

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

CHOICE FOR WORKERS: COMMUNISM OR FASCISM



**May Day
Los Angeles
2012**

Whether 'Left' or Right:

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS ARE DEADLY

"Let's rid this country of the stench," urged a recent political ad in Greece. It was the slogan of Golden Dawn, a fascist party that went from getting 20,000 votes in 2009 to winning over 440,000 votes in these latest elections. The slogan referred to immigrants (legal and illegal)!

Golden Dawn thugs patrol immigrant areas. The London *Independent* reported one incident. "Taking the bus on another morning...a gunshot shattered the back window and a gang of men forced the driver to stop. When the doors opened, they came onto the bus and started to assault non-Greek passengers. The attackers were wearing T-shirts from the right wing extremist group Golden Dawn. While panicked people were trying to escape from the

bus the men were hitting them with flagpoles...

"When the police arrived, they stood off until the thugs had finished."

This incident was before Golden Dawn's election 'successes,' but together with the election results, they serve to show us the panic that is running through the capitalist class worldwide. That panic is fed by the growing realization that the present economic crisis will deepen.

Capitalism Needs Crisis: We Need Communism!

As serious as this crisis is, nothing about it suggests capitalism will collapse. In fact capitalism has always developed through crisis, to destroy weak or excess capital enterprises, clearing the field for an expansion of the surviving enterprises

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Mexico:

NO ELECTORAL PARTY-- WE NEED ICWP!

MEXICO-During the most recent sale of *Red Flag* a young reader suggested that ICWP give its point of view about the Presidential elections in Mexico, and a university professor asked our opinion about the mobilizations of youth the week before. To put this in context for the readers of *Red Flag*, there are four candidates for President: Gabriel Quadri of the New Alliance; placed by the leader of the federal teachers' union, Josefina Vazquez Mota from PAN; the party that's currently in power, Enrique Peña Nieto of the PRI; the political party that ruled for almost 70 years, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of the PRD coalition, the so-called "left" candidate. All represent the interests of the ruling class.

The mobilization of the youth was

felt more strongly after Peña Nieto, the candidate most supported by the bosses, went to campaign at a private university (Iberoamericana University) on May 11, 2012. He was run out of the school and shouted down amidst catcalls and banners expressing discontent.

Students yelled "murderer." The bosses' mass media didn't mention anything about this even when it was a dominant topic of the social networks, which said that the protest at this event went very well. Then the students who protested were kicked out of school as "outsiders, infiltrators and thugs." As a result, the youth of different universities, organizing through social networks on the internet, called together a march to support the protesting students, which other social movements also

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Honduras: Racist U.S. Drug War Murders Indigenous People:

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL DESTROY MURDEROUS CAPITALISM

AHUAS, HONDURAS, May 11—Four people, including two pregnant women and a 14-year-old boy, were murdered in this remote village in the Honduran jungle. Five others were injured: one of them lost a hand, another a leg.

This terror rained down from the sky, on 13 travelers in a small boat on the Patuca River, by US helicopters carrying Honduran police and US Drug Enforcement Agents. They sprayed the boat with machine gun fire, and lobbed grenades at it, claiming it was ferrying drugs.

On top of the crushing poverty inflicted by racist capitalism on the Miskito Indian population of this region, the US bosses' war on drugs is murdering these workers with impunity.

Capitalism-imperialism will never stop the flow of drugs. It is worth over \$500 billion a year worldwide, which ends up in the pockets of the world's big bankers, their politicians, military and police agents.

But, most importantly, it serves the world's bosses politically: they use it everywhere to brutalize, jail and murder workers, especially the youth, trying to squelch their revolutionary potential.

The bosses will never achieve this because capitalism's racist exploitation will always breed working class rebellion. The specter of communism will haunt capitalism until we end it.

Only communism can end the degrading poverty that the racist Honduran bosses and their imperialist masters have for generations forced upon the Miskitos. Their abject poverty belies the natural wealth of their environment: an area of over 6,000 square miles of prairies, forests, jungles, rivers, fisheries and beautiful beaches. Yet, the majority of its 77,000 inhabitants can't meet their most basic needs.

In a communist world, the workers who live here will lead in developing these resources, collectively and fully, for the benefit of all workers, without bosses or money. Communism will eliminate drugs and drug addiction. Gone will be the

need to escape the reality of exploitation. Collective life and work to meet our needs will be creative, fulfilling and energizing.

Honduran workers hate this racist capitalist system. They courageously burned down government buildings in Ahuas, demanding the expulsion of the US DEA agents. Now, they need to realize their potential to destroy capitalism with a communist revolution by joining and building ICWP.



Honduras: youth protest fascist attacks on their communities.

Capitalism-imperialism can offer only more death and destruction

These racist murders are becoming the order of the day as Honduras becomes a battle ground between drug dealers and US bosses' drug agents. This in reality is a war for the control not only of the drug traffic but of the region and the world.

In addition to three permanent bases, the US military built three new forward bases in Honduras, patterned on those in Afghanistan and Iraq. This is to militarize the whole Central American region to stem any revolutionary upsurge by terrorizing rebellious workers. It is also to warn and discipline local bosses who want to desert the US camp for Hugo Chávez of Venezuela and his

backer, China, hoping for better deals with this rising imperialist power.

Are Latin American bosses getting more defiant?

Recently, the US has been criticized sharply by Latin American capitalists for its drug wars and its Cuba policy. The US has spent over \$1 trillion in over 40 years. Yet, the more money, troops and weapons it pours into the region, the more the demand for drugs increases, and more people are killed as the violence surrounding the drug traffic increases dramatically.

