

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



LOS ANGELES PROTESTS AGAINST CAPITALIST MURDER



GARMENT WORKERS WELCOME COMMUNIST RALLY FOR COMRADES IN BANGLADESH

LOS ANGELES, May 24—Hundreds of garment workers cheered a communist rally in front of the Jean Mart factory, in support of the Bangladeshi workers. We have been coming to this factory regularly and distributing close to 300 *Red Flags* each time.

A dozen workers, students, and teachers and workers with *Red Flag*, signs and a bullhorn in hand set up in front of the factory entrance.

“We are here not only to denounce the murder of our Bangladeshi sisters and brothers but also to denounce capitalism as a murderous system world wide,” said a speaker.

Many workers took pictures and even recorded the rally with their phones. Groups eagerly lined up for the paper. Four hundred took copies in all.

“We need a system free of exploitation, a system where we workers do not work to make a boss or a group of bosses rich. We need communism, where the factories, the machinery, the land and all of the means of production will be under our control,” said another speaker.

“Man this was a great rally,” said a student, and then added “I was surprised at how many workers took *Red Flag*.”

“The workers were very excited,” said a worker who participated in the rally at a forum that night (see p. 3). “Some gave me their names and phone numbers.”

All in all, this rally was a small example of the international communist solidarity we must continue build worldwide.

BOEING MACHINISTS: PUT CAPITALISM ON THE “NO-FLY” LIST

SEATTLE— “We were more than ready to talk back. If we had ropes, he’d be hanging from the rafters,” said a young Boeing Machinist after a general meeting with the big boss. “He [the boss] just doesn’t know it!”

“Can I quote you on that?” asked a comrade. “Go right ahead!”

An older machine operator added: “I think I was brainwashed for three quarters of my life. I used to think when the big boss spoke or the newspaper printed it, it was true. Now I know it’s all bull.”

They were responding to the bosses’ pitch to increase productivity. Workers weren’t buying it, especially after they found out that Boeing CEO Jim McNerney had outlined his plan for the company last week at a South Carolina investors’ conference.

Productivity Profits Produce Penniless Workers

McNerney chairs President Obama’s council on exports. He plans to increase profits by squeezing suppliers and cutting jobs across the company. He made it clear that suppliers that don’t agree to cut their prices as contracts are renewed will find themselves on the outside.

“If a certain group is not working with us... they’ll be on the no-fly list. They’ll not be al-

lowed to bid on new programs with Boeing,” said McNerney.

Suppliers will be forced to cut subcontractor workers’ wages below their already-abysmal levels, while doubling down on harassment to speed-up production. Black, latino/a, and immigrant workers from around the world make up large sections of the subcontractor workforce. McNerney dubbed this increase in racist exploitation “Partnering for Success.”

Nor is he limiting the impoverishment to subcontractor workers. “Now that we have internal competition [between plants in South Carolina and Washington State] we are going to get much better [labor] deals,” McNerney vowed.

Boeing Workers Call It “The Bangladesh Plan”

Wal-Mart, H&M, Sears and all the other big garment retailers exert their dominance over Bangladeshi garment bosses by demanding lower and lower production costs. Boeing does the same with its suppliers in southern California, Texas, and South Carolina.

But Bangladeshi capitalists are not innocent. They meet these demands by literally killing thousands with life-destroying working conditions and starvation wages. That’s what McNerney has in mind with his “no-fly lists.”

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U.S.-China Summit: A Mirage of Peace

IMPERIALIST WAR OR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!

US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet on June 7-8 in Rancho Mirage, California, for what the White House calls a “shirt-sleeves” summit. This informal atmosphere, according to the White House, “should allow for a greater degree of openness to ‘constructively manage’ the two sides’ differences.”

Some are less optimistic: “inevitably, there is the post-summit letdown. The issues were the same as always. The leaders didn’t really get along (although no one quite says that). And new agreements were never in the cards,” wrote Elizabeth C. Economy of the influential Council on Foreign Relations.

Foreign Policy chimes in: “The administration is forgetting that national interests, and not personalities, drive international politics.” (6/4) *The New York Times*, puts it more bluntly: “For better or worse, America and China are bound together in a form of mutually assured economic destruction.” (6/2)

This is a rare candid acceptance of what *Red Flag* consistently points out: The US and China’s bosses are increasingly locked in a battle for economic supremacy. They need to control the world’s markets and the cheapest sources of raw material and labor. It is a battle that will inevitably lead to World War III.

The US Imperialism in Rapid Decline – Chinese Imperialism on Meteoric Rise

Worldwide, US bosses have lost market share, access to natural resources, investment opportunities and political influence. China, on the other hand, has become the world’s leading exporter. Its trade surplus in 2012 was \$231 billion. The US trade deficit for that year was \$540 billion (including \$315 billion with China).



Chinese soldiers guard their bosses’ interests in Iraqi oil fields.

China also surpassed the US in 2012 as the biggest trading nation. While the US is the world’s biggest debtor nation, China has become the world’s biggest lender, out lending the US-EU-controlled World Bank.



