



# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)

## **WORKERS NEED POLITICAL STRIKES AGAINST RACIST COP TERROR AND FOR COMMUNISM, SEE PAGE 2**



Baton Rouge



Los Angeles



London



London



Baton Rouge



Toronto

Outraged workers worldwide have taken to the streets in protests against racist police murders in the US.

ICWP in Los Angeles, USA has started a summer project in which we are focusing on industrial workers like MTA and garment workers. We're taking them the idea of organizing political strikes against racist police terror and for communism.

### **BOEING WORKERS TALK BREXIT, COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

SEATTLE, USA-- June 24— The discussions about the British vote to leave the European Union (Brexit) began at 5:15 AM, even before the first shift began to filter into the Boeing plant. Party members were asked over and over again, "What did it all mean?"

During the next week, in work-site after work-site, we argued that the main thing it meant was that communism is the only way out. That means building the party now.

Workers were not satisfied with the coverage in the bosses' media. These reports focused on what it meant for this boss or that, this country or that and who will line up with whom.

"All I know," said a machinist who reads *Red Flag*, "No matter which of these guys ends up on top, we [workers] pay."

This general anxiety heightened when Airbus's threats were pub-

lished later on in the day. "Britain ... could no longer take for granted a strategic position inside the plane maker," cautioned CEO Tom Enders. Fifteen thousand Airbus workers were warned they would have to be more competitive.

"Uh-Oh!" said another reader after he saw the announcement in *Boeing News Chips*, "I know what that means: no more pensions, wage cuts for new hires and all the rest." Boeing workers know all about this, having gone through it for the last decade.

Within a week, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer (roughly equivalent to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, but with extra powers) vowed to slash corporate taxes. The UK was "still open for business" he bragged. Not so much for the those in need of affordable housing or the National Health Service!

Even more important in many

See **BOEING & BREXIT**, page 4

### **GARMENT WORKERS NEED TO ABOLISH ALL WAGE SLAVERY**

LOS ANGELES, USA--Recently about 100 women and men garment workers organized a work stoppage. The workers stopped working because the minimum wage had been raised but the miserable prices that the boss pays for each operation or piece rate has stayed the same.

Now, to make the minimum wage, the workers have to sew more pieces. For those who aren't able to make the new minimum wage, the boss "contributes" the rest but she only allows them to work five hours.

We say she "contributes" because a US industrial worker produces \$171 thousand a year, an average of \$85 per hour. Therefore, in one hour a garment worker produces an 8-hour day's minimum wage. The rest is stolen by the contractors, manufacturers and store owners.

Furthermore, the boss opened a 5-hour night shift. This shift finishes

the work the day shift can't finish. Thus the day shift has less work and is either laid off or has to wait longer for work, making it even more difficult to make the minimum wage.

"We are treated like modern slaves. They are constantly speeding us up, shouting 'Work faster!' We used to have two 15-minute breaks, now they are only 10 minutes. We eat in unbearable heat. The bosses eat in air conditioning," a worker said indignantly.

Several things come to light here: **The bosses are parasites who get rich off our labor. Whether we like it or not, we are their wage slaves. The struggle to raise the piece rate cannot eliminate the bosses' exploitation or their wage slavery. Only communist revolution can do that.**

By eliminating money, communism will eliminate the "modern" or

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**TRANSIT WORKERS MUST BUILD ICWP COLLECTIVES PAGE 3**

**BREXIT: CAPITALIST CRISIS, COMMUNIST OPPORTUNITY PAGE 4**

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**IMMIGRATION LAWS WON'T BENEFIT OUR CLASS PAGE 8**



## What the Working Class Needs Now

# POLITICAL STRIKES AGAINST RACIST POLICE MURDERS AND FOR COMMUNISM



July 13--Workers around the world have poured out in outraged protest against the racist, but not-so-surprising killings of black workers in the US: Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, LA, and Philando Castile in Falcon Heights, MN. Much less reported were the police murders of Vinson Ramos, Anthony Nuñez, and Pedro Villanueva in California since July 4th.

Mass protests have shut down streets throughout the US and as far away as Berlin and London. Church leaders are demanding police reform: a special prosecutor to handle these cases whenever an officer-involved shooting occurs. In Dallas, Texas, a lone gunman took it upon himself to kill cops with his assault rifle in retaliation for police attacks on black workers. Many of our friends see it as pay-back, but individual violence is useless. Instead, we need the mass violent overthrow of capitalism.

This capitalist system—based on racism and exploitation—has to be ripped up by the roots in order for us to sow the seeds of change and a better tomorrow for the working class. That's going to take mobilizing the masses for communism—a system without wage slavery, bosses, borders or cops. We can't be derailed from that goal through reforms or reactionary tactics.