Since 2006, over 50,000 have been killed in Mexico. There are even more casualties in Honduras and Guatemala combined. The Latin American rulers fear massive rebellions against this terror and would like to 'decriminalize' drugs to stem the violence. The US bosses are opposed.

But some of the Latin American bosses see the addition of US military bases in Latin America as part of the US bosses' answer to their growing defiance of US hegemony. This contradiction that sees former vassals of the US shifting toward China is forcing the US to prepare to fight a world war to stop China. The militarization of Central America is part of this preparation.

Other bosses, like Pepe Lobo of Honduras, see US troops as an insurance against rebellious workers rising against the brutal racism and poverty that the current crisis of worldwide capitalism has inflicted on them. The US and its Honduran allies have not forgotten the massive rebellions that for months rocked the country against the ouster of populist pro-Chavez President Zelaya in 2009 by a US-sponsored coup.

Neither have we forgotten. It inspired us to visualize the potential power of the Honduran working class to fight for nothing less than communism. ICWP in Honduras will build on this potential to mobilize the masses for communism to forever end capitalism-imperialism's genocidal wars.

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joined. The youth marched, demanding freedom of speech, and an end to the manipulation of information, ending in the Zócalo (main square) in Mexico City. To lessen the growing discontent in society, the television stations opened spaces for members of the movement called "I am 132" (referring to the 131 students who defended themselves against being kicked out of school because of a video on the internet). The youth in this growing spontaneous movement call themselves "apartidistas:" people who are against parties, without leaders, without ideals in common except to protest against the system.

The ruling class finds itself in a real dilemma: now with the social discontent, they no longer know if they should continue openly supporting the PRI candidate or whether they should show a false impartiality to all candidates and allow victory to the candidate that society "elects." Andrés Manuel López Obrador can fulfill the needs of the

ruling class to calm the growing discontent of the masses. But none of the electoral candidates reflects the interests of the working class; each one of them accepts the limits and the yoke of capitalism.

We comrades from ICWP have a fertile camp in which to spread communist ideas in the face of this growing discontent against the system by youth and workers around the world. Now more than ever, they are hungry for the high aspirations that we have for humanity.

We don't believe in spontaneity. Only organized through an international communist party, ICWP, not an electoral party, will we gather sufficient strength to smash capitalism. Only communism can guarantee that the needs of the international working class are met. Only communism can guarantee that workers run society in our own interests. We have nothing to lose, and a whole world to win! Join ICWP!



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Industrial Workers Step up to Give Communist Leadership:

“RAISE BOTH HANDS FOR ICWP”

Shortly after the May Day march and dinner, we had an excellent meeting with workers from MTA, the garment industry and other workplaces, where not everyone was a member of ICWP.

A young woman comrade gave a presentation with photographs of the mass May Day marches around the world, emphasizing the two alternative political lines that were presented to workers: reforming capitalism or fighting for a communist revolution.

On one hand the unions, mass organizations, and “left” electoral parties were asking for pay increases, better education, and jobs with dignity,



NEW COMRADES ADVANCE ICWP

MEXICO-We were arriving at different times to the agreed on place for the May Day march. Finally we eight comrades met there. This was different from last year. This time, we all focused our efforts on selling our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

Two new comrades were surprised at how well the workers received our literature. Some workers extended their hand asking for our pamphlet and at the same time giving us money.

A young comrade who has already been in the Party for several years commented to me, “The comrade who came with me has surprised me; he’s advanced faster than me. He told me that as he was leaving his house, he told his parents, who are very close to the Catholic religion, ‘I’m going with my friends the communists. I’ll be back later tonight.’ His parents didn’t have any objection. On the contrary, they accompanied him to the bus terminal and wished him good luck.”

The comrade told me, “I still can’t achieve this with my parents.”

I told him he should have a better struggle with them. He was really glad that the new comrade felt so comfortable carrying out the Party’s work.

We’ve doubled the amount of literature we distribute from a year ago. We’ve advanced significantly, but this isn’t enough. We should strengthen ourselves more and win more comrades to the party. We must redouble our efforts to achieve this. This means talking more about communism, going to sell the paper among workers, students, farmworkers, and to the unemployed; and to be organizing and building the party consistently.

This May Day, we couldn’t sell *Red Flag*, but we’ve since sold and distributed this edition successfully with students, workers and farmworkers. We hope and expect to take several more steps forward this year and these steps will be reflected in our activities next May Day.

others like some anarchists and socialists attacked capitalism in an abstract form, which as far as we’re concerned, is just reforming capitalism.

On the other hand, as ICWP, we were present in Spain, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Diego and Oakland where we took thousands of our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and thousands of copies of our newspaper *Red Flag* to the masses, offering them our struggle for communist revolution.

At the end of the presentation, somebody asked, “Who here is a member of the party? And those who were raised their hand. Then the comrade, seeing that there were people who hadn’t raised their hands, said, “Now the million dollar question: Who wants to join ICWP?”

This opened up an animated discussion in which workers started to ask questions like, “What’s the difference between ICWP and the so-called ‘leftist’ parties around the world?” A comrade responded by saying that these parties like Obrador in Mexico, fmln or Chavez in Venezuela, in reality don’t fight for communism, but instead simply to reform this system and that the working class would stay the same.

Another question that arose was whether we would follow a certain historical leader like Marx, Lenin, Stalin, Mao, or a histor-

ical movement like the Russian and Chinese revolution. We answered that we have learned from the advances and defeats of the past movements and that’s how we developed our political line.

After a good discussion, a comrade joined the party. “I’m not raising one hand, but both hands,” he said as we applauded, filled with emotion.

