this."*

Communism is a life worth living and fighting for

Don't expect the MTA or the UTU/SMART officials to honor this worker. Only we can honor our dead. And, the best way to do that is to commit our lives to destroy this murderous racist capitalist system that treats us like trash to be

sacrificed for their profits.

Collectively we can and will build a communist world where every one's contribution, no matter how small or large, will always be welcomed and appreciated. No one will ever be fired, because there will always be useful collective work to be done, no matter where we go.

Only a communist world, based on workers' needs, can eliminate the stress, depression and despair that lead to self-destruction. We must learn to turn every attack on our class into something to build our movement.

Our MTA brother and Bangladeshi sisters and brothers buried alive last week in a collapsed garment factory did not die in vain. Their murders have strengthened the commitment of ICWP members and *Red Flag* readers, here and internationally, to redouble our efforts to rid the world of capitalism's horrors.

If you become a regular reader of *Red Flag*, help distribute it to your co-workers, friends and family, write for it and contribute economically to guarantee that it continues to spread its revolutionary communist message, and even better, if you join IWCP, our brothers and sisters will definitely not have died in vain.

EL SALVADOR from page 1

We always meet up with comrades who, every year, anticipate getting the communist news. In addition, this year, workers who belonged to the old party came to us to find out how to meet with us again, now with the flag of the communist workers.

The members of ICWP in charge of distributing *Red Flag* and Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC) distributed 1200 newspapers and 1000 MMC's, in addition to 350 leaflets made by comrades from the western part of the country. They hung banners on overhead street crossings where workers would pass as they marched. Comrade workers from the west of the country carried another enormous banner, a bold action, as were the shirts they wore which were well liked.

"Give us one of these shirts. We want to keep it," said some young environmentalists.

There's always a hair in the soup.

A politician from the fmln said to a comrade who was passing out literature, "Why are you carrying communist propaganda, if the fmln doesn't agree with this?"

"Clearly they don't. They are an electoral party, representing capitalism," the comrade replied. In contrast to this politician's statement, hundreds of workers avidly read *Red Flag*. At the end of the march many were sitting and reading the communist literature.

At the end of the march that left from the Na-



tional University, the workers insisted that the banner that men and women workers carried be put in front of the main stage because its message, "Marx lives, Communism lives, Workers of the World, Unite," with the image of Marx, represents the ideal of the workers' communist struggle in every corner of the world. The workers also invited the comrades to come onto the stage to give a two-minute greeting about the struggles of the international working class.

Follow up meetings have been planned to critically and self-critically evaluate the positive and negative aspects of this great activity and to plan many more actions in the clubs. The International Communist Workers' Party participated in both marches so that many more people can realize that there is a communist reality, that elections are not the road for the working class to come to power. The masses can realize that there is a Communist party that represents the lives and feelings of the workers of this country and the whole world.

BOSSES TRY TO SELL CHEAP CAPITALIST CULTURE TO SAILORS

It's not uncommon for sailors in the U.S. Navy to express a culture that treats human relationships like business deals. But that prevailing culture actually is an honest and ugly reflection of capitalist culture.

A good number of relationships in the Navy, as in other domains of capitalism, revolve around money. Relationships are just a means intended to advance careers, to earn more money, or to provide better living quarters.

Much of this behavior is encouraged by the way the bosses set up their pay allowances. It's common for junior sailors to get married in the military primarily, and a lot of time solely, because the military offers additional Basic Housing Allowance (BAH). This means married sailors can live off the ship or out of the barracks, but single sailors have to stay aboard. Moreover, BAH is big chunk of cash; it easily doubles a junior sailor's salary.

This is a gigantic monetary incentive for sailors to marry just for a pay raise. It's understandable why sailors do it. The military shafts enlisted personnel all the time. The U.S. military budget was over \$700 billion dollars in 2011,

which means the U.S. spent more on its military than the next 13 nations combined in 2011. Yet enlisted junior sailors have to get married in order to earn enough money to live off the ship.

A problem arises when sailors begin behaving with a capitalist mentality that relationships with people are reduced to credit or debit payments, like any other money-making enterprise. This sort of degenerate behavior stems from cultural norms created by capitalism, where even loved ones are bought and sold. We have to recognize that capitalism is the culprit that is encouraging us to objectify people.