**Communism will eliminate the material basis for racism and for cops themselves by eliminating capitalist wage slavery.**

The capitalist wage system, based on compe-

rich off of someone else's labor. We'll produce collectively what we need to take care of each other. There won't be any money. Instead of bosses hiring and firing us we'll work together, planning, organizing, and doing what needs to be done. No one will have to worry about being thrown out on the street because they lost their jobs. No one will be forced to hustle (sell CDs in front of a convenience store) to survive.

A society divided between rich and poor needs cops. Communism, eliminating that division, will eliminate the need for cops. By ending the biggest robbery of them all, the theft of our labor, and organizing society to meet workers' needs, we'll eliminate most of the basis of street crime. In a communist society, if there's a problem, we'll call our neighbors and deal with it directly.

**Capitalism needs racist police terror** because the capitalists—one tenth of 1%—own the factories, transportation systems and media. They get rich off the work of our class. This same tiny minority controls the state apparatus: the government institutions including the army, schools, courts, and cops. They use it to maintain their rule. Racist terror—from lynch mobs to the modern day lynching of police murder—and the criminalization of an entire generation by the new "Jim Crow" of mass incarceration (see page 5) are vital elements of their class rule.

Policing in the US was violent and racist from the beginning. Modern policing grew out of the

titution, needs racism to keep us pitted against each other. We need a job to pay bills and the bosses know it. So we're always struggling to survive. The bosses use that to divide the working class, keeping wages low and weakening our united resistance to exploitation.

Communism is based on cooperation. No one will get

slave patrols which hunted down runaways from chattel slavery, as well as from the Pinkerton Agents hired by the capitalists to violently crush strikes against wage slavery. Cops have always been an arm of the capitalists against workers, "free" and enslaved.

US cops have killed more than 500 people this year. While most of them were white, black people are more than twice as likely to be killed by the cops as whites, closely followed by Native Americans and Latinos. But all of them were members of the working class. The cops don't shoot down the Donald Trumps of this world.

That's how racism works. By intensifying attacks on Black, Latino, and Native American workers, they cheapen all our lives. And in this period of capitalist crisis, the bosses need a cheaper working class to compete against their rival bosses around the world.

This police terror takes place around the world: the lynching of the Dalits in India, the killing in teachers in Mexico and Zimbabwe, devastation in Gaza, murder in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro.

We are one class with the potential to unite to overthrow the bosses, take power and organize a communist society based on human need. Then capitalism and its reign of racist police terror will be a thing of the past.

### What should we do now?

We must build a revolutionary communist party—International Communist Workers' Party --by building collectives on the job, in our schools, neighborhoods and barracks. These collectives can do the day-to-day work of mobilizing the masses for a communist revolution.

Part of that process is organizing political strikes against racist police terror and for communism. Shutting it down every time a worker is killed by a cop will help build the class solidarity and consciousness that we need.

We call on Los Angeles transit workers to organize a massive strike in which all buses stop for 5 minutes to all day the next time the police kill one of our class brothers or sisters.

We urge students to walk out of class when they hear the news.

We call on industrial workers, at Boeing, in garment shops in Los Angeles, Bangladesh and El Salvador, in the auto plants in Mexico, in the mines and metal shops in South Africa, to turn off their machines and down their tools.

Go into the streets with the demonstrators with the slogans "End Racist Police Terror by Killing Capitalism! Mobilize the Masses for Communism."

And we invite all workers to distribute *Red Flag* and to join ICWP to create what we need—a communist revolution.



Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)**  
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## Transit workers: "Racist Police Murders are Intolerable"

### BUILD ICWP COLLECTIVES TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES, USA-- "I can perceive in the environment rebellions and the beginning of a revolution. It's time to do something, because what is happening is inconceivable and intolerable," said a Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) mechanic.

"These murders are not only the product of racist or psychologically sick police, even though there are thousands of them in those repressive forces. Instead, this is a plan conceived by the ruling class to maintain oppression and create and inject fear in the heart of the working class. We need radical leadership. What can we do?" said a second mechanic.

"We must organize a communist revolution, because it is the only solution. Because we the workers are the ones called on to take this leadership organized in ICWP", said a third.

These workers were discussing the latest murders of black workers gunned down by racist US police. Many MTA workers and many others all

over the US and in other parts of the world are asking: What can we all do about it?

Our answer specifically here at MTA, and elsewhere, is to organize ICWP collectives to organize political actions at the workplace to respond to the bosses' racist and fascist attacks against our class nationally and internationally.