The political struggle continued with the members and the base, especially with the comrades who took the step of agreeing to lead study groups. One of the women who did so said, “I don’t think I’m ready,” and another said, “I don’t know anything.” We said that both of them have a history of having participated, one in armed struggle and the other helping to lead struggles in the garment industry. Both have helped to lead their homes with children and husbands. Nothing easy about that! People laughed, and one woman agreed to lead one of the four study groups that were formed that night. The other woman agreed to participate in one of the study groups. Other comrades took the step of taking more leadership, including the man who had just joined ICWP.

Within the group of workers, one had just gotten out of the US Army and is starting to read and discuss *Red Flag*’s politics. Industrial workers and soldiers! Women taking leadership! An explosive anti-capitalist mix! This meeting was a very important step for the party trying to put into *Mobilizing the Masses for Communism*.

SOLDIERS MUST SERVE THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS

The typical person joining the US Armed Forces these days is not the patriotic American person of past times, or at least past stereotypes. These days it’s the typical American who is trying to make ends meet. The economic conditions that capitalism has placed on Americans these days are forcing many of them to explore options which they really never wanted to, but in order to survive they must. It’s a little ironic that many of these people are willing to put their lives on the line in order to just survive. That doesn’t sound like a trait belonging to people of a supposedly “developed” nation.

Students have also become victims of these conditions. With the price of tuition skyrocketing to unattainable levels for a working class family, students also must explore any option possible in order for them to continue pursuing their academic goals. So they turn to the military, which promises free education during enlistment and tuition assistance afterwards. One could even say that the conditions students and workers alike are facing have helped the US Armed Forces have a draft, without having to go public with it.

With so many people joining the Armed Forces, now even they can be selective. People are being turned away for all kinds of reasons. Rules against things like tattoos have become stricter. Violations such as a DUI on your criminal record are enough now to get you turned away. Those already in the Armed Forces are dealing with the scrutiny of constantly being evaluated. If a soldier is not performing to the standards for whatever reason, they are no longer bending the rules for that soldier; it’s now an automatic discharge. Privates even at the first stages of training are being weeded out for any little thing.

This just goes to show how the system does not appreciate us, the working class and soldiers. It just needs us to

provide for it in order to maintain itself. Once they’ve exploited an individual to the point of exhaustion, or no longer see the individual as an asset, they are quick to discard that individual. We as the working class cannot allow this to continue. It’s time for a change through communist revolution.

We have been fooled into believing that the government is the only one with all the power. The government represents the capitalists, and they hold power through their control of the state: the army, the cops, courts, laws, Congress, the press, etc. But the masses ourselves potentially hold the power; however, we need to realize this. Without the bus driver operating the bus, without the student making a new discovery and without the soldier stepping into the combat field, the government has no power. We must organize to take power for our class, to run everything in the interests of the workers of the world, not for any bosses. We must organize a revolution and a communist society where bus drivers can organize a transit system that meets our needs, not for profit. Students can learn and use our knowledge to improve things for all. We soldiers can unite with workers and students worldwide and help lead a revolution and a Red Army to liberate workers everywhere.



**Communist Work Among the
Czar’s Soldiers Was Crucial in the
Russian Revolution**

California State University:

In the latest installment in the battle on CSU campuses, twelve students from three Cal State Universities have decided to go on hunger strike in efforts to fight back. Students for Quality Education organized this protest and have gained media attention for their supposedly radical tactics. Students' demands include a five-year freeze on tuition increases, and free speech areas around campus. Participants plan to remain on hunger strike until these demands are met. Although students' hearts are in the right place, their way of going about change is misguided. Only communism can free us from capitalist attacks on education as well as on the rest of the working class. ICWP has emphasized this, distributing *Red Flag* on college campuses where many students like the paper.

Students have chosen to starve themselves in hopes that officials will give in to their demands. What students haven't thought about is whether the Board of Trustees cares. Assuming that capitalists will take pity on the working class has proved to be a mistake. When students on CSU campuses were asked about their thoughts on the strike, a young friend responded by saying "I don't think they care that they don't eat" and a comrade agreed with her response because honestly why should the Board of Trustees or Governor Jerry Brown feel guilty about people choosing to starve themselves in hopes of change? In past hunger strikes led by notable people like Mahatma Gandhi and Pedro Luis Boitel, these acts of non-violent civil disobedience were intended for nothing more

HUNGER FOR CHANGE

than reform, which is nothing but putting a symbolic bandage on the otherwise fatal wound of capitalism. Choosing not to eat is counterproductive to the working class.

By choosing not to eat, fellow workers hope that pity will be taken upon them by their oppressor. By starving yourself you are only further weakening yourself and making it easier to be taken advantage of by the bosses and making you less likely to fight back in an effective way. Around the world people are dying of hunger because of capitalism. The idea of government officials taking pity on students should be replaced with the idea that by doing this, students are doing exactly what the bosses want: killing off those that stir the pot. Hunger strikes or anything less than mobilizing a mass party for communism is nothing more than a dead end.

Only communism can feed our hunger for true change because under communism there will be no need for students to have to starve themselves for a quality education. All workers will be students as well as teachers sharing knowledge with each other to aid in the survival and well being of the human race. No longer will there be a price

on education because it will be provided for everyone. The purpose of education under capitalism is to prepare workers to meet the capitalists' needs, not the needs of the working class. In a communist system, education will serve the working class.

We are building this movement for communism at our schools today. Students and other comrades have been distributing *Red Flag* on CSU campuses in order to mobilize students to understand the truth about capitalism. We are currently working with a student who is very interested in communism, reads *Red Flag*, and attends study groups thanks to our common belief that capitalist education must be abolished if we can ever hope to truly help our class. We both came to this conclusion while on strike on our CSU campus but we need more people like her. This world can be won but only with the able hands of all of the working class and by reading, writing, distributing, and mobilizing for *Red Flag* and ICWP and a communist society.



