

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

BANGALORE, INDIA, April 20—A wildcat strike of more than one hundred thousand garment workers, mostly women, blocked a key highway for more than six hours on Monday. The fascist cops attacked them viciously.

The workers were protesting new rules preventing them from withdrawing money from the government-controlled Provident Fund until age 58. Workers can use this money, stolen from their labor, for subsistence when they are unemployed or retired.

On Tuesday, more than a thousand people reacted angrily to this attack by invading a nearby police station and burning police cars. The bosses have imposed a 3-day prohibition on the “right” of assembly.

The rules change has been postponed—but only communism will guarantee that the working class enjoys all the fruits of our labor.



ICWP COMRADES ORGANIZE FOR MAY DAY IN INDIA

A group of us is very eagerly reading *Red Flag* and learning from it. *Red Flag* is very good as its ideas of communism as the solution to the brutal capitalist system are very clear. Many people around us want to join ICWP and are asking us how to join.

Many people are used to the old revisionist communist movement where joining the party was a formal and exclusive process limited to a few selected workers and intellectuals. We agree with the mass line of organizing ICWP.

Joining ICWP is a commitment to overthrow the capitalist system and build a communist society based on the need of the international working class and not the need of an individual. Joining ICWP, as we explain to the masses, means that we have to build small collective groups that carry on the ideological struggle around the ideas of *Red Flag* and its distribution.

We also need to financially support the party and write articles and letters.

We have a group of over 50 comrades. We are planning to carry out ICWP activities on May Day and distribute our literature. Many comrades are also reading *Red Flag* online. We see our party growing rapidly in two states in India where we have many contacts.

—A Comrade



**EL SALVADOR:
COMMUNIST WOMEN
WORKERS LEAD
FIGHT AGAINST
SEXISM
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COMMUNISM WILL END WAGE SLAVERY

LOS ANGELES, USA—“In 1986, I worked for McDonalds for the minimum wage. Back then bus operators made 4 times the minimum wage,” commented an Metropolitan Transit Authority operator.

“In Area One, we make \$5 more than today’s minimum wage. For our new contract, we are demanding equal pay for all three Areas, and a wage increase to be \$5 ahead of 2020’s minimum wage,” explained a janitor.

Today, Los Angeles MTA full time tier-one operators only make 2.7 times California’s minimum wage. Janitors make 1.5 times today’s minimum wage. The wage increase they are fighting for will reduce that ratio to 1.3 times 2020’s minimum wage.

The capitalist slave masters decide our wages, not us

Under capitalism the “freedom to bargain for our wages” is a myth. Wages are the chains that tie us to the capitalists. Their system’s survival demands they be kept as low as possible.

Under capitalism, we will forever be wage slaves chasing an illusory “good paying job,” or fighting for a “good union contract.” Our take-home pay may appear to “increase” but our buying power decreases constantly.

Only communism can end capitalism’s unending need to pay us a wage that “relieves” our needs, but never “cures” them, a wage that guarantees our continual enslavement.

Communism will eliminate money and wage slavery. Nothing will ever be sold or bought. We will contribute to society according to our commitment and will receive according to need.

Capitalists defined the limits of our wages centuries ago

In 1683, in England, they calculated the exact wage that would See WAGES, page 4



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May Day, Los Angeles, 2015

LET'S MAKE MAY DAY A DAY OF STRUGGLE FOR A COMMUNIST SOCIETY!

Men and women workers and students are furious about the horrors of capitalism. They are looking for an alternative. From South Africa to India, from Mexico to the US, from El Salvador to Spain to Afghanistan and beyond they are asking:

“How can I join the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP)?” “Can you send me *Red Flag* to distribute?” “How can I help build the communist revolution?”

Thousands of workers, soldiers, students and professionals, on every continent, in more than 35 countries, regularly read *Red Flag* and our other communist literature. They receive it directly from our hands, or by mail or online.

Dozens have joined ICWP, organizing collectives of communist study, *Red Flag* distribution and participation in the class struggle. Hundreds and possibly thousands more are thinking about doing the same.

The masses are rising up and building a future by fighting for communism. Our class is showing its unwavering ability to struggle. Despite our failures—and learning from them—it is determined to fight directly for communism and to build a society without money, or borders, or imperialist wars. This shows that we will win!

We will not betray our class. On this May Day we raise high the red flags of communist revolution! Let our battle cry—fight for communism—be heard in every country where we are!

We ask that you fight for this bright future by joining and building ICWP

Joining ICWP means becoming part of or building a collective to discuss and distribute *Red Flag*, mobilizing for communism in class struggles and contributing financially what you can.

Lenin said that capitalism was a “horror without end” and every day proves him right. Wars in Syria, Nigeria and elsewhere include open skirmishes between world powers that can lead to a third World War.

Today more than 60 million are refugees. Over 800 million people are hungry and 1.6 billion lack adequate housing. One in nine has no access to clean water. Over 200 million workers are unemployed amidst a sharpening crisis of overproduction that threatens whole industries.

Open fascism rules in India, xenophobia spreads in South Africa, and racist police violence escalates in the US. The gangs and the governments of Mexico, El Salvador, and Honduras massacre our class. Inter-imperialist rivalry for the control of oil and markets means that the threat of World War grows.

These horrors can only be eliminated by destroying capitalism. The Russian and Chinese revolutions tried to do that, but failed because they fought for socialism, leaving money and exploitation intact; in other words, state capitalism.

From this bitter experience, we have learned that we must fight for communism and nothing less.

In communism, the only wars that we will fight will be against the remaining capitalists. Once we have beaten them worldwide, armed conflict will end.