US Pivots to Asia -China Marches West: Imperialist Dance of Death

No imperialist power gives up its dominant status without a fight. And, no imperialist power rises peacefully. US and Chinese imperialism are no exceptions. The US response to China’s rise is “rebalancing” or “pivot to Asia.” China responds by “Marching West.”

With the world’s biggest navy and with those of a coalition it is building in the region, the US bosses hope in times of war to blockade China to stop its world’s trade, including importing the energy needed for its industries and military machine.

At the recent Shangri-La Conference, in Singapore (5/31-6/2), Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said the US is committed to this strategy “even under the most extreme budget scenarios, the United States military will continue to represent nearly 40 percent of global defense expenditures.”

The US bosses are also building their Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade alliance that excludes and attempts to isolate China and interferes with its efforts at East Asian regional economic integration.

Beijing sees that the US “rebalancing” and its military alliances in Asia Pacific as trying to contain China’s rise: “The redeployment of the US fleet and air force is merely an easily-achieved effort to comfort the US’ allies. China’s rise stems from economic growth, a trend that cannot be impeded by the relocation of American warship.” *Global Times* 6/3.

But China wants to avoid, for now, head on military confrontation with the US over, for example, the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands, where China and Japan are vying for control. Instead, China’s plan is to “March West,” to expand its influence and investment in Central Asia, South Asia and Latin America.

Of especial strategic importance is its march to the Middle East which is to guarantee a road route for its oil imports needed in times of war to bypass the US controlled Asia-Pacific sea routes.

Capitalism Makes Imperialist War Inevitable

Imperialism is the inevitable outcome of the capitalist system, which is based on competition among capitalists for maximum profit. Capitalists use the value they steal from workers to expand to countries, maximizing profits by paying lower wages and stealing the natural resources for their industries. The logic of capitalism makes imperialists incapable of sharing the world’s markets, resources and labor. Their competition leads inexorable to world war.

Communism will end Imperialism

Unlike the bosses, the workers of the world are capable of sharing what we produce and planning our lives and future to meet our collective needs. In fact, our lives depend on it.

Angry workers from Greece, Turkey, Bangladesh, to Mexico and the US are fighting the slave labor conditions imposed on them to pay for capitalism’s crisis and the coming world war. To put an end to the bosses’ genocidal plans workers must mobilize for a revolution to destroy capitalism, its inevitable competition, exploitation, and war for maximum profits.

The massive uprising of workers worldwide shows the urgency of building communist solidarity and internationalism by building the International Communist Workers’ Party and spreading *Red Flag*. This will guarantee that workers, soldiers and students turn the main contradiction in the world from one between the bloodthirsty bosses to one between the world’s workers and all bosses. Communist revolution means masses mobilizing for a world where we share everything and produce only for our class. Eliminating money and bosses, there will be no competition for profit—only real cooperation for need.



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Garment Workers Talk About Bangladesh

DESTROY WAGE SLAVERY WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES, CA—A garment worker comrade made an emotional and communist presentation about the death of over 1100 garment workers in Bangladesh to a group of garment workers, transit workers, and others. The Power Point presentation included photos of the collapse of the garment factory, the rebellion of the Bangladeshi workers, and the ICWP May Day marches internationally.

He emphasized the struggle for communism as the only solution to wage slavery, not the creation of unions or reforms of building codes, which are being pushed by liberals and fake leftists. The exploitation and extraction of \$ billions in profits comes from the low wages, speed-up and secondarily the conditions of the buildings. New and se-

cure buildings won't end exploitation.

He showed the enormous fury and revolutionary potential of these men and women workers. He said that during the crisis after the collapse, thousands of them risked their own lives to help save their class brothers and sisters. They had to confront the police to keep them from removing the rubble with people still below it. He said that the slogan, "Hang the Bosses" resonated among thousands of these workers. Many of these workers showed many aspects of commu-

nism, and potentially can be won to the ideas and to communist struggle, to discard reformist ideas and struggle to build ICWP to mobilize for a communist world.

One participant said, "This [mass murder] reflects the crisis of capitalism. It's linked to the inter-imperialist struggle and preparations for world war. This macabre exploitation, where they pay \$38 per month is to enlarge capitalist profits and also to have money for their military adventures."

During the discussion, final arrangements were made for a protest in downtown Los Angeles at the time when thousands of workers are leaving the garment factories and shops.

The day of the protest, a group of comrades and friends came. Some held signs, others helped to distribute hundreds of copies of our newspaper *Red Flag* to workers who gladly received it and listened to speeches about the need to avenge the



deaths of these workers by fighting for communist revolution.

In both the presentation and the rally, we answered the question: "What is the importance for us of what happened to the workers in Bangladesh?"

One speaker at the protest answered this question, saying, "The deaths of these garment workers in Bangladesh, and of the thousands who die crossing the US-Mexican border, those who die in Mexico and Central America, are a product of capitalism. We have to say ENOUGH. These workers call on us to avenge these deaths, organizing a worldwide communist movement to smash capitalism. We workers are the ones who produce everything. To lead our communist society, we don't need banks or money, or bosses or exploitation. If we don't want to leave a future of wage slavery to our children, join our movement and let's fight for a communist society."

MTA WORKERS: LET'S PREPARE POLITICAL ACTIONS AGAINST THE CRIMINAL CAPITALIST BOSSES!