Another consequence of capitalist culture in the military is the implicit permission for sailors to treat women outside the US as sex commodities. Thailand is known to have the worst sex trafficking problems in the world, and it is also a frequent port stop for the Navy. Prostitutes are bought by some sailors as though they were buying any other good at a grocery store. In the Navy there is one training after another about preventing rape of shipmates, since rape in the U.S. military is known to be rampant. (As we go to press, it had been reported that there were 26,000 cases

of unreported sexual assaults in the military last year, 35% more than the year before). But there is not much said about participating in prostitution in other countries and exploiting those women. If anything is said at all, it is usually a selfish concern about catching sexually transmitted diseases.

Some people may think that these degrading and exploitative values are exclusive to the military, but really these values are a direct and overt expression of what's permitted and encouraged throughout all of capitalism. Capitalists would love for all workers to think and act in accordance with military culture, since it's a culture that preserves their oppressive system.

Deployment already places pressure on sailors to stay connected with their families and loved ones. Respecting people and fidelity in relationships keeps sailors thinking clearly about how to fight back against the bosses that are oppressing them, their families and all their shipmates. Sailors, just like every other worker in the world, need to fight for communism. We don't need capitalism and its exploitation of women and we don't need the capitalists' filthy culture.

ICWP at MAY DAY in OAKLAND

In Oakland, we found that the strategy that suited capital was to divide and scatter the movement among various demonstrations. We were able to go to two of them. One was a demonstration of high school students at the Federal Building against deportations. The main demonstration in downtown Oakland, much smaller than last year, included union members from SEIU as well as workers on strike from the Mi Pueblo chain of grocery stores. At both of these demonstrations we found that workers were very receptive to **Red Flag's** message of "Production for need, not for profit! Fight for a world without borders, wage slavery, racism, sexism, and imperialist wars," which was in sharp contrast with the reformist messages of the protests.



May Day, Oakland, 2012

Communist Culture of Resistance Defies Capitalist Attack on Old Age

"WORK 'TIL YOU DROP!"

Forget pensions and retirement, they want the new norm to be "Work 'til you drop!" Pensions are being cut around the world. Together with the attacks on healthcare and other "safety nets" they are, in fact, part of a systematic attack on old age. In Greece, Spain, France and Britain workers have responded with mass demonstrations and general strikes. Yet still pensions are being cut.

The failure of these fight-backs points to a weakness in our world view, or culture of resistance. **Red Flag** is alone in arguing that our number-one need is to develop a new mass revolutionary communist culture, the likes of which the world has never seen before.

A deeper look into our pensions reveals the weakness of our current world view and why the communist revolutionary world we are building will abolish money and wage slavery completely.

Pensions are taken directly out of wages. They are the deferred pay of workers. In 2011 *The Guardian*, a UK newspaper, reported that "the combined value of the 13 world's largest pension markets is around \$US26.5 trillion." Amazing, isn't it?

Money, Capital and State Power

That means that one by one, week by week, workers have combined to create "fortunes" that dwarf the individual wealth of super-capitalists like Carlos Slim or Warren Buffet. If "money talks," as they say, then this one section of the vast army that makes up the world's workers (those that get pensions) must wield immense power. Yet, they don't. Why?

There are a couple of reasons. For one, the \$26 trillion isn't really *money* in the way our wages are money: it has become *capital*.

As *capital*, our pension funds helped corporate raiders amass the money they needed to take over companies, merge or downsize them and lay-off millions of our brothers and sisters. Used by hedge-fund operators, they helped swell the sub-prime crisis that left thousands of families homeless. And since 2000 they have joined in the speculation on basic food prices which attacks the survival of the more than 1 billion who survive in chronic hunger. As *capital*, our pension funds have been used to grow their profits at the expense of our livelihoods.

The Role of Red Flag

In fact the \$26 trillion was never really ours. We don't create fortunes, the bosses do. We create *use values* that the bosses turn into money (*exchange values*) to build their fortunes, or capital. Imagine the use values we create being controlled by the international working class to distribute according to need. That's a snapshot of the communist world **Red Flag** is organizing to build! Don't you like it?