Anti-Austerity Protest--Greece

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as the economy pulls out of bad times.

On the other hand, a crisis can be so severe that it creates a situation where communist revolutionary forces can grow. A severe crisis demands such a massive destruction of capitalist enterprises that it throws millions upon millions of workers into life and death situations.

It is not the economic logic of capitalism that worries the capitalists so much as the political consequences of it. At times like these the "specter of communism" haunts them. As a result, they prepare political movements to defend capitalism

one way (with socialist government) or another (with fascist government), which both sink the working class deeper into crisis, fascism and war preparations.

Elections play a key role in this. Weeks of intensive prime-time political propaganda aim to convince the masses that their only role is as endorsers and not makers of political programs. Because they champion the secret ballot, they heighten our sense of individualism (and vulnerability) while undercutting our sense of solidarity (and power) that a communist movement relies on. In general, elections shift opinion to the right.

Elections Build Nationalism

That was certainly the outcome of elections in Greece and France. In both elections two movements got huge endorsements – socialists and fascists. Not one political party – from the electoral "left" to the far right – called for abolishing the capitalist state. In fact the Greek Communist Party explicitly ruled out revolution, while the "communist left" in France called for European protectionism against the flood of cheap goods from China and other emerging economies. In this the electoral "left" differs only from the fascist forces of Le Pen in France or Golden Dawn in Greece in that their nationalism does not directly attack Europe's mainly Muslim immigrants.

Presenting the idea of nationalism and racism – in one form or another – as the only realistic choice for European workers was the overarching aim of these elections. It left an unstated impression that internationalism – the idea that workers of the world must unite to overthrow capitalism with a communist revolution – was an irrelevant pipe dream. By focusing on the crisis in Greece, the crisis in Spain or the crisis of the Euro, the

election propaganda turned the real world upside down.

Workers of the World Unite!!

The idea that the crisis of the tiny Greek economy threatens the stability of Europe and the world is nonsense. It is putting the cart before the horse. The reality is that it is the crisis of world capitalism that is currently showing up most sharply in Greece.

Since the 1970s the rate of profit from capitalist enterprises has generally been falling, despite ups and downs. Each capitalist enterprise reacts to this by cutting costs (to counter the falling rate) and expanding production (to grab a bigger share of the market and offset the falling rate). Yet the strategies of each enterprise trying to survive end up making the situation worse. More and more productive capacity ends up chasing poorer and poorer markets. A crisis of overproduction explodes and profitability is not restored until enough capitalist enterprises have been destroyed.

The brutal fact is that war – especially world war – is the most efficient way to destroy a rival's productive capacity. Nationalism and racism are the most efficient ways to mobilize the masses to fight those wars. *Red Flag* has taken up the fight for internationalism, not nationalism; for communist revolutions to end world wars. Communism won't have overproduction or crises of overproduction. We'll produce what workers need and will use, not for any market. Join ICWP and build it into a mass party to mobilize the masses for communism.



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

Write to : PMB 362
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“RED FLAG IS THE BEST OF ALL”

MEXICO—We distributed 240 of the May 1st edition of *Red Flag* in the classrooms of an agricultural university in the center of the country. As in the past, some professors gave us a few minutes of their class time for a brief speech and we took the opportunity to tell the youth what communism is, who is ICWP and present *Red Flag*. This time, in one group, a professor took the floor and, directing himself to us, commented, “Tell them, tell the youth in a few words; what is communism!” I hesitated for a moment and the professor continued, “Tell them that communism is the only way humanity can save itself.”

Even though this appears simple, it was complicated to synthesize everything that we want to tell the youth in a short time. I started by saying that it’s better if they learn about communism from a communist, but I admit that I spent more time in saying that communism has been a project of humanity historically than in saying what it is. We asked them to imagine what would happen if money didn’t have the value that it has, and the youth understood. Little by little, I am developing the ability to speak in public, in a loud voice, to objectively present the political line of ICWP.

In other groups we continued to offer students “the communist newspaper, *Red Flag*.” In the hallway, we asked two students if they had read *Red Flag* before and they said yes. “What did

you think of it?” we asked.

“It’s the best of them all,” they answered.

We immediately gave each one a copy of the latest paper and also our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

We asked them to read and analyze it and said that we’d be back soon to discuss it fully with them.

In the classrooms, we asked if students had already read *Red Flag* and we noticed that the network of readers is getting bigger and ICWP is becoming better known all the time.

In another classroom, the professor commented to us that he’s very glad that the youth are taking leadership in the building of a new society. He mentioned that he was surprised that the students of the IberoAmerican University (see page 1) were demonstrating against the system. He warned us not to fall into revisionism. He mentioned that there have been many student leaders who were supposedly leftists and they turned out to be sellouts. We commented that revisionism has done a lot of damage to the communist revo-



lution and that that’s why an international communist party made up of workers, students, soldiers, and all their allies is key; that we have to fight revisionism until we establish communism permanently. He allowed us to talk to his whole class, gave us some money and said goodbye with a hand shake, wishing us success in our struggle.

The youth are open to communist ideas. They are awake, angry at the capitalist system and very receptive to communist ideas. This is shown in the most recent events in Mexico City. We need to bring them the political line of ICWP that will guide them to the true change we all need.

United Farm Workers’ Celebrates:

CHAVEZ: MARTYR OR TRAITOR?