Two issues ago, *Red Flag* condemned the California Employment Development Department, the MTA Board of Directors and the treacherous UNION officials of the UTU— for the unjustifiable murder of fired MTA driver Alberto. His suicide note proved how capitalism is a murderous system.

In 1913, on the eve of World War I, when faced with a similar situation, Russian workers responded with a massive political strike that inspired hundreds of thousands of other workers, and helped to hasten the communist-led revolution of 1917. We can still learn from and be inspired by it.

Unable to Bear the Shame of Being Branded a Thief, a Humble Worker Commits Suicide

Jacob Strongin, a machinist at the New Lessner factory in St. Petersburg, was given several hundred special screw nuts on which to cut threads. In the process a few were lost. The foreman accused him of stealing them and threatened to fire him, branding him a thief, if he didn't return them in two days.

The worker stayed after hours looking for the nuts but couldn't find them. Early the next morning he was found hanged. As the news spread through the factory, all the workers left their workplaces and gathered around the dead body. While searching the body, the police found a letter in one of his pockets. The infuriated workers forced management to read it. It said:

"Comrades: The foreman accuses me of theft. Before I finish with my life, I want to tell you this, comrades, I am innocent. This is vouched for by my conscience, my heart, my worker's honesty, but I cannot prove it. I cannot leave the factory,

branded as a thief by the foreman, so I have decided to end it all.... Good-bye, dear comrades and remember — I am innocent. Jacob Strongin."

On hearing this, the workers demanded that the foreman responsible for Strongin's death be fired. Management refused. The workers downed their tools and decided to strike until the murderer was removed from the factory. They and thousands of workers from other factories in St. Petersburg went to Strongin's funeral.

The company responded to the strike by firing all the workers. It placed ads in newspapers for strikebreakers, but no workers responded. Management then tried sending the company's work to be done at other factories. But the strikers appealed to all metal workers to boycott all such work and these workers responded unanimously. Soon, the workers at the other Lessner factory struck in support.

The strike became famous throughout Russia and workers sent contributions to its strike fund from places as far as Siberia. The strike lasted 102 days. The workers, however, eventually returned to work.

Nevertheless, the strike was of enormous significance in the history of the Russian working-class movement. It was a major political strike: the workers raised no economic demands. Their only demand was the dismissal of the murderous foreman. As such, it helped create the subjective conditions that four years later would see the Russian working class taking state power for socialism.

We Need Communism Not Socialism or Any Other Kind of Capitalism

Socialism turned out to be state capitalism, with all the inherent horrors of free-market

capitalism. Since they fought for socialism, Russian communists did not make it a strike for communism. Dismissal of the foreman would still leave capitalism intact. A communist strike would have called for the destruction of capitalism, its private property, its money and its wage slavery together with all foremen and the bosses, the biggest thieves in history.

In a communist world, we will produce and share the fruits of our labor according to need. No one will ever be called a thief, much less hounded to death over things that our labor power can easily replace.

Communism will integrate production and education to develop collectively the social relations that will guarantee we treat one another with respect, dignity and appreciation.

Responding to Alberto's Murder, *Red Flag* Should Have Called for a Political Strike against Capitalism

We did call on workers to avenge Alberto's murder by joining ICWP and spreading *Red Flag*. However, self critically, we should have also suggested public actions against capitalism like a political strike, a work stoppage of hours or minutes, lunch-time meetings or the wearing of arm bands to show anger and contempt for this murderous system.

This showed some lack of confidence in the working class. Our responsibility is to call on workers to take the most advanced political action possible. The times and the needs of our class demand no less.

“Baby 59” Shows the Results of Capitalist Social Isolation

LET’S FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST COLLECTIVITY

If you were on Yahoo this week, you saw the photo of “Baby 59,” a Chinese newborn rescued from a sewer pipe. His 22-year-old single mother, a recent migrant from the countryside to the city, isolated and alone, hid her pregnancy and gave birth alone in the community toilet of the apartment building where she lives. When her baby slipped down the toilet, she called the paramedics anonymously, only later revealing her identity.

This kind of story, with its voyeurism and its moral outrage against the mother, is made for the Internet. What Yahoo won’t address, however, is this question: What kind of society condemns a woman to such brutal isolation that she is forced to hide her pregnancy and give birth alone?

We can answer it: capitalist society. Although it calls itself communist, China is capitalist. The Chinese communists fought for socialism which is in essence state capitalism. Although China still calls itself communist, this kind of society has nothing in common with communism.

Communist Society Will Create Cooperation—Not Isolation

In capitalist society, the nuclear family—and sometimes just a pregnant woman alone in an apartment—is the economic unit. We are wage slaves, forced to work for the money we need to pay bills. Capitalism sets us up for individualism, competition, and isolation by the economics of survival.

Communism will do away with wages and money. Free of the coercion of paying the bills, we’ll work to produce what we need as a society. We’ll decide together what to produce and how to distribute it so everyone’s needs are met. We’ll be looking out for our neighbors and co-workers,

making sure that their needs are met.

Transforming the economic system will enable us to revolutionize our thinking. Instead of individual or family survival, we will learn to think about a larger human family. We will share each other’s joys and problems as well as sharing in the fruits of our labor.