Money, on the other hand, is a social relation between the producers of wealth (workers) and its private appropriation (by capitalists). It's forced on us because the bosses have state power. They steal the products of our labor at the point of production and steal 'our' pensions to attack our class because they have state power! They will continue to do this until our class sees the need to organize ICWP and make a revolution for communist state power.

Our class generally doesn't have a communist outlook yet or confidence that communism can work, that we can live without money, greed, racism or sexism. As yet our class doesn't under-

stand that these are products of capitalism, that we need to organize ICWP. As yet, our class generally doesn't understand that getting rid of capitalism will eliminate the poisonous ideologies that arose from it. Changing this understanding is one of the primary tasks of **Red Flag**.

Red Flag with its revolutionary communist culture is vital. Communism is not just some distant revolution. It's an organizing attitude that determines not just how we fight back but what we fight for. It says we can run the world. It uncovers the central role of the working class as the class that creates all value. It shows that the capitalists steal that value with their profits (and our pension funds). It reminds us both of the gigantic size and unlimited potential of our class.

Communism: A Lifetime of Contributing What We Can and Receiving What We Need

Workers look forward to retirement with a pension in capitalist society because they no longer have to submit to exploitation and wage slavery. Since the capitalist system doesn't provide workers with a way to survive, they want pensions.

In a communist society, everyone will contribute throughout our whole lives to building collectives to meet our class' needs. Our roles will change but, receiving what we need, not having to depend on a check to survive, we won't retire from participating collectively in mobilizing for the good of our class!

HONDURAS MAY DAY: "DEATH TO CAPITALISM!"

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS — Over 100,000 people marched more than two miles in Tegucigalpa, Honduras in the May Day celebration. The marchers were mainly from the working class and unemployed workers. They feel that with every passing day, their survival and that of their families becomes more difficult. Their poverty wages become insufficient to meet their basic needs, without any options to improve their lives. In fact, they have recently suffered greater exploitation, discrimination and oppression by the ruling-class owners of the means of production who lead them into greater poverty.

In Honduras, like most, if not almost all, of the rest of the world, the gap between the working class and the oligarchy is becoming greater every day. This is nothing more than the consolidation of the capitalist system in its highest stage of im-

perialism. The imperialists keep absolute control over the means of production, and the accumulation of capital. Competition between the big trade groups, and productive and financial monopolies, means that to be able to exist, the working class must submit to greater exploitation. So poverty increases, leading to more poverty and all the problems of humanity.

Due to this situation, the comrades in Honduras see with great hope that qualitative and quantitative changes in favor of the working class are coming. But these can only happen with the slogans and ideas that communists must promote. The mainly-economic reforms, for which the working class in general struggles today, have only served to stop or hold back the real struggle for complete emancipation. That is the struggle to shake off the yoke of exploitation that the capitalist system has imposed on us and achieve a just system, a communist society.

We believe in our judgment that we communists should no longer refer to the celebration of workers' day, as we have been accustomed to do. That is because now the worker is nothing more than a commodity, subject to the service of the exploiting class. We should now refer to this as the day of

protest, of mass struggle against the capitalist system that keeps the worker as a wage slave in its service and not as a human being worthy of a better future. For it is a lie that capital produces value. It is the worker who produces all value, and that is how it will be understood in a communist society.

The working class and the other exploited sections of society participated in this show of force, under the leadership of the Honduran Workers' Central, the General Workers' Central, the teachers' unions and others. They chanted diverse slogans, such as: "Death to Capitalism and the Exploiter Oligarchy," "Workers of the World, Unite!," "Enough of so much exploitation," "the people united will never be defeated," "we're heard, we're seen, the people are in struggle," "Murderous government who kills farm workers," "Capitalist exploiters, the power will very soon belong to the workers," "Military and Police—The Bosses' Attack Dogs," "IMF Get Out," "the people, starving and emigrating, are now awakening."

They made some statements regarding self-determination of the people in the face of neocolonialism, the substitution of a social model that serves the majority for the neoliberal model, and other statements.