BAKERSFIELD, CA. May 20, 2012-The Farmworkers’ Union celebrated its fiftieth anniversary from the 18th to the 20th of May. But the union isn’t really fifty years old.

What is fifty years old is the National Association of Farmworkers, which Cesar Chavez tried to form in 1962. This association failed, since its program was only to help farmworkers with social issues: filling out welfare papers, providing translators, etc.

The Association didn’t have anything to do with raising wages, nor protests, nor much less with workers’ strikes. That’s why the workers who joined the organization didn’t come back and the Association only existed in its State registration papers.

In 1965, Cesar Chavez was finally persuaded, against his will, by some farmworkers to take action against the growers. These farmworkers organized the first strike in McFarland, California. That’s when the organization took the name of the Farmworkers Organizing Committee. But it wasn’t until 1972 that the AFL-CIO recognized it as the United Farm Workers.

This means that the United Farm Workers’ is

40 years old, not 50. Speaking clearly, what they should celebrate is May of 1965, the beginning of the farmworkers’ strikes and struggles in McFarland, California.

All these celebrations that the United Farm Workers’ hold are only a way for them to maintain a “public presence,” so that the farmworkers and others continue worshiping the cult of Cesar Chavez as their “great martyr and hero.”

But it’s nothing to celebrate. Because starting from 1965 when the farmworkers most needed strong and decisive leadership—with revolutionary politics and philosophy—they found themselves with a leader with defeatist pro-capitalist ideology who preferred class collaboration, not class struggle.

Instead of being a “great leader” that the press and the capitalist historians praise, Cesar Chavez was a great traitor to the working class. His political record confirms the following:

He was a racist and nationalist to the core. Both ideologies are the bosses’ weapons to divide and super exploit the working class. His nationalism kept him from fighting for unity between the Mexican and the many Filipino farmworkers.

But even more damaging was his rabid racism against undocumented workers. For a long time, Chavez didn’t accept these workers in the union. He closed the doors and then accused them of being scabs.

Instead of seeking unity between citizens and immigrants, documented and undocumented, to struggle against the racist immigration laws, his solution was to protest in front of the Migra offices in Bakersfield demanding the deportation of these workers.

Also, he demanded that the members of the Union report to the union office the names and addresses of the undocumented for the Migra to throw them out.

Lastly, he put the Wet Line at the Arizona-Mexico border, where members of the Union helped the Migra stop undocumented workers, many times savagely beating them.

Yes, Chavez was a great pacifist, but towards the bosses, not the workers. Pacifism is another ideology that only benefits the capitalists. We need revolutionary violence to break the chains that condemn us to be wage slaves of the bosses.

Chavez used pacifism and the hunger strikes supposedly to win strikes. But his real goal was to disarm the workers and lead them to the electoral politics of the Democratic Party. He expelled the most militant strikers from the movement, accusing them of being communists. Once he declared a hunger strike for 25 days in protest of the militancy of the strikers on the picket line.

Cesar Chavez has committed too many crimes against the workers to enumerate here. But his biggest crime was to be an anti-communist, as he declared in 1968. With this, he showed that his class position was openly capitalist. Thus he condemned the workers to be eternal wage slaves of the bosses because only communist revolution can break the chains of the bosses’ wage slavery.

Trade unionism, pacifist or militant, cannot liberate us from the yoke of capitalism. The unions are the enemy of the workers. They are a weapon in the service of the bosses because they justify the bosses’ exploitation at the same time that they limit our struggle to try to reform capitalism, not to destroy it.

The politicians and growers are the ones who should go to celebrations like the one that the Farmworkers Union just had. The work of ICWP is to mobilize the farmworkers and all the workers to fight for communism: a world without bosses, money, exploitation, racism or borders. Join us!



Revolutionary Russian Farm Workers

ICWP IN MAY DAY ACTIVITIES WITH THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT

LOS ANGELES--Working within the Occupy movement here (OLA) has been interesting. There are many good people in it. They all dislike capitalism as a system. Most people attracted to the movement and within this movement accept that capitalism cannot be reformed and must be "changed." However, there are no clear statements/declarations as to what should be done. What is the new system we are looking for—what is our vision—and how will we get there? This discussion seems to be intentionally avoided for the sake of creating unity. When discussions arise, we see the disagreements/contradictions within the group, but there is no allotted time for this discussion. "General Assembly" (GA) meetings format is not conducive to political discussions.

We sat in on many committee meetings leading up to the OLA May Day march and we had the same problems...no time for political discussions—however, we discussed logistics in great detail. Eventually OLA organized a "four winds" caravan with many events leading up to a convergence in downtown Los Angeles. The group as a whole was then supposed to meet up with an immigrants' rights group for a final march through downtown LA before culminating for a GA meeting that evening. There has been some disagreement as to why there was an hour and a half delay getting to immigrant rights march. It was obvious that the ruling class did not want the two groups to join together and others within Occupy either knowingly or unknowingly contributed to this.

Throughout this process there were op-

portunities to meet many new people and have good discussions about why we need a Party, why we need to move directly to communism after a revolution, how do we stay revolution-focused and not get sidetracked into becoming reform-focused, and finally the constant discussion of what is communism, as opposed to the many misconceptions of what it is. These discussions have been productive on a one to one level, however, it is also important to raise and have them with a wider audience (keeping security in mind).

One comrade's story:

I have made a few contacts and one who I believe will be the next to join ICWP. This individ-

ual came to our ICWP May Day dinner and was impressed. She understood that to put together the dinner took commitment and dedication to a common cause. She initially had questions with regard to my decision to join ICWP rather than simply being a communist, spreading communist ideas. One of her initial comments was "We are not in a time period where having one party is necessary." I think it has become clearer to her—perhaps after reading *Red Flag*, reading *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, and coming to our dinner that a party is necessary for communist revolution.