There will be no countries or borders or citizenship. No one will be illegal. Those fleeing capitalist rule will be welcomed, cared for like everyone else, and integrated as comrades.

Society as a whole will take collective responsibility for meeting everyone’s daily needs instead of leaving it to individual families. We will

use safe comfortable public transportation instead of spending hours each day walking to work or driving and maintaining private cars.

Learning will be integrated with productive labor for all, throughout our lifetimes, including young people. We will end the capitalist ideology, exams, grades, and degrees of today’s schools.

ICWP will mobilize the masses to provide the best health care, housing and sanitation for everyone. We will insist that these and all social activities will not be segregated by “race,” gender, religion, ethnicity, or caste.

Ending the wage system will strike a fatal blow to sexism and racism, so vital to capitalism. These curses won’t disappear overnight, but the solidarity and comradeship fostered by cooperating to meet human needs will allow us to finally end them.

Communism is the only logical answer to this decaying system.

But how do we get there? The only way is by revolution. This will be a hard fight, but others have made revolutions before us. Winning it requires hundreds of millions of communists in ICWP, especially industrial workers and soldiers.

If you like this newspaper, read our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and the pamphlet *To End Racism, Mobilize the Masses for Communism* on our website. Then join ICWP and help bring revolution closer. Closer still when you recruit co-workers, friends, relatives, and build ICWP collectives!

Read and distribute *Red Flag*! Write for it and support it economically!

**Long Live May Day! Long Live ICWP!
Long Live Communism!**



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South Africa

BUILDING COMMUNIST COLLECTIVES

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA, April 20—The ruling African National Congress (ANC) decided to launch its manifesto for the upcoming local elections in this industrial city. All the top ANC politicians canvassed heavily in the townships to mobilize the workers for their rally last Saturday.

The masses are angry with ANC and capitalism that are creating havoc in the lives of the impoverished townships. Just how angry can be seen when the Minister of Social Development Dlamini was reduced to tears when angry residents of New Brighton confronted her over the lack of services.

President Zuma sensed the explosive anger spreading among the workers in Port Elizabeth. He cancelled his appearance at the opening of a drug treatment center. He decided to inaugurate the ANC manifesto in the football stadium in an event carefully planned by the rich capitalist backers of ANC.

Members of the International Communist Workers' Party were present outside the stadium distributing the *Red Flag* and our May Day leaflet calling for communist revolution. "Give me extra copies of *Red Flag*," said a worker who had come from a city near Johannesburg. He took 10 copies. Over 1200 leaflets and 300 *Red Flags* were distributed.

There is a deep crisis in the South African ruling class, resulting from intense inter-imperialist rivalry between US and Chinese capitalists. A section of the capitalist class that leads the ANC feels the South African capitalists can benefit by allying with the Chinese capitalists in mining,

auto, energy and heavy industry.

To make the investments profitable for the Chinese and Russian bosses, the ANC administration is creating state-of-the-art ports, railways and highways to transport minerals, machinery and auto. Meanwhile the working class, mostly black workers, lives in dilapidated townships lacking water, sanitation and health care.

Fifteen members of ICWP met the day after the ANC rally to discuss our strategy to end capitalist terror worldwide. Seven were new comrades who joined our party during the conference last November.

We had an open and honest discussion about our obstacles and weaknesses. The comrades were very enthusiastic about our fight for communism – a society without the bosses and organized to meet the need of the international working class. However, to achieve that goal we have to overcome our inconsistent work style.

What pulls us away from doing disciplined work to build the party? Several comrades pointed out that the ideology of capitalism, which pushes us to compete against each other, also affects us.

"We have to work hard to build the party. I went to the workers far from where I live and distributed *Red Flag*," said a comrade as she described her experience of building the party.



Marikana miners, South Africa, August 2012

Everybody intently listened as she told us how the workers are responding to communism.

This comrade was showing all the comrades how we can overcome individualism and build collectives to defeat our class enemy. Another comrade who has known her for many years pledged to work tirelessly to raise funds for the party. Everybody can contribute something.

We will make sure the distribution of *Red Flag* also raises money for the party to expand our work. The comrades also emphasized the importance of explaining to the masses what it means to join the party.

Our meeting concluded with plans to bring a large contingent of ICWP members and friends to May Day to be followed by a Communist School. Comrades are very enthusiastic about the Communist School to learn dialectical materialism and how to apply it to mobilize the masses for communism.

El Salvador

WOMEN AND MEN WORKERS PREPARE FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY

EL SALVADOR—On International Workers' Day we commemorate the martyrs of Chicago who protested in 1886 against their unhealthy working conditions. They fought to reduce the work day to 8 hours when the norm was to work more than 12 hours. This provoked a massive strike by factory workers in the US, showing the workers' power. The leaders were later convicted and massacred. Today worldwide the working class mobilizes because capitalist working conditions have not significantly improved.

The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) mobilizes for communism because only communism can meet workers' needs.

Most of the workers in textile factories and other industries here are women. We know about the struggles of women workers to change their super-exploitation and discrimination, but they have not been sufficient. The women workers of the maquilas, teachers, farmworkers, students who are organized in the ICWP have understood that fighting for communism means eradicating the sexism that has limited women at work, in politics, economics and personally.

This May Day we prepare with chants and the distribution of our newspaper *Red Flag* so that more workers, especially women, will know the party and join in this great struggle that will benefit both men and women. We need to put an end to the bosses' insults, their punishments, their ridiculous prizes to increase production and to unhealthy working conditions.