Our goal is to organize political strikes and demonstrations against capitalism and for communism. These actions would not raise reformist demands – like "justice" for those murdered. These still leave the capitalist-imperialist racist beast alive to continue destroying millions of workers' lives worldwide.

In fact, we would only put forward political slogans – like "To end racism we must end capitalism with communist revolution!" "Death to capitalism! Power to the workers! Fight for communism!"

Our slogans would tell our class that we shouldn't fight for crumbs but for the whole

world. Our banners would remind the toiling masses that our historic task is to be the gravediggers of capitalism and we should fight for nothing less than communism.

Such slogans will inspire millions worldwide. But to get there we have to start somewhere. MTA is a good place to start. Hundreds here have been reading *Red Flag* for years. Many help distribute it. They should join ICWP and organize collectives to discuss and carry out our strategy of organizing political strikes and the communist ideas of *Red Flag*.

That's because to be able to achieve our goal of a communist society we need to have a clear vision of communism to inspire ourselves and the masses to fight for it. This will require much commitment, tenacity, heroism, and loyalty to our class and Party. These values can only be cultivated by studying the history and theory of communism and putting it into practice. This will forge new communist leaders tempered in the class struggle.

All *Red Flag* readers at MTA are invited to participate in our next communist school about Dialectical Materialism. The three workers mentioned above received our pamphlet about Dialectical Materialism and said they would participate.

These workers' comments and the favorable reaction to our leaflet (the editorial on page 2) which is being distributed massively, shows that times are changing and our political work of years is beginning to be reflected in the political analyses of co-workers who are *Red Flag* readers. Our next step is to intensify the struggle with them to join a collective of ICWP.



## Garment Workers from page 1

wage slavery. Nothing will be bought or sold. We will all have useful and creative work, without bosses or their foremen "speeding us up" to squeeze us for more profits. We will never be fired or threatened with sending our work elsewhere. Without borders, countries, or immigration laws, we will all be welcome wherever we go.

Collectively we will produce and distribute everything according to need. We will all have adequate food and housing, medical service and education for life. We will treat each other with respect and dignity, without being the servants or the bosses of anyone.

"It sounds very nice! But how do we achieve it?"

A worker at this factory once said, "Communism and religion promise a paradise: religion in the sky; communism on earth."

Communists fight for an earthly "paradise" because we are dialectical materialists. We know that the class struggle - between the capitalists

and workers - is constant, unstoppable and is to the death. It will inevitably end in a revolution where workers led by communists will sweep the capitalists off the face of the earth.

This struggle is intensifying worldwide. These garment workers struck because they can't live under the new conditions imposed by the bosses.

This rebelliousness is latent in thousands of other garment workers, janitors, transit workers and millions of other workers in the US. Eventually it will explode in pitched battles like those of the teachers in Oaxaca, Mexico.

These teachers should join ICWP and mobilize for communism the masses of students and workers who support them. These in turn should mobilize the soldiers and industrial workers nationally. When this happens, communist revolution and our "earthly paradise" would become a reality.

That workers will fight is undeniable. The important question is: What will they fight for and how will they fight?

Fighting for reforms -- wage or piece rate increases -- will never end capitalism and its horrors. Relying on politicians and government

offices like the Labor Commission is a dead-end street.

Our task is to organize communist revolution. Our demonstrations and strikes must be political. They must be against capitalism and for communism to build a massive ICWP and help mobilize the masses for communism.

The political slogans at such actions would be: "Abolish wage slavery!" "Death to capitalism-imperialism! Fight for Communism!" "Smash capitalism's borders, nations and 'races'!" "Only communist revolution will end racism and sexism!"

We have a long way to go. Every journey begins with a first step, small but indispensable. A first step is to join and organize collectives of ICWP to study and distribute *Red Flag*. The more of us who take the path to communist revolution, the sooner we will achieve our earthly paradise.



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## Brexit Vote Shows:

### WORLDWIDE CRISIS AND OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A MASS ICWP

Brexit, the vote for Britain to leave the European Union (EU), tells us that the capitalists “austerity programs” are creating an ungovernable working class, a class capable of being racist or revolutionary. It is a nightmare for the capitalists because, given their economic crisis, they can offer only austerity programs and war.

Their nightmare becomes our opportunity. It allows us to address an enlivened working class about the deadly limits of democracy. It strengthens our call for building a revolutionary communist alternative.

“Brexit” is both a result of global capitalist crisis and a cause of the sharpening of that crisis. It heightens the danger of imperialist war and expands opportunities for communist revolution.

It demands that we redouble our efforts to mobilize masses everywhere for communism.