We have not had an opportunity to have this specific discussion as initially planned, but she recently mentioned to me that there are a lot of people open to communist ideas within Occupy who could be potential recruits for ICWP. It seems that she may be reconsidering her initial comment about the need for a party. I will continue to work with her so that she can see herself as an organizer of ICWP. We two can then work as a collective to organize these good people for the overthrow of capitalism. Our ICWP unifying theme begins with our understanding and acceptance as to why capitalism does not work for us, but ends with our common vision of what we are fighting for and how to fight for it. Joining ICWP which has this clear vision of what we are fighting for is crucial to creating a true communist system/society.



May 1 — Occupy Pasadena defies bosses' efforts to separate May Day activities, joining Burbank rally for recycling workers and Los Angeles immigrant-rights marches. Copies of *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* were eagerly received everywhere. Earlier, at a morning rush-hour rally in Pasadena, chants of "Whose country? Our country!" competed with "Whose world? Our world!" Contradictions within the movement became clear as "May Day, Workers' Day" became "May Day, Workers' Rights" and then "May Day, Workers' Power!"



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, DISCUSSING COMMUNISM

I have been involved with my local "Occupy" group for a short time, but we're off to a quick start. I'm building relationships and having great ongoing political discussions! In discussions of issues such as foreclosures, education, the police, oil and drones, I've been able to broaden the discussion and show how each is linked to capitalism. Fighting for the line includes identifying the true nature and function of capitalism and how communism is the only solution to these problems. I am passing out *Red Flag* and everyone took all of the May Day stickers I brought. Momentum quickly built for our May Day banner drop and rally at a busy intersection to reach morning rush hour traffic, where we passed out flyers and talked with passersby. This, the dozen or so people we had, and the drivers' enthusiastic honks and waves, really charged the group to reaffirm our commitments and build a base of support within our area.

My most notable experience of that rally was

the conversation I had with a homeless woman, who wondered why all the passing cars had to drive so fast. "Watching them rush by all morning makes me nauseous," she said. To her, the equation ended with her nausea. I asked, "How do you think they (the rat racers) feel...racing to work?" She said, "I never thought of that." We talked about how, under capitalism, "time is money" and about how stressful (and deadly) it is to be a worker under this system. "We have to survive the dehumanizing effects of slaving away for a pitiful wage and have all the value we create stolen from us, deal with crushing debt, massive layoffs and unemployment, dodge the murderous

police, try to avoid getting tossed into the street, ...we don't need the boss crawling down our throats because we're two minutes late."

I told her about how, under communism, we will not have to rush to jobs we hate, where bosses pit workers against each other, based on "race," gender, and legal status. Instead, we will work collectively for what society needs and everyone will give according to their commitment and ability.

She was very interested. We talked about homelessness, what it's like, and about the kind of system that creates those conditions for workers. She said that she "couldn't keep up (in the rat race)" so she was "tossed into the street". Before I invited her to join us in front of the bridge and at the General Assemblies, I told her, "Under communism, there won't be any unemployment or homelessness because we will need 'all hands' available to help with producing for society's needs."

She said she liked the way that sounded and I asked her, "Does a system like capitalism deserve to continue for one more day?" "Hell no!" she answered. "Hell no!" I replied.

It is interactions like this, and those we regularly have with family, friends, and co-workers, that prove that our class is ready to cast off the chains of capitalism and are increasingly open to our communist ideas. We must continue our work to meet this challenge and two ways to learn to do this better come with our upcoming summer project and cadre school, which will offer many opportunities to learn about communism and how to put our ideas into practice.

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DON'T BEG FOR PAY; FIGHT FOR A WORLD WITHOUT MONEY

EL SALVADOR—I am a teacher and I'm getting more and more involved in the activities of the struggle that we in the International Communist Workers' Party carry out in the union that I belong to. I see and live the struggles that we the working class are carrying out, looking for better living conditions, through the establishment of a system that will resolve these problems, and this can only be done with Communism. In these moments in El Salvador the workers organized in unions are carrying out a very strong reform

struggle. All the unions are demonstrating and making the same accusations and the same demands on the government. I'm talking with my fellow teachers and I explain to them that only a new economic system will help our class.

Currently they are demanding higher wages, because with the current wages, the working class can't cover the basic necessities for food and their families suffer hunger, malnutrition, diseases, and above all they fear that the coming of winter will cause grave problems. In a Communist system, money will be abolished and we won't have to go around begging for poverty wages.

The national teaching profession is divided here, because of economic interests of the lea-

ders who take advantage of the situation, who don't try to fight to unite us as one working class, but instead have sold out to capitalism for juicy sums of money. We need to unite and struggle against the capitalist empire which is the only one responsible for all the problems that the working class suffers. It's urgent that we organize as communists and recognize that only revolution for communism will end the poverty of the oppressed masses in our country and the whole world. Let's read *Red Flag* and organize the work of ICWP.

I am giving *Red Flag* to another worker.

Today more than ever I understand that ICWP represents the alternative for the workers.

Great Experience in Communist May Day

This day was somewhat difficult due to staying up so late and waking up at 4 am, but it was special, and I was accompanied throughout the day by a special person, and it always brings me positive things. It was all with one goal, to be with people who fight for a better future, committing ourselves to communism.

The day had many contrasts: people from different companies, and organizations came to the streets with signs and leaflets ...all with different ways of thinking, but something in common—to protest against the government which every day buries us more and more in poverty, stripping us of the true value of people, of education. We all know the truth of the capitalist lies, that's not much, but we all know and we realize that they spend their time disarming us of all that is good and arming us at the same time, but with many negative things, like racism, violence, lies, beliefs (divided because that's the only way they can control us) and of course ignorance, because with it they treat us however they want and manage us as they wish.