Capitalism isolates and oppresses women around the world

Capitalist society, with its individualism and resulting isolation, hits women especially hard. Around the world women have the responsibility to deal with pregnancy, childbirth, and child rearing, often alone. In China, peasant women before the revolution were faced with extreme oppression. They worked in the fields until they gave birth, and often saw their children starve to death. Subject to the authority of their fathers and husbands, women were traditionally powerless. But defying that authority, women played an active role in the Chinese revolution, marched with Mao on the Long March, fought for the transformation of peasant villages, and helped lead the Cultural Revolution.

The Cultural Revolution was an attempt by millions of Chinese communist workers and students to kick out of the government the red bourgeoisie, communist leaders who had become capitalists, and to turn China from the Socialist path towards true communism. But the left of the Cultural Revolution was defeated. In the 1980s the Chinese bosses appropriated the collective property of the masses. As a result, the capitalists

are enjoying prosperity, and working men and women are faced with extreme exploitation and alienation.

The logic of capitalist competition, especially in a period of worldwide capitalist crisis, is a race to the bottom. More and more workers will face extreme exploitation and murderous conditions. In search of higher profits, US firms which used to produce in China are finding that they can exploit workers even more profitably in Mexico, Central America or Bangladesh, where wages are even lower and exploitation more extreme than in China.

But workers can learn some important lessons from the collapse of the garment factory last month in Bangladesh. The first is that capitalism means death. Extreme exploitation, isolation and war are what capitalism has in store for workers around the world. The second is that workers, women workers in particular, are not doomed to the social isolation of the mother of “Baby 59” in China. Women garment workers in Bangladesh joined with men workers to fight the cops to rescue their fellow workers who were trapped in the factory collapse. This militant concern for their fellow workers is the embryo of the new social relations which will be born with communist revolution.



“Painstakingly concentrate your efforts and skilfully study your capability, 1965”

“Let’s Face the Company Together”

In the upcoming month, MTA is going to TEST those of us who have tattoos. A lot of us were hired years ago with TATTOOS already. How is it that now our tattoos endanger the safety of our passengers?

They want us to cover them up, or remove them, and yet they will NOT reimburse us. “Yes,” management says because of their religion. They say if we have religious tattoos, then we should go through the process and let Gate Way (main office) decide. So now, they are EXPERTS on, or will they just follow legal procedures and at the end rule against us? I do not remember seeing on my job application any questions about my religion or being told anything about my tattoos when I was

hired, years ago.

I would agree if we had tattoos that were degrading, defacing, vulgar, or obscene.

They say it affects our driving. I have never gone sick, I have never been on the sick list nor have I gotten workman’s comp because of a tattoo. I have gotten so many compliments and it makes me proud. I feel that this is just harassment. When will it stop and what is next? Will they tell us about our facial hair? So when will it end... when?

I know ALL of us who have tattoos are going to face a rough time ahead. Do we give in or do we stand for what we had on when we were hired? But I encourage ALL operators, full and part time, to stand together and let’s face the company together.

—MTA bus operator

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These attacks dominated the Q & A discussion at the Seattle meeting. “Why would we workers buy into your plan?” was the general sentiment that some expressed aloud.

“Otherwise we can do nothing. I really worry about this company 25 years from now. Look at Auto, they came back!” the big boss whined.

“Yeah, look at Auto! They’re working for a third of the wages!”

Another worker gave a speech about how the US is dedicated to make a few grotesquely wealthy, while bleeding the rest of us. Still another demonstrated that the bosses’ productivity boost was meant to insure big profits so the company can continue to spend \$billions on low-

wage South Carolina assembly plants.

Boeing Bosses Follow the Only Path Open to Capitalists

Each company and industry has particular features, but all enterprises must bend to the laws of motion of capitalism. Capitalist businesses must maximize their profits to survive.

Imperialist exploitation has become an indispensable way for huge firms to maximize their rate of return. Last November, for example, Boeing hosted a conference for suppliers on outsourcing to Mexico.

Boeing’s ever-increasing global supply chain is the inevitable result of this imperialism, the final stage of capitalism. It mirrors the pattern of US manufacturing in general: cutting and outsourcing jobs to low-wage regions or countries.

The only way to abolish these laws is with communist revolution. Communism produces for the needs of our class, not for profits. Every aspect of production will change to advance the goal of mobilizing the masses for communism.

We don’t advocate passivity. We want action, but not according to the bosses’ rules. Let’s give these bosses something to really worry about.

Let’s mobilize to take production out of their bloody, profit-soaked hands, and transform it to serve the needs of the masses.

Let’s increase the circulation of *Red Flag* and bring this struggle onto the shop floor and into union meetings.

Let’s mobilize the masses for communism.

Foot soldiers are NOT the enemy...**BOSSSES USE JIHADISTS AND FASCISTS TO SPARK RACE WAR IN BRITAIN**

“The revolution,” went the song, “will not be televised.” However, the counter-revolution will. Every type of media – print, radio and television – will be used to build fascist forces whenever capitalism needs them.

Building the International Communist Workers’ Party and distributing *Red Flag*, to mobilize the masses for communism, are our best counters to this reactionary situation.