As we did last year, the ICWP participated in this great May Day event, showing solidarity with the peoples' struggles, distributing some pamphlets that we had of *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and seeking closer ties with some future comrades.



Working Class Soldiers & Sailors Must:

TURN IMPERIALIST WAR INTO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Like cowardly bullies and gangsters, U.S. imperialists have enjoyed being the top dog in the world for decades. Yet, the top dog must always defend its turf against the enemies who are always keenly aware that only with a fight can they take his place.

On an international scale, the fight among imperialists isn't a small bully battle that is brewing. It will result in a major world war in which the only victims are workers around the world. There is no way we can predict when and where it will begin, but there are definite signs that the next world war is coming.

The U.S., Russia and China are undoubtedly preparing to defend their capitalist interests at all costs. And the way these capitalists will fight is daunting because these major imperialists have specific strategies to build up their armies.

At this point, the U.S. has numerical superiority in military hardware. China and Russia are quickly closing the technological gap. The U.S. is currently the top spender in defense with 32% of world defense expenditure.

However, China and Russia have entered the top three spenders in the world. China's share is now 9.5% of world defense expenditure and Russia is at 5.2%. China is advancing economically and potentially has the biggest imperialist army.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Russia has increased military spending by 16% to "modernize armaments." It is apparent that Russian modernization is being done in cahoots with Chinese modernization since China has plans to improve its nuclear submarine fleet, 5th-generation fighter jets and aircraft carriers with the cooperation of Russia.

The gangsters are flexing their muscles. They'll invest the value created by millions of workers for weapons of mass destruction to save their empire. A primary example of how the U.S., China and Russia are preparing themselves for a world war is their arms development. Russia, for example, is racing to keep their Sukhoi SU-27 frontline fighter aircraft updated. Also known as the "Flanker", the SU-27 is superior to American F-15 Eagle and F-14 Tomcat. The U.S. bought two of these 4th-generation machines from Ukraine in 2009. In mock fights over the Atlantic Ocean, the Flanker repeatedly outmaneuvered the F-15.

Capitalists will always try to outdo each other whether it is advancing technology or creating flimsy alliances.

It's true that the U.S. holds military superiority with advanced weapons and equipment. The U.S. has 11 aircraft carriers while China only has one. Since the beginning of the 20th Century, when the world had already been totally divided among the imperialists, world war became inevitable. As long as capitalism exists, the imperialists will always fight each other for superiority.

The real losers in this fight are workers around the world. In Iraq and Afghanistan thousands of military men and women lost their lives. Between 112,000 and 123,000 civilians in Iraq and 16,000-19,000 in Afghanistan were also caught in the middle of a fight among the imperialist gangsters.

But as the gangsters are arming themselves, we should be focusing on how we can stop their war machines and organize for our need, which is communist revolution.

The elite groups of imperialists are the only ones who enjoy the benefit of being top dog. It is not the average worker in the U.S., China, Russia, Iraq, Afghanistan or anywhere else.

Imperialists have another common characteristic, a common Achilles' heel. It is workers around the world who build their war machines. It is workers and soldiers around the world who operate and maintain their advanced technologies.

It is these same workers who must organize together under one communist struggle to outdo and get rid of all bosses. In coming years, the International Communist Workers' Party must turn the current primary contradiction among imperi-

alists to the contradiction between workers and imperialists. By mobilizing the international working class, ICWP will prepare workers around the world to turn imperialist world war into communist revolution.

Communist society won't have competition for profits, or profits at all. All production will be to meet the needs of the workers. Without bosses, competition or profits, there will be no imperialist wars. Join ICWP to fight for our future.



LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

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.

MAY DAY IN SAN SALVADOR

A clear sky, with a sun that came out to brighten not just any morning. It was our day, our holiday, our meeting: the day of the working class, International Workers' Day.

The setting was the streets, plazas, parks; messages on banners and fabrics that were no longer just this but became subversive signs. These were the announcements of the day. The heat of the morning was cold compared to the effervescent heat of the masses. We are here!