Some conversations showed me that there is a world to discover, people who in the past gave everything to make a change and to have a different system and, just like now, dedicated themselves to communism. I saw that what we live through in this world is like a plague that overpowers and molds you little by little, and when you become aware of it, you're like everybody else, you complain but never do anything truly convincing. I realized that if you want to change things you have to have your objective in your mind at all times and hang onto it, be consistent, not ignorant, and defeat the fear of knowing the truth, because that's the worst—the fear of knowing the truth of how everything works in this world—the fear that exists inside of you.

In spite of the fact that many people attended the marches and protests, how many really go of their own will and convinced that they want to make a change? That was one of so many impressive commentaries and with strong courage which left me marked and convinced that in spite of so many false steps, disillusion, mental blows (which are stronger than something physical) there are people with whom you can share ideas, speak about the truth and continue preparing ourselves for the future that has already begun and to fight for this change, for the truth, for each one of us, for communism.

Living these experiences is more fruitful than talking about them. Getting excited, taking a risk and sharing with other people is the best, because we can extend our struggle for communism.

Red Youth in Mexico

Elections--Capitalist Trick

EL SALVADOR—On March 11, 2012, elections for mayors and representatives were carried out in El Salvador. The results were a showing of the lack of confidence and credibility in the leaders of the fmln.

On that day absenteeism and abstentions won, and in this way the workers demonstrated their opinions; only about 49% of the voters went to the polls.

We could refer to the party of the right (ARENA), but it's already known that they aspire to keep this indifferent, cruel and inhuman system. I want to refer to the party of the "left," in which the masses have deposited their hungry needs to change structures, and their hopes.

We can expand an inventory of realities that we live in this "democracy." It's an illusion that invites us to vote every 3 to 5 years and then, what? To live in a dictatorship that the bosses impose.

It's clear that while the capitalist system is maintained, our "revolutionary" spokespeople rapidly slip and slide. Their dreams, ideals, and convictions slip away, and we must put these convictions to the test, against the temptations of power, the desire for power of these people, the greed, and the ambition. Because, that's how we know who we are. And that's how, like now, we know who they are.

These elections serve to make us aware how the masses have grown qualitatively, how they have revolutionized their opinion of the elections since 2009. Now they are beginning to observe, not just to see, to listen, not just hear, to ask, to be curious, to analyze, to discern, not just to say "yes." Now, the uncertainty, the doubts, the indignation, have risen in the people about the electoral political parties, about the political leaders, that they are not the solutions to the problems of the capitalist system. This can lead to knowing that the elections, the unions, the credit ratings, etc. are only tools of the system to make it acceptable, to make us believe that it self-regulates.

Until the communist alternative comes, we can't be indifferent to this current reality. We can't pretend that this doesn't affect us, or that we go around as blind volunteers. I hope not.

I only want to be part of this voice, that is, say what others don't say, what others don't allow to be said. I want to declare, no matter if later they suspend my function, I speak about what my inexpert conscience understands about what this incoherent world says. I hope that they don't hate me for saying the truth, my truth; it's subjective, no? Because they know that I don't want them to like me for saying what they want me to say, for being a hypocrite, for being one more pawn.

--Red Youth in El Salvador

Having Communist Ideas

A comrade wrote about being communist at a young age (*Red Flag*, 3/29). This comrade is one of the lucky people who equate their hatred for the capitalist system with a need for communism.

I recently heard a respected communist leader say that people do not have spontaneous communist ideas and that we need to help people arrive at these ideas. I do not quite understand this. I feel like I have had spontaneous communist ideas my whole life. I just did not know what they meant, or I was afraid to admit they were communist because of the fear and hatred instilled by lifelong capitalist education and propaganda.

We need to be true to our compassion and empathy for others. Guided by this and the knowledge that capitalism is the wrong system for the masses, we can begin to understand that the things we think about daily but disregard because we have to make enough to barely hang on, are (or can) lead to communist ideas. These ideas must be discussed, nurtured, and grown, not tossed aside to deepen our descent into capitalism.

For example, we think: "I wish this was free." "I would contribute to the best of my ability and get what I need." "Why do I need insurance?" "Why are there borders around countries? Why are there countries?" "Why am I fighting in this war?" "Why do I work so hard and get next to nothing in return?" "I cannot find a job. Am I worthless?"

Under communism we workers will control everything and would not be exploited for the gain of another class. With a mass realization that potentially we have all the control and the bosses have none, we can rule the world. To spark a revolution we do not need to wait for nearing World War III. We need to have a solid organized general (political) strike, including the military (our sons and daughters) AGAINST capitalism and FOR communism.

If everyone let go of fears based only in this fascist racist imperialist capitalist system, then we would allow ourselves to congregate and organize en masse to take control of the means of production. The bosses would be dead. Join ICWP!

—Comrade

Red Flag responds: Thank you for your thoughtful letter. Certainly many people have anti-capitalist questions and thoughts, but they need our communist answers and analysis. Also, building communism requires armed insurrection, not just massive political strikes or factory takeovers. More readers should write about these issues.

Join the 2012 ICWP Summer Projects: INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND SOLDIERS: KEY TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES--“No summer classes? I’ll never get my degree!” An avalanche of budget cuts, fee hikes, and new restrictions is burying many students’ hopes that a college degree will let them escape wage slavery. We must look to a brighter future than the gilded chains of a white-collar job, and the iron chains of debt that come with it! Communism will end wage slavery and its education system that builds illusions and divisions among us. The ICWP Summer Projects will unite students and youth with the industrial workers and soldiers who are key to mobilizing the masses for communism.