The vicious murder of the British soldier, Lee Rigby, by Islamic jihadists, together with the press coverage it received, is a case in point. The press guaranteed two immediate beneficiaries: the British Army and the fascist English Defense League (EDL).

First, the groundswell of sympathy for the unarmed Rigby is being used to justify further British imperialist war designs in Syria. Secondly, the homegrown fascist EDL was emboldened not just to demonstrate but to carry out hundreds of attacks on mosques and Muslim individuals.

Incidents like this have a name: “the propaganda of the deed.” It is a classic capitalist method of undermining class consciousness. A racist atrocity is answered by a nationalist atrocity. The working class becomes divided and explodes in anger against itself. It is fatal to be passive as these scenarios develop.

Our weapon is in our hands. *Red Flag* calls for a communist world free of capitalism-imperialism, based on money and production for profits. Eliminating them will eliminate the material base that gave rise and perpetuates the poisonous ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, patriotism

and religious fanaticism. It will create a world without borders or nations, where the international working class will share everything according to need.

Red Flag channels the growing anger of the working class to fight for this vision.

Destitution on a Large Scale

And the working class today in Britain has plenty to be angry about. “Destitution, hardship and hunger on a large scale,” reported Oxfam recently, describing the situation. It talks of people walking miles (unable to afford the bus) to a private food pantry, only to be turned away because it had run out of food. In Manchester, home of two of the world’s five richest soccer clubs, a quarter of the population lives in extreme poverty.

As always, racism intensifies the horror, and black youth bear the brunt of that racism. Back in 2010 (over two years before the start of the government’s ‘austerity program’) their unemployment rate was 53%! A desperate situation which, in the last thirteen years, has seen more black youth murdered than British soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Out of a community that makes up 2.8% of the population, they represent 40% of those incarcerated in the juvenile system.

No wonder, given this overall picture, the British state machinery fosters Islamic fascism (jihadists) on the one hand and British fascism (EDL) on the other. Better for them that those who walk to the (empty) food pantry attack one another than unite!

Capitalist-Imperialists: The Biggest Fascists

Michael Adebolajo, one of the jihadist killers,

and British intelligence have a long history of interaction. The British government twice plucked him from a Kenyan jail as he attempted to join Al-Shabaab, the East African jihadist group. At least one report claims he was recently seen trying to recruit youth to join jihadists in Syria (to fight for British imperialist interests there). “We want to start a war,” Adebolajo said when asked why he hacked to death the British soldier.

The capitalists worldwide, like in Bangladesh, are using religious fundamentalism hoping to divert Muslim workers from the path of revolution. Muslim workers in England should not fall for this trick. But, the biggest danger is white workers in England falling prey to the anti-Muslim racism being pushed by the British rulers. Instead of goose-stepping behind these butchers, they need to unite with Muslim and non-white workers to fight for communism.

Working-class soldiers in the capitalist-imperialist armies are key to communist revolution. Without them revolution is not possible. They are not the enemy. They must, however, be won to communist ideas and to turn the guns around on the bosses. Revolutionary youth should join the bosses’ armed forces to recruit these soldiers.

Instead of racial war, let’s organize class war for communism to wipe all bosses from the face of the earth. Today, the “propaganda of the deed” is operating in Britain, but as a tool of bloody counter revolution it can be used anywhere. Let these events serve as a warning; it is urgent we build our revolutionary forces. Help distribute *Red Flag*! Join and build ICWP.

MOBILIZING THE MASSES THROUGH RED FLAG

El Salvador—I and other ICWP comrades went to the May Day demonstration in the capital on a bus with a group of “socialists.”

When we marched, we came face to face with workers, youth and students who, like us, yearn for communism.



This experience has strengthened my commitment to ICWP. We distributed all the *Red Flags* we had—280 copies.

“Hey, take this communist newspaper. You’ll like it,” I told them. “This is the manifesto of the working class.”

I met a woman worker, about 30 years old and offered her our manifesto, Mobilize the Masses for Communism. (MMC). She took it without apprehension. We talked about how the capitalist system and its servants give us news every day through their corrupt press and that we have to counter it with our communist literature.

“We, the ICWP, with *Red Flag*, are in the factories and where ever else workers are exploited by the bosses,” I said.

“That’s good,” she answered; “but we should tell workers that through the pro-

duction of commodities, bosses and even governments make profits.”

At that moment, a young university student came up to me. “Take it,” I told him, “This is the communist newspaper, our solution; and here is our address.”

“Thanks, give me two—no, you better give me three,” he said.

We finished distributing *Red Flag* and MMC without any apparent military interference. But there was opposition by some members of the government/ FMLN who oppose any communist presence.

The armed struggle I lived through began with communist doctrine in the 1970’s. These ideas helped the guerrilla leaders to motivate us, and we followed them. Now they reject communist ideas and those of us who fight for them. I understand why: today these former guerrilla leaders have ambitions to become capitalists through their ALBA businesses.

The war is on! We communists in ICWP are fighting face to face against capitalism, socialism and imperialist wars for profit.

Forward! We will not lose heart!