Brexit is a casualty of the rapid decline of US imperialism and the rapid rise of Chinese imperialism. Never in history has such a repositioning happened so quickly. Brexit reflects a serious shift in the sharpening rivalry among the world’s imperialists.

If Brexit is carried through, it is a blow to US imperialism, which has counted on the UK to support it in the EU and NATO. The disintegration of the EU would be a geopolitical disaster for them.

The UK, like any other nationalist ruling class sees an opportunity. They are looking to China to invest in everything from their nuclear power to high speed rail.

These contradictions will drive Russia, Germany, and France to strengthen ties.

This makes World War III closer.

**The masses can’t live in the old way.** Incredibly, 65.3 million people are refugees today: one person out of every 123 in the world. One in ten lacks clean water – 75.8 million in India alone. One of us out of every nine does not get enough food.

We don’t have to live like this. And we don’t have to live in the “old way” — capitalism never met the needs of the masses. Workers produce everything. When we break the chains of capitalism’s wage slavery we can produce and share everything we need.

That means communist social relations of pro-

duction. We must organize ourselves as a mass international party that collectively makes and carries out all decisions in the best interest of the world’s workers.

Communism means no racism. The Brexit vote mobilized a significant section of the working class around anti-immigrant nationalism and racism – against its own class interest.

In contrast, communism unites the working class. It fights all divisions by “race” and nation, gender and religion. A communist world will have no borders!

Mass mobilization for communism will create the material basis for ending racism, nationalism, and imperialism forever.

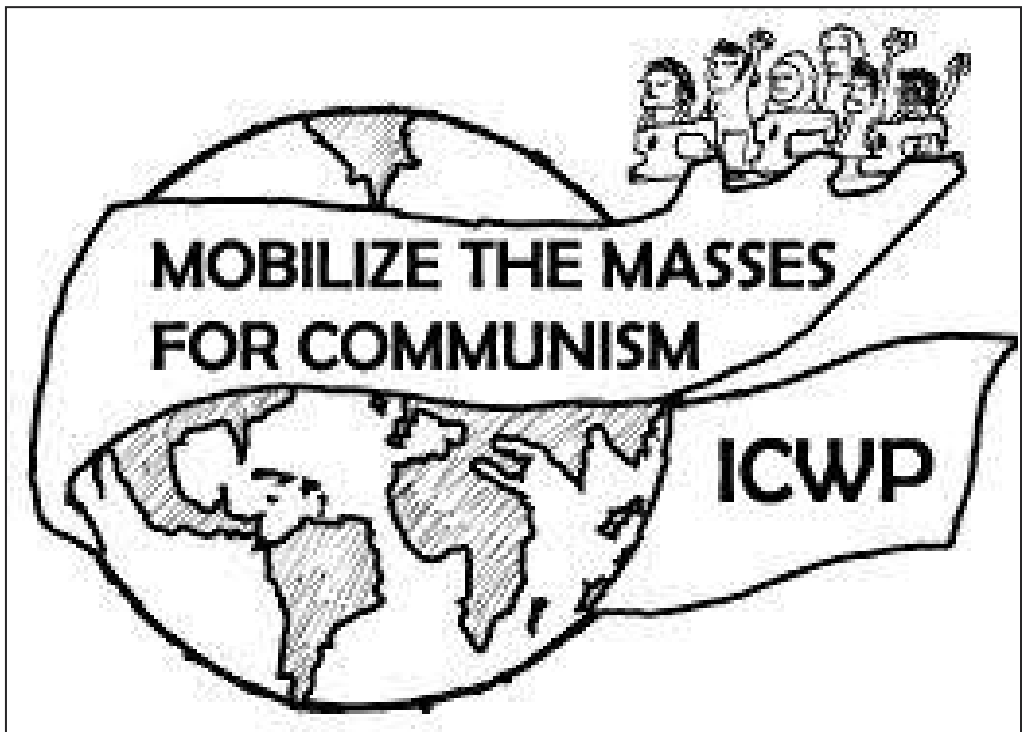
**The rulers can’t rule in the same old way.** Capitalist competition inevitably leads to global crises of overproduction. “There is a glut of global commodities, particularly oil,” wrote a capitalist analyst. “There is a glut of labor, with elevated unemployment in much of the world.”

Too much labor! In communism there will be no such thing. Everyone will work to produce things we need, to take care of each other, and to expand the realms of human creativity.

Communism has no use for money and markets. Money allows a handful of capitalists to extract unheard-of wealth from workers’ labor. Worldwide, 62 individuals own more than the 3.7 billion people!

Sharpening inter-imperialist competition means world war sooner than you might think. Brexit suggests “the potential for a reordering of power, economic relationships, borders and ideologies around the globe,” an end of the post-1945 order imposed by the US and its allies.