Historically the participation of women has been necessary, and every battle that has occurred in the revolutionary process has motivated more workers to join in the struggle for a system that will meet humanity's needs—Communism. The unity of the workers from Bangladesh to El Sal-

vador ensures the road to revolution.

Capitalism has divided the working class in different ways. Nationalism, racism and sexism are tools to break workers' morale. In ICWP we are conscious of the need to restore the dignity of women as a form of reparations for decades of humiliation, violence, and disrespect they have suffered.

In 2015, in El Salvador, 575 women were killed. 65% of the women and girls killed are between 10 and 39 years old. In the same year, 1728 complaints were made for sexual offenses. Women workers are doubly exploited and repressed for being a woman and for being part of the working class.

The context is that the crisis of capitalism continues having a negative impact on the working class and especially on women. The rulers of some countries have signed agreements, creating laws and institutions that consider the rights of women. This has not solved anything and gender equality is not reflected in practice.

This is how capitalism works. It is a way to divide the workers and teach the relations of power, from the family to the schools. We do not fight for rights, we fight for communism.

As the International Communist Workers' Party we call on women workers to organize to Mobilize the Masses for Communism. Ours is a class struggle.

In Communism the working class will collectively lead the society, ending personal wealth which is the product of exploitation. Men and women will produce according to what is needed.



El Salvador May Day, 2015

Women will have the same opportunities as men, engaging in all kind of activities: scientific and political, among others.

Children will be educated using the principle of collectivity. The household chores will be the responsibility of all. There will be respect for people; we will live cooperatively without violence. There will be an end to harmful prejudices and beliefs that are culturally transmitted from generation to generation. This process will not be easy but the dedication and commitment of comrades organized in ICWP will bear fruit. We will be free men and women.

Our goal is to mobilize the masses for communism. The women who are maquila workers, teachers, farmworkers, and students organized in ICWP are planning well in advance to participate in the May Day march. Men and women comrades who live far away will share food and a place to sleep with other comrades so they can arrive in time to board the transportation that will take us to this great activity of our class, the working class. Some will carry banners, some will distribute *Red Flag*, and some will give security to guarantee the good outcome of our participation.

COMMUNIST PRODUCTION OPENS UP NEW HORIZONS

WASHINGTON STATE, US, April 11--A corporate director assembled thousands in Boeing commercial aerospace to tell them the “good news.” Management will introduce 50 robots in one Auburn factory building. “Isn’t that cool!” he exclaimed.

“There go another 100 jobs,” responded a friendly Machinist later.

The goal of automation in this profit system is capitalist efficiency. The bosses aim to produce more planes, faster with fewer workers. Then they flood the market, causing a crisis of over-production.

Communist goals are the opposite. Communist production will be dedicated to producing for our needs, not a market. That changes everything. No more market crashes caused by the need of the capitalists to maximize their profits, by bosses swamping the market with all kinds of products that cannot be sold. It even changes how we use machines, the types of machines we make and how we organize production.

Capitalist propaganda asserts that automation is used to eliminate tedious, unsafe jobs. Actually, automation in the service of profit makes work *more* tedious and unsafe. Boeing recently introduced assembly-line belts to drag planes through the production cycle. Ladders have been knocked down and workers hurt as the line relentlessly moves on.

Communism will eliminate assembly lines. We

won’t let some belt determine how fast we go or the quality of the work we do. We will rely on the collective wisdom of our fellow workers.

At Boeing, we work with a lot of machines that process metal: molding, cutting, bending etc. When there is no need to make more jets, we can work on other metal projects (but not under this system).

For example, a comrade worked in the Seattle schools. She and her friends were always scrounging for wheelchairs for needy students. “Wheelchairs are the most overpriced things in the world,” she still complains.

Machinists, teachers and health workers could figure out how to make thousands of wheelchairs, in collaboration with those who need to use them, if we lived in a communist society. They could be light-weight with advanced design using aerospace alloys. We could bring them to those in need around the world.

Over time, we’ll start to make lathes and mills that are no longer dedicated to churning out airplane parts. We will no longer be subjected to profit-hungry corporations. We won’t have to build the killing machines that Boeing produces (though not in Auburn) for imperialist armies.

We’ll spend a lot of time designing machines and processes to fulfill the varied needs of our working-class brothers and sisters. Sometimes we’ll forgo machines to give the fruits of our labor a personal touch. What a life to look for-

ward to!

Capitalist Balance Is a Sham

During the meeting, Boeing management beamed the Scales of Justice on a big screen in the front. One side held a box called “business needs,” the other “people needs.” The scales were evenly balanced. “That’s what we want to do,” asserted the director, “balance business needs with people needs.”

“All in the service of company goals and objectives,” he concluded.

What a lie! The objective of Boeing and every other corporation is to maximize profits. The only “people needs” they care about are those of stockholders.

Ironically, socialist presidential candidate Bernie Sanders had echoed this fake “balance” just a few weeks before at a Seattle rally. “We’ll tell the corporations they can’t have it all,” he vowed.

Why should corporations have anything at all? Why should we even have corporations?

In communism, we won’t. Instead, communism will mobilize millions to set up production centers, integrated with educational centers. Rather than work to live, we will live to work for our common good. Work will be fulfilling, not a boring drudgery performed under the threat of starvation and homelessness. Communist production for need makes all this possible.



OFFICIAL TENT CITIES: Capitalist answer to Syrian refugee crisis and Seattle housing emergency, both created by the bosses themselves.

Communism will mobilize masses to organize all available structures – including Boeing’s lavish corporate offices, if they are still standing – for use as temporary shelter.