--Worker in El Salvador

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RESPOND TO TRAGEDY IN BANGLADESH WITH COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY

LOS ANGELES— After finding out about the recent developments in Bangladesh we produced a letter of solidarity with the workers in Bangladesh. The content of the letter follows:

As students we condemn the killing of our working-class sisters and brothers. We consider that the cause of the death of the workers was the thirst for profit, an integral part of the capitalist system. Capitalism is a living hell for all workers in the world.

We are inspired by and applaud the bravery and heroism that you all have demonstrated in the face of this great tragedy. Your collective efforts in the rescue operations together with the struggle that you have unleashed against capitalist authorities show the enormous potential of our class.

We admire the techniques implemented to save the people inside the building. You have engineered techniques and learned quickly how to rescue without government assistance. And these things were done only to help your fellow workers without expecting anything in return.

We can organize a different society; let's mobilize the masses for communism where we, the

working class, will organize and will control all means of production; machinery, factories and the land. We will organize work and production to meet human needs and not to satisfy capitalist profits.

Comrades, we are with you. We invite you to join in the liberation of the international working class. From every corner of the world all together fight for what we deserve!

We discussed this letter widely and collectively worked on it. After reaching an agreement about the final content, we distributed it inside the school. We have collected many signatures to show support and solidarity. School is about to end, but before it does, we will visit classrooms and we will present the letter to students so they may sign it.

All of this represents a small step in the process of us becoming class conscious that we are an international working class with the power of destroying the material base of capitalism and building a new communist society of free men and women workers!



LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

OVERPRODUCTION ATTACKS GARMENT WORKERS WORLDWIDE

LOS ANGELES—"They've lowered the number of orders and there are rumors of layoffs. We have to take care of what we have." That's what a garment factory worker said to her co-worker.

"It seems that it's because in Europe they raised the taxes on denim jeans 26%...I'm mad, with these bosses' fight for markets, we garment workers have to compete with other garment workers, speeding up to complete more production so they won't fire us," answered another worker.

Here they pay by the piece, causing workers to be part of their own exploitation. Many times workers don't even get up to go to the bathroom so they don't lose time.

In this factory, the cost of making a pair of pants is between \$2 and \$3. In stores, the pants sell for over \$100 a pair. Around the world, from Bangladesh to Los Angeles, millions of pieces of clothing are produced. Such uncontrolled production means that more clothing is produced than can be sold for a profit.

As a consequence of their competition for markets, bosses must start commercial "wars" and lay off workers to try to save on costs and wages. This is a capitalist crisis of overproduction and the basis of all the problems that we workers suffer.

On May 1st, the European Union (EU) raised its import taxes on women's high-end denim jeans from 12% to 38%. This tariff, which will take effect in April 2014,

will be an obstacle for US companies. US production represents 22% of world wide production of women's high-end denim jeans, those that are sold for over \$75 each pair. This sector had sales of \$1.4 billion last year.

The EU tariff will especially affect California producers who make over 3/4 of the high-end women's denim jeans produced in the US and exported to Europe and elsewhere.

We garment workers in Los Angeles, Mexico, Bangladesh, or China must see and understand that capitalists are only interested in their profits, not the wellbeing of workers anywhere.

Only in a communist society can we produce the pants and other things to meet the needs of the working class, not to make any

boss rich. In communism, if 30,000 workers live in a city, clothes will be produced in a collective calculated way based on how many changes of clothes everyone needs for a certain time period while their other needs are also met. This clothing could be recycled to design new styles with varieties of colors, without having to keep the same clothes for long periods.

Help to organize ICWP and distribute **Red Flag**, to destroy this capitalist society of competition and robbery and to build a world of cooperation and creativity, where we will resolve problems collectively.

--Comrade from ICWP and ex-garment worker



WE CONTINUE ADVANCING WITH RED FLAG IN MEXICO

On May Day, ICWP comrades went to talk with workers who marched in Mexico City.

We comrades decided the most effective action for our communist struggle would be to distribute **Red Flag** and spend time talking to workers.

One worker, even though it was the first time that he had heard about ICWP, became so interested that he asked for all the previous editions of **Red Flag** and ICWP's manifesto **Mobilize the Masses for Communism**.

Another marcher became interested and said she would read **Red Flag** to learn about communist struggle. She promised to review ICWP's website and become a **Red Flag** reader. She also said that she would contact us to clear up her questions and continue to talk.

Our May Day work was successful. We sold and distributed many **Red Flags** and manifestos.

In mid-May, an ICWP group went to a University campus to pass out **Red Flag**. Some comrades had been distributing **Red Flag** frequently at the University, so many students and workers already know us. They asked for the newspaper and gave small donations to help reproduce it.

The university authorities also knew about our paper and didn't want us to distribute it because they are afraid that readers might become critical of capitalism. This does not suit their class interests.

The authorities' security guards came to run us off from the area where we were distributing **Red Flag**. They claimed that the University authorities' policy was that

no unauthorized activity was allowed in this area called "social services."

A comrade offered one of these security guards a **Red Flag** to read instead of following his superiors' orders. After all, we were only distributing our newspaper and not breaking any capitalist laws. The security guard did not accept **Red Flag** but became less rigid.