**Brexit makes the world less stable.**



Brexit has already undermined the US diplomatic “pivot to Asia Pacific.” That makes US military presence there even more important. It increases the likelihood of a confrontation with China.

China stands to gain from Brexit and the trouble it is causing the US.

Russian capitalists are also winners. *Russia Times* openly encouraged Brexit. An EU without Britain is less likely to enforce sanctions on Russia. Russia hopes that European turmoil will weaken NATO.

US rulers, seeing a weaker Europe, might try harder to build direct relationships with Ukraine and Central Asia. This would increase the chance of a US-Russia military confrontation.

In this period of global “reordering of power” it is all the more important to organize for communism inside the bosses’ militaries as well as in the factories, the schools and the streets.

Brexit reveals the emergence of an objectively revolutionary situation worldwide. Communist revolution is the only way out of the bosses’ crisis. But no revolution can happen without the consciously communist organization of the masses.

Join the ICWP and help to turn the bosses’ crises and wars into mass mobilization for communism!

## BOEING & BREXIT from page 1

workers’ eyes was the racist, xenophobic propaganda used in the “Leave” campaign (doubly so after racist killings by U.S. cops in the last week). One worker who was born in Africa and lived in London was keenly aware of the way “competition for jobs” affects workers’ thinking.

Only communism will end this kind of competition by ending the wage system. Capitalist competition not only pits boss against boss and country against country, but also worker against worker.

In communism there will never be too many of us “causing” unemployment or lower wages. The material basis of racist xenophobia will be torn up by its roots.

Your place of origin will become irrelevant. Each will contribute according to their ability and commitment. We’ll all work to take care of each other.

Our social bonds will strengthen as we work for the common good. Our party is dedicated to mounting the kinds of international anti-racist campaigns necessary to solidify these bonds. We will live in a world where everyone will be wel-

come everywhere.

### Communist History Expands Discussion

The *Red Flag* issue being circulated during these debates featured an article on the history of the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Workers were interested so one comrade asked his workmates if they had heard of the document “Whither China?”

“Whither China?” attempted to lay out the options before Chinese workers during this period: either advance to full communism or fall prey to a new capitalist regime.

Today we need to write a new chapter in our history: “Whither the World’s Workers?”

“You got that right!” shouted a third machinist, coming into work on 2nd shift.

### Surprise. Surprise.

“None of this surprises me.” added still another *Red Flag* distributor. “Things are just getting too tough. It can’t just stay like this.”

“Yeah, people are starting to learn,” added a fifth. He is usually pessimistic about the potential to organize for communism. This time he admitted, “There is an opening.”

“My wife and I are coming to the [ICWP]

forum, for sure.”

The bosses can’t rule in the old way. Workers can’t live in the old way. What we need now is a mass party willing to mobilize for communist revolution. We aim to be that party, with your help.





## DEFEAT CAPITALISM'S RACIST MASS INCARCERATION

Capitalism seeks to divide us on racial lines. Portraying black and brown men as monsters or super predators is one tactic they use. There is an increasing number of women in prison too. Capitalism is built atop racism and the privatized prison system is the new chattel slavery.

The US criminal Justice system was birthed during slavery. It still disproportionately affects black and brown individuals. Communities are being destroyed. Instead of funding programs that uplift people, like treatment for substance abuse and education, the funding is directed towards mass incarceration.

Traffic stops are the easiest way for police to snare people of color, who become easy targets for feeding jails (see box). The "war on drugs" encouraged this. Police are trained by the Drug Enforcement Agency, which gives them grants and military equipment. They were taught "drug courier" profiles, which could describe anyone. A person who is "too nervous" or "too comfortable" or "driving poorly" or "driving too well" could be stopped and harassed.

Starting with the Reagan Administration, police departments are allowed to keep for themselves any property seized (money, homes, etc.) whether or not someone is found guilty of drug charges. Most people find it too expensive to fight to retrieve the property, or are afraid.

Many who may not see the inside of a prison are still labeled felons while dealing with probation, parole, or even home monitoring and house arrest. They risk further charges due to the extra restraints placed upon them. Most are poor and have been further disenfranchised by the judicial

system. This is the new caste system.

People of color are generally poorer than their white counterparts. Police target them because they do not have the means to fight back. The cops get more money for their departments by busting a lot of poor people than by busting a wealthy white person who has the means to go to trial and win.

Many studies have shown that the "justice" system is racially skewed. But that system insists that it is "color-blind" unless one can prove outright discrimination in an individual case. And courts insist that to prove discrimination one needs info from the prosecutor that the prosecutor is not required to provide.