Meanwhile we will design and start to build housing suitable for communist community life.

WAGES from page 1

provide a small family with a level of maintenance that “guaranteed continual working.” (*The London Hanged*, page 55).

We communists define it as a subsistence wage. It varies from country to country depending on the intensity of the class struggle and the local and international conditions of capitalism-imperialism at a given time.

It can never, however, exceed the limits capitalism imposes to guarantee our “continual working,” and the rearing of the next generation of wage slaves.

Historically, workers organized trade unions to try to expand those limits through collective bargaining and strikes. The capitalists, however, use their state power—their media, courts, cops and army, when necessary—to keep us within those limits.

Workers never exceed those limits permanently no matter what gains they make. These gains are always temporary.

Thus, in spite of decades of union contract struggles that won these workers wage increases, full-time tier-one MTA operators, and janitors are making less than they were making more than thirty years ago!

Their wages, like all US workers’ wages, are being driven down closer to the US bosses’ new

subsistence level of \$15/hour. In most of the world, workers’ wages are at or below a subsistence level set lower than in the US and Europe. This racist capitalist-imperialist super-exploitation is imposed by fascist governments.

Without wage slavery, what will motivate us to work in communism?

Capitalism uses wages as “incentives.” If we don’t work we starve. Communism will eliminate this capitalist curse.

Shortly after the revolution, things won’t be easy. Everyone will have to contribute to build communism. But, we don’t use material incentives now and we won’t use them in the future. We will rely on ideology and comradely struggle to win everyone to cooperate and share.

For tens of thousands of years, we lived without money, cooperating and sharing. Humanity owes its existence to that collectivity. The individual worked for the collective; the collective worked for the individual. Those unable to work did not go wanting. Raising children was the collective’s responsibility.

In Brazil, from 1605 to 1694, Quilombo dos



Palmares, a society built by runaway African slaves, lived without money. They collectively shared the products of their collective labor.

More recently, workers in revolutionary struggles from Russia to China to Vietnam to El Salvador lived, fought and produced collectively without money. Known as “war communism,” this was seen as a temporary emergency measure. As soon as the emergency was over, money was reinstated.

We will eliminate money; this time for good. It is the only way forward for humanity. Pre-class communism was our beginning; scientific communism is our future.

MTA:**“HEALTH CARE AND PROFITS DON’T MIX!”**

“Can you write an article in *Red Flag* about how the Metropolitan Transit Authority won’t pay our health care coverage, if we retire before 55 after having worked 23 years?” asked an MTA bus operator.

“That’s what happens if you got hired after September 1991, and retire younger than 55 years. You can have your pension but if you can’t afford to pay for health insurance you must keep working for MTA. They want you to work until you drop.”

“You’re right,” said our comrade. “Capitalism is anti-worker. It’s anti-human. Health care, profits and money don’t mix. We need a different system, communism, one that would value our lives and wellbeing above everything.”

In a communist society, masses of workers will guarantee that health care and all our basic needs will be met from birth to death, regardless of how much or how little we contribute to society.

No money will be involved in health care or anything else. No one will be denied treatment. Millions will learn how to treat and cure disease and care for people who are sick.

Health insurance or food or housing – you can’t have it all!

Another MTA operator told us, “Regardless of the age you retire, you have to pay something for your medical if you want MTA to pay some of it. Now, the negotiated medical cost is \$1300 a month. That is how much you would pay if you retire before 55. If you decide to collect your pension, you will receive \$2,100 per month.”

“Not enough to pay for health insurance and survive,” said *Red Flag*.

“Yes, and you can’t get MediCal because of

your pension and savings. For the same reason Obamacare would be outrageously expensive. You would have to go without insurance until 65 when you can get Medicare.”

“So, they got you between a rock and a hard place.”

“Yes, they want you to work until you are 65, if you survive that long. If you retire younger than that age, your monthly insurance payment varies (see box). However, paying for insurance and surviving is practically impossible.”

Not having health insurance could be a death sentence. Continuing to work at MTA is also death in slow motion. Operators end up suffering from many serious chronic diseases and living 7-10 years less than other retirees.

The Masses will be Healthier in Communism

A communist society will rapidly build a mass transportation system to rid the roads of most of the 253 million cars and trucks in the US and millions more around the world. This would eliminate the stress and all the illness it creates among bus drivers and millions of other drivers.

Stress comes from not having control of our life and work. The bosses use their power to hire and fire us to discipline and terrorize us. We can’t survive without a job. Thus, they have the power to decide who among us lives or dies, and how we live and die.

This and all their racist, sexist practices - to super-exploit women and black, latin, asian, arab, and many other immigrant workers – adds another layer of very deadly stress.

Destroying capitalism’s wage slavery with its racist sexist ideologies and practices will enable us in communism to be useful to society through-

The percent that MTA contributes to your health insurance at retirement:

Under 55, 0%, you will pay \$1300.

55-57 (50% of \$666 = \$333), you will pay \$967.

58-61 (75% of \$666 = \$499.50), you will pay \$800.

62 and over (100% of \$666 = \$666.00), you will pay \$634.

The health insurance trust fund, even though it is controlled by the union, not MTA, is not going to explain this. Ask any chairman how much they charge the trust fund for being trustees and to show you the quarterly report. Look at the outrageous expenditures. While most union trust funds have an 8% operating cost, MTA’s operating cost is 15%. In July, MTA will contribute \$1300. Will the trust fund stop collecting the workers’ \$100 contribution until they re-negotiate the new monthly payment with the medical providers for next year?
—An MTA driver

out our whole lives, always according to our commitment.