We moved from the area and continued to pass out our newspaper until we finished. We had distributed and sold over 250 **Red Flags**.

A worker took **Red Flag** and told a comrade that the authorities were imposing repressive rules in the university and we should be careful. The worker helpfully pointed out places where video cameras were installed to spy on students and workers and advised us to forget the "social services" area. He told us of other areas where we could continue to distribute the paper.

The authorities believe they are "bosses" and they support capitalism which is why they don't want students and workers to read **Red Flag**. They want to continue imposing their repressive rules without protest.

However, the working class and students have no other way out. The way out is to build communism in all corners of the planet. The comrades of ICWP will continue to distribute **Red Flag**. We invite everyone to read, write for, and distribute **Red Flag**, and to join ICWP. Together we will start to destroy capitalism and build communism.

--Comrade in Mexico

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

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

New Comrade Learns By Doing

I've known *Red Flag* for about eight months, ever since I met some great comrades who have supported us very much. They have also invited us to meet other communist members, and I have heard the opinions of each of them. But the more I hear and learn, in my mind new questions about communism arise, and I learn more about the evil deeds of capitalism worldwide, but especially in a part of Mexico.

I have seen the evil deeds against the working class. It's like you observe what is happening around you, but if you don't have sufficient basis to defend yourself, you feel so helpless, not being able to do anything. But you have to know how to wait for the time and the right moment in which there will be a great mobilization of workers, and there we will be present.

This year we continue to live in Mexico City, and to our good fortune, our comrades cordially invited us to participate with them on May Day, International Workers' Day.

This day was so special for me since it was the first time I went to Mexico City and was able to see the reality of a May Day. Clearly it's not the way they make it look on television. I saw several workers with different signs, different demands on the capitalist government, and especially demands for better working conditions. However, I didn't just observe, I also contributed by distributing *Red Flag*.

In reality it was something that was very important to me, both personally and for my political development. At that moment, having *Red Flag* in my hands, I felt very nervous, since I saw around me a big crowd of workers, and several security guards who gave a cold, arrogant look, maybe anticipating a confrontation.

At that moment, without waiting and thinking about it, I began to distribute *Red Flag*. Some maybe paid no attention. Perhaps because they didn't know our newspaper, they avoided it.

Some people were friendly, voluntarily donating money and especially asking about *Red Flag*. For a moment I remained silent, and I was thinking about "my ignorance," since it is still hard for me to express myself as a communist. But in order not to remain silent, I said that the workers' disagreements and problems



are being discussed in the pages of *Red Flag*...and that's what I said at the time.

At the end of the day I felt very excited and happy with myself since I had been able to pass one more test (trial) in my life and especially as a one more member of communism.

I hope that this is not the first or the last time that I am encouraged to write to *Red Flag*. A well-deserved greeting to the whole working

class that day in and day out strive and struggle to have equality in their daily activities.

--Comrade in Mexico



Students Bring Red Flag to Garment Workers

New Social System Will Bring Out Best in Human Nature

A few days ago, an acquaintance invited us for margaritas. We were upset when he told us that war was inevitable because killing was "human nature." We argued back but I don't think we convinced him.

When I told this to comrades, one said that she knew from people with connections in Bangladesh that people who went without being asked to rescue garment workers had to fight the police. The police had been ordered to stop rescue efforts so the rubble could be bulldozed so evidence of crimes by the owners would be obliterated.

This reminded us of Hurricane Katrina, when a military helicopter pilot was reprimanded for saving people stranded on rooftops. The reprimand was later rescinded after it was reported in the media. There were probably other pilots who didn't stop because they knew they would be disciplined if they did. And, there was probably at least one other pilot who was disciplined for saving people that the media did not report.

Humans evolved to be part of social systems. We are capable of horrible atrocities and wonderful self-sacrifice. Which of these predominates depends on the social situation. That's why we must fight for a social system that nourishes the positive side of our nature.

—Pasadena comrade

Take the struggle for communism to the masses!

I do not know where to begin, because my beginning is organizing against imperialism for communism.

Part of that involves recruiting and bringing to the movement people who may be straight, gay, transgendered, etc. But I go to meetings where you are required to state your gender preference, as if that

was the purpose of the struggle.

I view most of this an extension of identity politics, which divides and diverts the united struggle of the working class for a communist future. People are demanding that you get my gender straight, and I am saying, forget that noise, you get it straight and let's get on with the struggle we have to make.

In other words, I don't see any of it helping to

build a movement we need. I see it derailing our movement and making us answer to a handful of people who demand that we adhere to their demands or interests.

We don't need them. I run into them in movement circles, but they are not among the masses. You never see them there. They have their conferences, they have their meeting agendas, where you are required to state your gender preference. It makes no difference to the rulers, and it makes no difference to me, so don't demand that of me.

I feel strongly that movement politics is a dead end because of this deepening crisis. I mean, it is silly and stupid and only serves its own narratives. I want revolutionary internationalist politics. We can address substantive issues of class oppression...how you see yourself is not an issue to me.