Media depictions of black people as "criminals" act as another tool to advance this agenda. The laws are supposed to be colorblind but those who enforce them have preconceived ideas and biases from the mass media.

Mass incarceration forcibly commodifies people. Black and brown people were the first targets for filling for-profit prisons. But their white class brothers and sisters are increasingly swept up. The wealth gap of end-game Capitalistic society puts all of us in peril!

Communism will not need to waste human talent and creativity to make profits. All individuals can actualize their true potential.

When money is removed from our society and all basic needs are met, the stress that leads to addiction and deviant behavior will be greatly reduced. Black markets will be eliminated along with poverty. There would be no purpose for corrupt police forces, swat teams and policies that

### RACIST TERROR AT A TRAFFIC STOP

Minnesota police stopped Philando Castile 31 times for minor traffic infractions. They stopped this 32-year-old black worker one last time for a "broken taillight" and killed him with five shots fired at close range into his car.

Imagine a world where every time you step out the front door, you are potentially a target for law enforcement harassment. I see this every day, people of color being stopped for nothing more than being a person of color. I am white and I have never been stopped and searched as I walked down the street, but my latino husband definitely has. The police have even insisted that he must be my drug dealer, not my husband!

Recently we were stopped for expired tags on our car. My husband was driving with my 8-year-old daughter in the front seat. I sat in the back with my infant son. We were all eating French fries. An officer on the passenger side crept up with his gun drawn and his Kevlar jacket over his uniform. Another officer on the driver side noticed me in the back seat. His eyes wide, the officer told my husband, "I'm sorry sir, I don't want you to think I am racially profiling you, I just didn't see your family in the car." He repeated this and apologized repeatedly. They let us go without even a warning. But my husband was terrified to see the gun drawn for a simple traffic stop  
.—Reader in Los Angeles, USA

now criminalize humanity to feed the coffers of the bourgeoisies.

### LETTERS

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### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

#### Industrial workers in South Africa rally behind the revolutionary banner of the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP).

Yesterday the disciplinary inquiry (hearing) for the worker charged with alleged gross misconduct set. The company was relying on the breathalyser test results which tested positive. When the time came for the company to prove its case, the company witness took the stand. I asked him if he had the qualifications to administer the breathalyser, he said no, I asked the chair to dismiss the case. He had no choice but to relent and the worker is back at work. It is victories like these which brings back the confidence of the workers and their militancy. For far too long workers in this company have been dismissed for petty offences because they were not represented when facing charges. But now that trend is coming to an end. We have been betrayed once again by the union official. (misleader). He went to negotiate with management for wages on behalf of workers without their mandate. Workers are very angry and bitter at the union over this betrayal.

The **Red Flag** is playing a vital role in helping shape and sharpening the understanding of workers around these betrayals. Despite suffering these serious setbacks, workers are soldiering on and plans are afoot to tackle these challenges head on.

—Comrade in South Africa

**RED FLAG responds:** Mobilizing the masses for communism requires standing with our fellow workers every time they are attacked. It also requires understanding the limits of the reform struggle.

Workers will always fight against the capital-

ists' attacks. The important question is what workers fight for and how they fight.

Trade unionist struggles are reformist. Trade unionism's goal is not to destroy capitalism's wage slavery but to help administer it. It strives to make it more tolerable to prevent workers from rebelling and opting for communist revolution.

In essence trade unionism chains us to capitalism because it creates the illusion that capitalism can be reformed to meet our needs. The contradiction, however, between capitalists and workers is to the death and can only be resolved by communist revolution.

Therefore, trade union victories are capitalists' victories. Our victories are winning workers to understand, organize and fight for communism. Anything else is a betrayal of our class.

#### Building an International Party

We had a new comrade who attended our meeting today. He is from Zimbabwe. He is coming to our collective and he wants to join us. He took some **Red Flags** with him.

Our meeting was great because we had this new member. Generally, we talk about dialectical materialism in our club meetings but because the new comrade was present we spent time talking to him about communism and



about the party. Then we engaged with him in various aspects of capitalism and how it affects the working class, especially in Zimbabwe where he has relatives and understanding of what is happening there. He understands how brutal capitalism is in Zimbabwe, and we explained how communism will work.

Our focus in the meeting was to offer the communist alternative because that is what he wanted to know. We said the working class is already living and sharing things and communism is second nature to us. When we take power, we can build a society based on the need of our brothers and sisters around the world.

All in all it was a great meeting and he has committed to be a regular soldier of communist revolution.