MTA workers’ contract will expire next year. The only way to deal with the bosses who want to work us into the grave is to mobilize to destroy their racist sexist system of exploitation with a communist revolution. We need to organize communist political strikes against MTA’s and capitalism’s inhumanity. Such strikes can show millions the possibility of revolution and a communist world.

We invite MTA workers to march on May Day under ICWP’s red banners of communism. Join ICWP and help make communism a reality.

COLLECTIVE COMMUNIST EDUCATION TO BUILD A COMMUNIST WORLD

On May Day, the proclamation of the international working class must be: “Workers of the World, Unite!” We must be united in a single party, the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

Our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* (MMC) shows that the fight must be directly for Communism. The fight must not be for a state socialism like that raised high by the pseudo-leftist countries or as the communists of the past believed in their attempt to liberate our class from capitalist oppression.

However, many believe that the fight must be waged through reforms: either reforms won by workers through the unions or reforms imposed by the bosses through their structure (the state).

The Mexican government has implemented reforms to remove nationalist restrictions on the exploitation of energy (oil and electricity). They have removed labor regulations so they can exploit workers’ labor power even more. They are looking for the “efficient” use of public education to meet the needs of business. They seek more tax revenue from workers and are tuning up their telecommunications and transport systems.

Now they are publicizing “Mobilizing Mexico.” This plan includes a new port in Veracruz, renovation of the ports of Manzanillo, L. Cárdenas and Tuxpan, and new coast-to-coast roads. It talks of human development through more and better wage labor.

We workers must not fall into this capitalist trap. Mobilize the Masses for Communism puts forward the elimination of wage slavery.

ICWP asserts that reforms are necessary for the survival of the capitalist bosses, whether they are foreign or national. They strengthen their laws

to confront their competitors in their attempts to dominate the world.

The capitalist bosses develop science and technology to serve them. Through one of their tools, capitalist education, they train and prepare human beings against themselves in order to exploit them.

With capitalist education the bosses strengthen themselves. However, we, with communist education, will build a world in which everyone will receive according to their needs and give according to their commitment and capability. Together we will build our Communist society.

In communist society (scientific communism) education will begin in infancy and last until old age. Mental and manual labor will be combined from the centers of production to the fields, from the fields to the cities, from the cities to any area of the world. Women and men will be involved in this process. We will not try to measure people’s “capacities” with grades or IQ tests.

With the study and practice of dialectics and the understanding of political economy, we will advance quantitatively and qualitatively. People will have the obligation and need to develop knowledge for our class and not for a tiny group.

Knowledge will not be concentrated in the hands of a few “intellectuals” who think they know everything. It won’t just be a lucky few



May Day, Mexico City, 2014

who get to study, leaving many youth frustrated at not being able to continue studying.

We will all develop skills. But not just that! We will learn to do everything, whether it is producing in the fields, working in industry, in music, arts, sports, science, technology, etc.

We will have the obligation to be involved in any job where it is necessary. We will need to rebuild society after a war. We will have much work, and collective communist education will be a means to accomplish it.

Therefore, ICWP says NO to reforms because these only improve capitalism. We do not want to improve it, we want to destroy it. We are its gravediggers and we will bury them.

Together as class brothers and sisters today and in the communist future we will mobilize the masses for Communism. This May Day we say: Long Live the International Working Class! Long Live Communism!

DESTROY CAPITALISM'S MURDEROUS BORDERS WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

On Sunday, April 17th, capitalism-imperialism murdered 500 immigrants from Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Sudan. They drowned in the Mediterranean Sea when their overcrowded dilapidated wooden boat capsized in the Mediterranean in the middle of the night. The boat capsized in open sea as it was traveling from Libya to Italy.

Someone tweeted, "The Mediterranean is a mass grave."

Capitalism-imperialism wantonly throws workers to their deaths. Communism will treasure the life of each and every worker above everything.

This catastrophe comes a year after 700 to 800 immigrants drowned off Libya in a similar capitalist-caused disaster.

At the same time, the number of immigrants who die in the desert trying to cross from Mexico to the US has gone higher and higher since the US bosses expanded their border fence in 2010. The Obama administration arrests and detains thousands of families and youth in jails near the border for the "crime" of trying to find safety from gang violence.

Communist revolution will tear down the bosses' jails and their borders. There will be no "immigrants" or "citizens" but free workers welcoming our brothers and sisters who need refuge from capitalism and uniting to spread communist revolution throughout the whole world.

In communism, we will welcome everyone to

help collectively produce for workers' needs. Workers won't compete for jobs to feed our families. We will cooperate to plan and produce according to need. We will mobilize to care for each other. Everyone's contribution will be valued and appreciated. Workers of the world are one class. We all need a communist world. We need one party, International Communist Workers' Party to mobilize for that communist world.

We must bury this deadly system that forces our brothers and sisters to flee wars, famine, gang violence and environmental disaster

Many US immigrants and their supporters

hope that young immigrants' temporary legal status will be extended, but no matter how the US Supreme [Capitalist] Court rules, capitalism in crisis offers youth a future of racism, exploitation and war. Reforming immigration laws or electing "lesser evil" politicians will not change the fact that capitalism exists to make the capitalists rich by exploiting workers and super exploiting black and immigrant workers.

The ICWP calls on the international working class to respond to these mass murderers by mobilizing for a communist world.



LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Revolutionary Fresh Air

Reading the *Red Flag* always refreshes and uplifts one. The brilliant articles by comrades in El Salvador studying Dialectical Materialism and comrades in Los Angeles among the janitors and in the Boeing factory distributing a thousand leaflets for May Day in the capitalist Bernie Sanders' rally are good. It is superb that activists in Afghanistan in the Middle East are working very hard mobilizing the masses for communism in that part of the world where religious fundamentalism reigns supreme. In this country the election circus is gaining ground once again for local government elections.

The bourgeois nationalist African National Congress (ANC) is embroiled in the Nkandla saga and it's a topical issue at the moment. On the 16 of April the ANC is launching its manifesto here. We will distribute the May Day leaflets at that launch, as the comrades in Los Angeles have done.

—A South African Comrade

Boiling Water and Building the Party

How do you boil water? This is a simple task. But the process of boiling water also explains some very serious truths about destroying capitalism.

To boil water you need to put the pot of water on the stove and heat it. If we keep heating the water, its temperature rises and after sufficient time the water boils.

When it comes to building the party, some comrades get very excited. They start talking about communism. But then when these comrades face serious obstacles or questions from other workers, they retreat and do less political work. Some comrades come back to do the political work of the party after a long period of inactivity.

The process of building for revolution requires consistent work. If we heat the pot of water

for few minutes every day, it is never going to boil.

The *Red Flag* article on 'twists and turns' really helped us explain how we face real obstacles as we are building our movement. Comrades face serious personal and ideological problems: individualism, drugs and alcohol, problems and disagreements with our spouse, partners, fear of the bosses, the union misleaders.

What is the solution? We need to do consistent work of building the party. And the only way to insure that this work is carried on is by building collectives.

In a collective, comrades help each other overcome problems. And in case an individual succumbs to a temporary retreat, the collective still functions and consistently carries out the work of the party.

In a profound way, boiling water is like building for revolution. Both require consistency.

Please write more articles on dialectical materialism that relate to concrete struggles.

—Comrades in South Africa

Los Angeles Metro: Full of Lies

Metro is a corrupted corporation that is deceiving and full of lies. The first lie is letting us think we have a union that has our best interest in mind. Our union, from what people say only wants our union dues but doesn't represent us in our time of need.

We have supervisors that follow what managers say and run too much of Metro and make us workers feel intimidated during our work time. They make employees feel too scared to

talk about the injustice that happens day to day, year after year. If you speak your mind you will be labeled as a trouble maker and a sh*t starter. That leads to them determining if they will promote you or if you are stuck at the same position.

We have leaders that are over us but work with us and in the same union and are completely scared of the supervisors. They have a tendency to side with upper management and leave us alone against the entire company.

—An MTA worker



Comrade in South Africa organizing for May Day, 2015
Sign in Xhosa says
"Workers of the Unite for Communist Revolution"

LETTERS

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

OOPS!

We made a mistake in the last issue of *Red Flag* in the article called "Building a Communist Collective on the Job" about Los Angeles MTA. In talking about a struggle with a worker that reached unbearable limits, the article said, "In the past we had helped get his job back after the company had fired him..." That is not the case. In fact, we helped him when he was suspended, not fired.

Red Flag

Bernie Sanders: a candidate of US imperialism for war.

The article on the Sanders campaign, "Communism versus Socialism on Minds at Election Rally," falls short on understanding the very dangerous nature of Sanders because it is silent about the main contradiction in the world. And because of this limitation we get no idea of what the contradictions are among the masses we are engaged with.

Inter-imperialist rivalry is still the main contradiction in world, leading to war and opening doors wide to communist revolution.

Bernie Sanders is a candidate of US imperialism for war. He wants to win the masses who are angry at capitalism by winning them to reform. These so-called progressive capitalists are our enemies from India to Greece to Britain to US.

Here is a direct quote from Sanders: "We live in a difficult and dangerous world, and there are no easy or magical solutions. As President and Commander-in-Chief, I will defend this nation, its people, and America's vital strategic interests, but I will do it responsibly. America must defend freedom at home and abroad, but we must seek diplomatic solutions before resorting to military action. While force must always be an option, war must be a last resort, not the first option." (berniesanders.com)

Not by coincidence, this is almost exactly what junior senator Obama from Illinois said in his speech at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. "As Commander-in-Chief, I will never hesitate to defend this nation, but I will only send our troops into harm's way with a clear mission I will end this war in Iraq responsibly, and finish the fight against al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan."

Obama went on to become the war-and-drones president. At least 2500 people have been killed in drone attacks under the Obama administration, nearly nine times more strikes

in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia than under George W Bush. They killed six times more people and twice as many civilians as those ordered in the Bush years. Obama, the peace candidate, has created killing fields around the world for profit. Sanders is running on the same platform, to win the masses to the same politics—or worse.

—Red Internationalist

Enslaved Women, Not Architects, Built Savannah

My daughter, granddaughter and I recently took a trip to Savannah, Georgia. While there, we took a tour of the First African Baptist Church. This church was built in the mid-18th century by enslaved people.

Slave owners wouldn't allow male slaves to work on the building, so the women went to the river, made the bricks and carted them to the church grounds. Not only did they build a church, but they secretly made it a station on the Underground Railroad, a safe stop for slaves escaping north. They constructed an underground passage, hidden beneath the basement of the church, with air holes placed to look like a design on the floor. In addition, the ceiling of the church was in a 9-square quilt pattern, another symbol of the UGR.

During the course of the tour, one of the participants asked our guide how these people were able to build a church without an architect. The guide reminded him that not only had these people brought their skills with them when they were captured, but that they had

also built most of Savannah!