—In the struggle



Greek Protesters Support Struggle in Turkey

Self-Criticism: Unions Go Wrong Way, Not Half Way

The *Red Flag* article about the 1934 general textile strike in the US south made the important point that unions (and trade-unionist ideology) are not "part of the solution." They are part of the problem. Unfortunately, the front-page headline "no half-way solutions" suggests the opposite: that unionization and legal reforms might get us part of the way to a solution.

The solution we need is communism, and the way to get there is to mobilize the masses for it. Popularizing this idea has been a main theme, and an important contribution, of *Red Flag/ICWP*.

In contrast, the mistaken idea that militant reform might get us "halfway" to revolution or communism has been a mainstay of past communist-led movements. Many groups today still promote or act on it. They don't see how "reform now, revolution later" contributed to the catastrophic failures of the twentieth century.

So it's really important that *Red Flag* constantly and consistently make it clear to our readers around the world that what's wrong with unions isn't just "sellout leaders." As the 1934 strike article made clear, the main trouble with unions is that they tie workers to wage slavery – no matter who leads them.

--*Red Flag* Editorial Collective

Mass Protests Grow in Turkey:

FIGHT CORPORATE POWER WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

The masses in Turkey have joined the wave of rebellion that began with the Arab Spring, spread across southern Europe, and continues to rage in Syria.

The spark came on June 1 when bulldozers razed Istanbul's Gezi Park (see below). The tinder was growing social discontent amidst severe income inequality and the threat of Turkish intervention in neighboring Syria.

Mass protests spread in the face of brutal repression. Protesters in Bursa, in western Turkey, blocked the main highway.

On June 4, thousands of workers (teachers, doctors, and others in two large labor federations) on a political "warning strike" marched in Istanbul and Ankara. The Türk Metal Union (with 115,000 members) is may also strike, against the key industry in Turkey's manufacturing sector. As in Egypt, a rising of industrial workers could change the nature of the struggle.

Over 1000 marched in Thessaloniki, Greece, in solidarity with Turkish protesters. They defied the nationalism pushed by rival Greek and Turkish bosses. (See picture page 7.) Other solidarity rallies happened in Krakow (Poland), Madrid (Spain), Oxford (England), San Francisco and Los Angeles (US), and elsewhere.



Crowds in Istanbul have chanted, "Tayyip [Erdogan] resign" and "shoulder to shoulder against fascism." As the following report shows, many in Istanbul cling to dangerous illusions that the capitalist state can be reformed to meet their needs.

Young protesters in Egypt who are already learning that "regime change" isn't enough are posting videos to share this lesson with comrades

in Turkey. South African miners, too, have seen that ANC leaders they once supported are now in bed with capitalist bosses. Fascism and democracy are two sides of the same capitalist coin.

Only by mobilizing for communist revolution, not reform, can the masses protect ourselves, respect ourselves, and win the ability to make the decisions that affect our lives.

From a friend's friend's friend in Istanbul:

"A group of people got together in Istanbul's Gezi Park. Among them there were many of my friends and students. Their reason was simple: To prevent and protest the upcoming demolishing of the park for the sake of building yet another shopping mall at very center of the city!

"The tearing down of the trees was supposed to begin early Thursday morning. People went to the park with their blankets, books and children. They spent the night under the trees. Early in the morning when the bulldozers started to pull the hundred-year-old trees out of the ground, they stood up against them to stop the operation.

"But the police arrived with water cannon vehicles and pepper spray. They chased the crowds out of the park.

"In the evening the number of protesters multiplied. So did the number of police. Meanwhile local government of Istanbul shut down all the ways leading up to Taksim square where the Gezi Park is located. Yet more and more people made their way up to the center of

the city.

"They came from all around Istanbul. They came from all different backgrounds, different ideologies, different religions.

"Police chased them with pepper spray and tear gas and drove their tanks over people who offered the police food in return. Two young people were run over by the tanks and were killed. Another young woman was hit in the head by one

of the incoming tear gas canisters.

"The whole country is being sold to corporations by the government, for the construction of malls, luxury condominiums, freeways, dams and



nuclear plants. The government is looking for (and creating when necessary) any excuse to attack Syria against its people's will.

"Government control over its people's personal lives has become unbearable. The state passed many laws and regulations concerning abortion, cesarean birth, sale and use of alcohol and even the color of lipstick worn by airline stewardesses.

"People are demanding their right to live freely and receive justice, protection and respect from the State. They demand to be involved in the decision-making processes about the city they live in.

"What they have received instead is excessive force and enormous amounts of tear gas shot straight into their faces. Three people lost their eyes.

"Yet they still march. Hundred of thousands join them. Couple of more thousand passed the Bosphorus Bridge on foot to support the people of Taksim.

"Schools, hospitals and even 5 star hotels opened their doors to the injured. Doctors filled the classrooms and hotel rooms to provide first aid. Some police officers refused to spray innocent people with tear gas and quit their jobs. Restaurants offered food and water for free.

"People in Ankara and İzmir gathered on the streets to support the resistance in Istanbul.

"By spreading the word to you, my friends who live in other parts of the world, I am hoping to get your awareness, support and help!"

2013 Summer Projects in Los Angeles, Oakland & Seattle

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY

Help Bring **RED FLAG** to Families, Workers & Soldiers



★ **Study Groups**

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Mobilize the Masses for Communism