The ICWP is present, united, and together with the working class, our class comrades. Not like those who, I don't know if they are trying to separate from our class, saying, "we accompany the workers." Can it be that they don't belong, that now they are bourgeois? Can it be that they now only do it for protocol? They shout "cheaper medicines," "fairer wages." Does such a thing exist? Our struggle is definitely antagonistic.

We, already there, started distributing **Red Flag**. The workers asked for it, they stopped us for copies. The truth is that it took us longer to get them out of the box in which we carried them than to distribute them. And not only that; if one stayed a moment more, the workers began to browse through and read it.

This fills us with satisfaction in the work done, because of the worker's interest in knowing and learning. And so with the articles, notes, letters, editorials that **Red Flag** publishes, it is removing the veil imposed by the capitalist system and informing all that another society is possible.

Farewell comrades!

--Young Red Poet

Students: Fight for the Future of the Working Class!

"I'm not repeating any classes. It doesn't affect me." That's what one of our fellow students said when we told him that the Cal State University system plans to charge an extra \$100 per unit if we have to repeat a class. They're also planning to lay off professors and cut back the number of classes offered. This makes it that much harder to graduate, while they charge us extra if it takes us too long to graduate, or if we take more than a full class load.

Capitalist education pushes the idea of "getting out of the ghetto/barrio." It creates very individualist ways of thinking. Our parents tell us that we have to go to college to "be somebody." This insinuates that they are nobodies and worthless to society because they don't have a capitalist education, even though they work hard every day to feed us, put a roof over our heads, and create everything of value in society.

Individualism is created and imbedded in our brains since we were young. If they had raised everybody's tuition, our friend and everybody

else would have been angry. Instead, they cut certain groups of people within the working class.

This is a divide and rule plan which keeps people from seeing what's really going on and could keep us from uniting against these cuts. That's probably why there haven't been big protests like in the past.

The extra fee for repeating a class is an especially racist attack on Cal State students, most of whom, on most campuses, are black and latino/a working class youth. We come from inferior schools where we don't get the preparation we need to be successful in the bosses' classrooms, and a lot of us do have to repeat classes—and don't have the money to pay for it.

We went to the rally on our campus protesting these fee increases. Many students were really angry. "I voted for Governor Brown, and to increase taxes, and now I'm getting stabbed in the back!"

We told them that it's a good lesson—you should never trust the Democrats or any capitalist politician. They are in office to do what the capitalist rulers want, and what they want now is to force working-class students out of the universities, especially liberal arts majors.

As they step up their long-term plans for world war, they're cutting back on lots of services, including liberal arts education. They are funding technical education—math, science, and technology that will help them prepare for war.

Students have to think about more than what's in it for them. We have to think about how we can fight for a better future for the whole working class.

We have to plan how to turn the bosses' world war into a revolution for communism, and how we can build a communist society where we educate each other for the betterment of all and value the contribution of every worker.

—Students in California

Venezuela: Vultures Fight Over Control of Oil and Natural Gas

The death of Hugo Chavez caused a commotion in Venezuela and throughout Latin America, especially among his political followers and opponents. His opponents wanted to return to power and thus give the coup-de-grâce to 21st Century Socialism and to the treaties of Alba and Petrocaribe signed with some coun-



tries.

No wonder there's a fight. Venezuela is the country with the largest oil reserves in the world, calculated at more than half a billion barrels, and also of plentiful natural gas in the area of the Orinoco River. This struggle of vultures, between the current government and the opposition, has been unleashed over control of these resources. They see in the control of these deposits the source of \$millions in individual interests and those of their class for years to come.

The current, newly-elected President Maduro, will continue with his socialism, which in essence is nothing more than a form of capitalist exploitation. His "socialism" tolerates the existence of the same conditions of exploitation of the working class: money, unemployment, religious fanaticism and especially the idolatry and cult of the personality of Chavez, who is considered a god.

On the other hand, Maduro assures the capitalist powers, mainly the US empire and China, the supply of oil for domestic use and mainly for war, which is unstoppable.

The fear and terror that erupted in many countries of Central America, South America and the Caribbean that maintain treaties or agreements for the supply of oil, has temporarily passed. If the opposition had won, these treaties would have been eliminated or revised.