At this point a light bulb went off in my head, as I thought about how there were no fancy experts to guide these people. Their labor was unpaid, how they gave (physical labor) as much as they were able for the good of all, and what a marvelous result they had. The beautiful church camouflaged the Underground Railroad station!

In communism we will eliminate not only chattel slavery, but wage slavery as well. Nonetheless, this history points to aspects of communism. Some people we talk to are cynical about the possibility of people working together according to their ability and receiving according to their need, but there are striking examples throughout history, as well as smaller examples on a day-to-day basis. Look at your own family or school or neighborhood and think of the times people have "given" because it benefits the community, not just themselves.

In Communism there will be only truly free people working and learning and playing together. We will be able to take advantage of our common knowledge and build a society that is best for us.

—Red Grandmother

"Journalistic Training"

A letter in a previous *Red Flag* commented that many articles were written by common people, probably without journalistic training, as if that were a bad thing.

We think that's one of the best things about *Red Flag*. It's written by working people, whose life experiences have taught us to hate capitalism, and who are participating in the fight for communism. We reject the phony "objectivity" that journalism schools teach. Ruling-class newspapers are always limited to the point of view of the rulers. We write the truth of the class struggle that will emancipate the working class from the yoke of capitalism.

—Red writers



French young people spend another "nuit debout" (night on their feet) to protest the proposed labor law that would strip away what few protections remain for workers. At all-night sessions in Paris at the Place de la Republique and in cities all over France tens of thousands of workers and high school students have made it clear that they've had enough of the socialist government's pro-boss policies. Once again socialists have broken all their promises. Only communism can give youth a future.

NATIONALISM from page 8

Communism will defeat the existing bosses and make it impossible for new bosses to arise and rule.

Communism will end the capitalist wage system, which always creates inequalities and conflicts among workers. This will enable communism to end capitalist inequalities in living conditions and in opportunities to develop

and use new skills and capabilities.

In communism, the masses will create a new communist culture that completely rejects all claims that some groups of people are superior to others or must be hostile to others. Communist culture includes the philosophy of dialectical materialism, which will undermine all religion and superstition. A communist economy will be created, based on sharing the results of our common labor according to the needs of the masses. The

era of nationalism, racism, sexism and imperialist wars will then be gone forever

Next issue: *Nationalist errors by communists*

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ONLY COMMUNISM CAN END THE CRIMES OF NATIONALISM, PART II

Part I discussed how capitalists use nationalism to divide and rule workers, and the tremendous number of workers' lives that nationalism has cost.

Manufacturing "National Identities"

Nationalists make up their "national identities" differently. Some use a common language, but languages are often created or drastically modified to reinforce nationalist projects. Modern Hebrew, spoken by most Israelis, was created in the 19th and early 20th centuries by Zionism. They modified ancient Hebrew, which had fallen out of daily use. In India, Hindustani was widely spoken in northern India in the 19th century. It had much in common with Urdu, also widely used in trade and literature. In the 20th century nationalists formed the Hindi language by replacing the many Persian and Arabic words in Hindustani with words derived from ancient Sanskrit, to make a language more distinct from Urdu.

Where distinct languages already exist, some are suppressed by nationalist movements or governments. This happens with Russian in some former Soviet republics, with Basque in Spain, Berber languages in Morocco and Spanish in the US among many others.

Nationalism Lies About History

Nationalist schemes often replace the truth about history with myths and lies. The bosses celebrate "national heroes" among past politicians and generals, and sometimes artists, writers, or industrialists. School textbooks praise the country's political institutions and military victories. They often hide past crimes like slavery, genocide, or wars of conquest. People who expose these lies are violently attacked, as recently in India by Hindu nationalists at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Some governments even make it a crime to reveal the truth, like the 1915 mass murder of ethnic Armenians in Turkey.

Some groups who have suffered from racism, colonial occupation or caste discrimination try to organize themselves based on their common oppression. Nationalists claim to lead the fight against this oppression, but nationalism can never overcome inequality and oppression since it is always tied to capitalism. It is the nature of capitalism to promote racism and oppression, never

to stop it.

Capitalists Benefit From Racism and Nationalism

In the US, racism against African-Americans, Latinos and Native Americans is strong and profitable for the capitalists. US nationalism gets many to accept and support imperialist wars. European capitalists have long exploited immigrants from Africa and the Middle East, although now they have more immigrants than they want. The Arab Gulf States exploit South Asians and Filipinos massively. Chinese bosses oppress Tibetans and Uighurs. South Asian bosses try to continue their oppression of Muslims, Dalits and other castes by promoting other nationalisms, especially Hindu nationalism.

Resistance to nationalism

Many have resisted nationalist appeals. They fought for internationalism. There were mass movements to end apartheid in South Africa, worldwide protests against the US invasion of Vietnam, and many other brave actions. In 1919, there were troops in all fourteen armies sent to invade the new Soviet Republic in Russia that refused to fight.

In 1930 Hindu troops of the Royal Garhwali Rifles refused to take part in a British government massacre of hundreds in a non-violent protest by Muslims in Peshawar. Leaders of these troops were punished with long prison sentences. M. K. Gandhi refused to support the soldiers because "If I taught them to disobey I should be afraid that they might do the same when I am in power." [Monde, 2/2/1932] In 1945 US merchant sailors protested transport of French troops to Vietnam to "re-colonize" that country.

In India today many people fighting against fascist Hindu nationalism believe in an Indian secular nationalism that tries to unite all religious groups in India. As India's capitalists strive to catch up with China and become a major imperialist power, secular nationalism can also do great harm. For example, it can help justify a future war with China for which the Indian bosses are already preparing. Nationalism can never serve the masses, only the capitalists.