—Comrades in South Africa



## STRIKING MEXICAN TEACHERS MUST LEARN AND TEACH COMMUNIST IDEAS

MEXICO—Comrades from ICWP have been participating in the marches and encampments of the teachers, bringing *Red Flag* and our pamphlet, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. At the same time we are discussing this reality in Mexico, related to what is happening in the world. Little by little we have been breaking through the obstacles that trade unionism and the electoral parties create, and more teachers are willing to discuss our communist ideas.

The bosses, through Education Reform (preparation of wage slaves) and labor laws that reduce wages and working conditions, are having the Mexican government invite foreign capital to invest here. They have renovated the ports to assure the entrance and exit of commodities from the country. They have modernized the roads, and built a new airport and train routes.

The local capitalists had always allied with the US capitalists as a means of increasing their capital. Then they allied

with European capitalists (Siemens, VW, BMW, Fiat, Renault-Nissan-Benz) or Asians (Toyota, etc.) most recently with the Chinese investors. This has created in Mexico a focus of the intensification of the contradictions between the imperialists and more severe attacks on the working class.

The current opposition, from the trade unions, and some electoral parties, is conservative, nationalist, supporting the “national identity,” the cultural traditions of the communities. In reality they are promoting a conservative capitalism, instead of confronting industrialization with a perspective of the international working class. We must welcome the new workers as potential fight-

ers for worldwide revolution, and the new factories and production centers as our inheritance.

However the best way to address this is by building a Party of the working class that ends the major injustice which is wage slavery, the fact that we have to work for a boss. Not an electoral party; through elections we will never end this greater injustice. Instead we need a Party whose goal is to overthrow the capitalists, not just stop their factories, but instead through an insurrection of workers, soldiers, and the rest of the oppressed of the world.

The overthrow cannot be achieved without an organization that has this communist goal. It begins with the understanding or consciousness that

we promote through a newspaper of the international working class, *Red Flag*. It is not academic learning; you have to be in the fire of class struggle. Read and distribute *Red Flag*. Join this effort by joining and building collectives of International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP)!



**Protest in front of the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles against killings of teachers by the police in Oaxaca , Mexico. We talked to them about how communism would eliminate all this violence against the working class. Many agreed. We distributed about 300 Red Flags. One worker was very happy to meet us and also asked if we could meet with her.**

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

### GREETINGS OF COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY TO THE TEACHERS IN OAXACA

#### Greetings from the comrades in South Africa

This is a message of solidarity for our class brothers and sisters in Mexico and also a message of condolences to the families who lost their loved ones in the brutal killings by the Federal Police of the Mexican state and the capitalist bosses.

Because we can't all speak at the same time, the comrades in my collective asked us to give this message but it's coming directly from the collective in South Africa.

First, I want to make it clear that we stand with our class brothers and sisters in Mexico. We condemn capitalism in all its forms.

We believe that our class brothers and sisters in Mexico should strive for intensifying the struggle for the political line of ICWP, to fight directly for communism.

The urgent need of the working class is shown in their rising up against oppression, against the brutal attacks on the teachers, on the youth and the unemployed by the capitalist bosses. This shows that the masses have the capacity to mass mobilize, so the party in Mexico must be proactive in tapping into those angers, into the masses, to urge them to fight directly for communism.

We think our comrades in Mexico should do more in distributing *Red Flag* among the masses, explaining to them that these things won't end until we fight directly for and have communism. That reform will only lead us on the same path again, in five years time maybe, ten years maybe.

So only when we fight directly for communism will we eliminate all these inequalities in the education system, which is the main grievance in this strike.

Generally it's a capitalist thing because to them education is a tool to produce the labor they need to make their own profits and further

oppress the working class. It is also a tool to divide the working class. They classify skilled labor as better to create divisions in the working class.

So we must reject all these reformist schemes of the bosses. The only way to do that is when we fight for communist education.

But you can't have a communist education within a capitalist society. That's why we need to fight for a communist society in order to have a communist education.

That is the solution to the problem that is facing our class brothers and sisters in Mexico.

We honestly think that we as the working class should stand up and we encourage those in Mexico to stand up and fight against capitalism and the things they do to the working class. We urge you to fight directly for communism because fighting for reforms only leads back to the problem; it is only a temporary solution. We urge you to fight for a permanent solution, which is communism.

Thanks, Comrades

#### From Communist Teachers in El Salvador

A communist greeting of solidarity to the men and women teachers in Oaxaca, Mexico for the great effort of struggle against education reform imposed by the capitalist system through the government of Peña Nieto.

Historically the teachers' union has been a bastion of struggle among the people of Latin America.

In El Salvador it was one of the main unions to organize massive strikes among teachers and other sectors like the bakers and steel workers, against the repression, education reform and the workers' precarious situation.