In essence these treaties with Petrocaribe are the most blatant capitalist political blackmail that allowed Chavez to win allies and some degree of popularity. He allowed his allies to pay 50% of the oil bill outright and the other 50% in the long term at low interest rates.

Make no mistake: Venezuelan oil is the source of the bosses' fight. Whoever is in power will not bring greater benefits to the poor and working class. Under the capitalist system, all the earth's natural resources serve so that the rich bosses continue to increase their profits. Only in a communist system will we guarantee the efficient development of the natural resources for the good of the whole society.

—Comrade in Honduras

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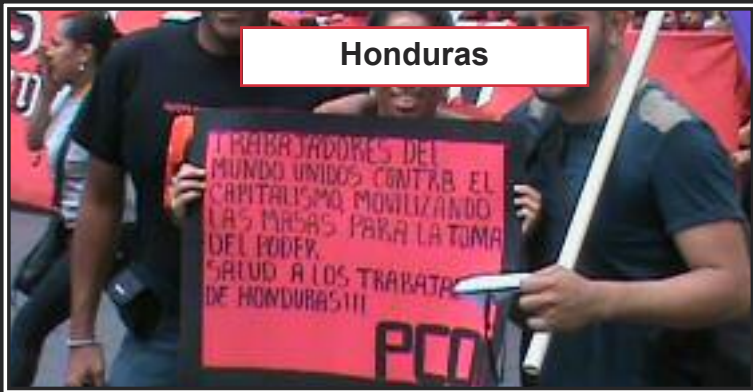
RAISING THE RED FLAG HIGH ON MAY DAY AROUND THE WORLD



Bangladesh



Seattle, Washington



Honduras

IMF's austerity measures. In Mexico and throughout Latin America, masses of workers marched condemning unemployment and poverty wages.

This attests to the indomitable heroic spirit of our class. Our voices can never be strangled by the capitalist-imperialists. But since its birth, May Day has had a dual voice: one that calls for revolution and the other for reform.

Writing on the eve of the first May Day, Engels, one of the founders of scientific communism, emphasized its reformist character: "the proletariat ... is mobilized for the first time as One army, One flag, and fight for One immediate aim: an 8-hour working day."

Since then this reformist voice has haunted the international communist movement. Today, that is the voice we need to strangle.

The Bangladeshi workers wanting to avenge their buried sisters and brothers call for their bosses be hanged. Striking transit workers in South Africa are calling for their corrupt bargaining council to be castrated with razor blades. This clearly shows some deep class hatred of capitalism. Yet, we need go further than that: our call must be for workers' communist power.

Our class must speak with only one voice: the voice of communist revolution. We must forever bury reformism no matter how militant it sounds. Our class – the toiling masses, soldiers and students of the world – must be mobilized for communism. This and only this will break forever the chains that enslave us to capitalism.

In this vein, this May Day, the International

Communist Workers' Party took modest but important steps to mobilize the masses for communism. We mobilized workers and youth to distribute *Red Flag* and our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, in May Day marches in El Salvador, Mexico, Spain, Honduras, Seattle, Los Angeles and Oakland. The masses eagerly took our communist literature and our communist chants reverberated throughout those marches.

These are modest steps that point to a brilliant future: Our class is finally being organized as one army under one flag, one party, with one political line: *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. Join us!



El Salvador

READING RED FLAG AROUND THE WORLD



Mexico



Los Angeles, California



Spain

"The day will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle here today." These were the last words of August Spies, hung by the US bosses in 1887 for having helped to organize a general strike on May First, 1886 for the 8-hour day.

Prophetic words! Since 1889, when the Second Communist International declared May First to be the International Workers' Day, millions of workers, soldiers and students have marched worldwide commemorating our murdered brothers in Chicago and proclaiming our class's demands.

This year's May Day was no exception. Millions worldwide poured into the streets protesting the capitalists'-imperialists' vicious deepening attacks. In Bangladesh, Cambodia and Indonesia, hundreds of thousands marched in solidarity with Bangladeshi garment workers massively fighting against starvation wages and slave-like working conditions (see page 2),

In South Africa thousands of miners and industrial workers marched against the ANC government. Greek workers staged another 24-hour general strike against the government's and