Amidst the budget cuts, federal and corporate money is pouring into community colleges for short-term training programs that funnel young workers into aerospace factories and wherever else the rulers need them. The capitalist-imperialists know that the global crisis of capitalism and, in particular, the declining competitiveness of US capitalism mean war sooner rather than later. This summer, young revolutionaries should seize this opportunity to get into the factories and organize for communism!

If you’ve thought about joining the military, the Summer Project will help you get ready. Red sailors in the Petrograd garrison became the core of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917. Chi-

nese Red Army soldiers led the masses to defeat Japanese imperialism and US-backed Chinese capitalists in 1948-49. A few years later, they brought the Red Army’s “supply system” back to their villages and helped lead a mass movement toward communist relations of production in the countryside. Get in shape politically and physically to organize soldiers and sailors!

Other Summer Project volunteers will bring *Red Flag* and the ICWP manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* to military personnel, aerospace and transit and garment workers “from the outside” in Los Angeles, Seattle, and the Bay Area. We’ll visit workers to learn from them and to recruit them into the Party. Study-action groups, social events, an organizers’ school, and other activities will deepen our understanding of communism and our commitment to communist work, now and in the future.

We’ll study the meaning and practice of mobilizing the masses for communism and political economy so we can understand the deepening capitalist crisis and rivalry between the imperialists and the communist solution. We’ll study and use dialectical and his-

torical materialism, the communist science of change, to learn how things change and how we can change them to build a mass party for communism.

Whether you’re a worker or a student, younger or older, employed or unemployed, there will be many ways to participate in the ICWP Summer Projects. One immediate task is to help raise money for literature, housing and transportation. To donate or find out more, call (310) 487-7674 or email icwp@anonymousspeech.com or ask the person who gave you this paper.

ICWP Summer Project, 2011



U.S-China Rivalry Means More Deaths in Africa

SUDANESE WORKERS MUST UNITE FOR COMMUNISM

The decline of US imperialism relative to China was illustrated last week when President Kiir of South Sudan showed up in China, cowboy hat in hand. Although the hat was actually on his head, his intent was clear.

When South Sudan split off from Sudan, forming its own “country” in 2011, it was with the understanding that its US allies would finance its infrastructure and pipelines. The US would get the oil that South Sudan had previously sent north to be loaded into Chinese ships.

But the US bosses have their own problems and they haven’t come through for South Sudan. Thus, Kiir had to go begging to China. Before the split, Sudanese oil, most of which is in the south or in regions along the north/south border, used to flow north to Port Said, where two-thirds of it was purchased by China. The US backed the peace treaty which split Sudan in two, and hoped to have South Sudan as a dependent ally. Then

the US bosses could deprive China of Sudanese oil by possibly building a pipeline (paid for by Toyota) from South Sudan through Kenya to the Indian Ocean. This would also counter Chinese influence in the horn of Africa.

War Without End in Sudan

Instead, since the declaration of independence in July, fighting has not stopped. The fate of the crucial oil-rich border region of Abyei has never been decided on. Hostilities have escalated between [north] Sudan and South Sudan over oil; Sudan charged South Sudan a surcharge on the oil it carried to make up for the damage the split did to the Sudanese economy. In response, South Sudan refused to pay its transit fees for sending oil through the North’s pipelines. Then Sudan seized the oil in South Sudanese ships to make up the owed fees. Finally, South Sudan shut down oil production, crippling both its own economy and Sudan’s.

The next move was Sudan’s—they stepped up border raids on South Sudan, which responded by invading Kevlig, a region near Abyei, just over the border in Sudan. As hostilities increased, former South African President Thabo Mbeki went to the region on behalf of the African Union, but so far has been unable to put an end to the fighting. African Union troops have been called out as peacekeepers and the UN has threatened to impose sanctions on both sides.

South Sudan’s Kiir Looks to China for Help

At the same time, the president of South Sudan, hedging his bets, went to China, and came home with an \$8 billion deal for major development projects: roads, bridges, telecom networks, hydro-electric power plants—BUT no agreement to build a new pipeline. China wants to work both sides of the street as well and doesn’t want to antagonize Sudan by building a pipeline that would

allow South Sudanese oil to bypass its northern neighbor.

The *New York Times* published an op-ed piece in early May encouraging war to overthrow the government of [north] Sudan, calling its president a racist murderer. Yes, all African bosses, like all bosses, are racist butchers. The biggest racist murderers, however, are the imperialists who are willing to have Africans kill each other in a war where the only real winners will be the US or the Chinese imperialists fighting to gain control over the oil in the region.

Sudanese Workers Must Learn from History and Build ICWP

Although the bosses foment civil war and ethnic violence, Sudan had (with Iraq) one of the two largest Communist Parties in the region, including members from north and south, of Muslim and Christian backgrounds. However, like all the communist parties then, it suffered the same fatal internal weakness that destroyed the old international communist movement. In Sudan and Iraq they allied with nationalist bosses in electoral politics and ended up being slaughtered by their “allies.”

It is inspiring, however, to know that Sudanese workers have massively followed communist leadership when provided. This should give us confidence that Sudanese workers can unite again in a new communist movement, instead of being used as pawns in the inter-imperialist rivalry between the US and Chinese bosses. Sudanese workers need to organize the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) to fight for the interests of our class. Worldwide, this is the choice that all workers and their allies face: build ICWP to mobilize for communism or continue being wage slaves and victims of the bosses’ wars for oil profits and empire.