Ending Nationalism With Communism

The price that the masses have had to pay for

El Salvador:

Nationalism Failed the Masses

National Liberation was a banner of insurgent movements worldwide in the 1960's and 70's.

In El Salvador a struggle was begun in 1930 against the military dictatorship, repression, poverty and exploitation. During the 1960's and 70's armed groups were consolidated that later formed the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The FMLN united communists from the old movement, social democrats and independent Marxists to fight for national liberation — not for socialism, much less for Communism. This armed struggle lasted for twelve years. It leaves us lessons about errors and successes.

The struggle for a national revolution lacks a communist ideological character. The FMLN did not politicize the working class to forge a new society and destroy capitalism. Even though they attacked the bourgeoisie, they never mobilized the masses for communism. From the first years they sought negotiations with the capitalists.

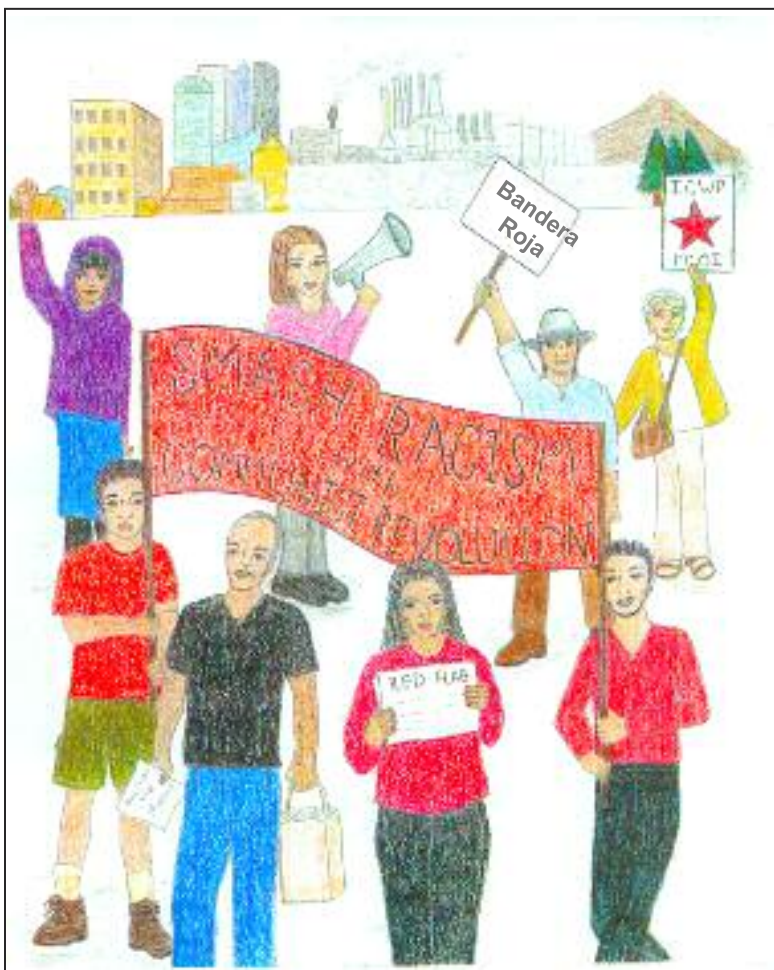
Now the FMLN has been in power in the capitalist government for seven years, but the transformations they promised are practically nonexistent. The consolidation of ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance) as a new bourgeoisie, the businesses of the traditional bourgeoisie, the forgotten base and veterans, this all shows the failure of the struggle for national liberation.

As the International Communist Workers' Party, we learn from the lessons that all the historic processes of struggle leave us. Many of our members are ex-combatants of the FMLN who today fight directly for Communism as the only solution to put an end to capitalism-imperialism.

nationalism has been enormous. Imperialist wars, communal violence, and mass movements diverted into supporting new bosses have cost millions of lives. Nationalism is an integral part of capitalist rule and can only be eliminated by destroying capitalism and replacing it with communism. **See NATIONALISM, page 7**

The Untold Story:

HOW WE CAN END RACISM WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION



Where does racism come from? Why did it carry on even after slavery/Jim Crow/Apartheid had been crushed? Why has it spread all over the world?

To answer these questions we have to look into the history of racism and its historical development. But as Marx said, "philosophers have tried to understand the world; the point, however is to change it."

How will we change the world to end racism? With communism. But how? And why hasn't this happened yet, one century after the first communist revolution in Russia?

To answer these questions we have to look at the history of communism and its historical development.

But it would be a mistake to try to answer both sets of questions separately. Instead we must take an integrated, communist approach.

Two things stand out from this integrated history.

The first is that modern communism and racism can both be traced back to the dawn

of capitalism, about five hundred years ago.

The second is that communists seriously underestimated racism's poisonous effect on the revolutionary movement. Usually they either ignored it or (perhaps worse) prescribed the poison of nationalism as an "antidote."

Sometimes the fight to abolish racism was undermined by socialism, which still used a wage system. Some communists thought the elimination of the wage system, of its own, would end racism.

If we know our history, we don't have to repeat these mistakes. That's why we have just published a new pamphlet **To End Racism: Mobilize the Masses for Communism**.

It's why we have collected previous articles about racism on that same page on our website: icwpredflag.org/RP/SupE.html.

It's why we're starting a new series of articles on this topic. The whole point is to make sure we not only understand racism, but also that, with communism, we will be able to end it forever.