These attacks were led by the capitalists and their military governments in the decade of the 1960's and onwards.

These struggles had a great impact, resulting in the massive organization of workers in associations of farmworkers, students, and unions. As a result of this, there were disappearances, jailings, murders, and exile of hundreds of teachers.

Later, some leaders of these organizations formed what became the five factions that made up the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). This is the political party that currently governs the country.

The current President of El Salvador was a teacher who was a leader of one of the historic associations of teachers (ANDES 21 of June), an ex-commander of the FMLN. With all of this history, he created many illusions among the teachers and the whole working class. Many thought that living conditions and education would change, but this didn't happen. The struggle for reforms took these reformists to keeping capitalism alive.

So where do we direct the fight? It's time to mobilize the teachers and the whole base to the struggle for a communist system. This means involving ourselves directly in the organization of the International Communist Workers' Party and forging class consciousness in the masses.

We must reject capitalist education, because the education that the children and the whole working class needs is a communist education. That is an education that prepares men and women to think and know how to do everything to work to be able to meet the needs of all.

We are a group of teachers and veterans of old battles who invite the men and women teachers in Mexico to read our newspaper *Red Flag* and to organize in the International Communist Workers' Party and fight directly for communism.

## GREETINGS OF SOLIDARITY TO THE TEACHERS IN OAXACA

**We are a group of students and professionals in South India.**

We are writing to express our support and solidarity with the striking teachers and students in Mexico. With horror and heavy hearts, we saw images of police killings of teachers on our TV channels. The *Red Flag* article correctly points out the need for communist revolution to end capitalist atrocities around the world. Here in India, the fascist

government of Modi has launched systematic attacks on progressive and left-oriented professors, especially in social science and history. Several leftist intellectuals, professors and atheists have been murdered by the ruling party's paramilitary goons. They want the masses to believe that India's problems stem from the Muslims whom they consider 'outsiders'. They are trying to divide the most oppressed Dalit, Muslim and workers of other

castes so capitalists can make super-profit. We are trying to organize along the line of *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* here in South India. Our urgent task of translating is undergoing. As expected, we are having success reaching the masses as well as the revisionists and fascists are attacking us. We can't expect anything else from our class enemy. Keep up the good work comrades, we are all united in our common struggle.

### Read our pamphlet: **COMMUNIST EDUCATION FOR A CLASSLESS SOCIETY**

Available at:  
[icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf)



### Homelessness in an Uncaring System

LOS ANGELES, USA — Several years ago, a short video showed some young people in a major city destroying some private property. It was a hit on the internet, widely shared and liked. Why? These activists were attempting to allow the homeless access to resting places by covering large metal bolts with rubberized coating.

As capitalism tightens its grip on even more civil societies, there are fewer and fewer places where the homeless may simply rest their tired bodies. The owners/bosses pay to have even unused spaces made inhospitable.

It is often said that "a society will be judged on how it treats its weakest and most vulnerable population." We who live in larger cities in the US know that the thousands who live on our streets illustrate just how brutal our society has become.

In Los Angeles, what was called "Skid Row" is now referred to as "The Arts District and Toy District." Driving through, one can see that the population of the streets is overwhelmingly Black and aging.

People who should be in mental hospitals are left to fend for themselves. This is partly the result of "the 1980s presidency" that emptied mental hospitals to save money and partly the result of the endless war machine that does as little as possible for veterans and their families.

It will not be so under a money-free system! We will provide housing, meaningful work and a supportive community to each and every person.

A county-wide "survey" is done each year in the largest city in this country. In 2015, three days work, by an army of volunteers, found roughly 44,000 people who sleep outdoors every night.

The real question is: At what point in their lives did these human beings slip through the fabric of our society? We all come into the world with parents, neighbors, some form of relations.

I would point the finger of blame on capitalism, because it is the perceived scarcity of resources that forces many to tell themselves that they simply cannot "afford" to keep family together.

We all know someone who is "couch-surfing," living in borrowed space to avoid living on the streets. It will not be so under a renewed society! Under a just and humane system, we will use housing to meet needs, not to give views and luxury to a moneyed few!

—Angry communist

### More on Socialism versus Communism

This is about a previous letter "We stand on the shoulders of giants."

The letter correctly argues not to lump together the revolutionary communists of the past who fought for socialism, with the socialists of today, like Hollande in France, Syriza in Greece, Maduro in Venezuela, Sanders in the US, etc.

It correctly pointed that our communist predecessors' goal was communism but mistakenly thought they needed a transition belt, socialism, to get there. However, socialism never led to communism.

However, the letter concludes, "But to say that they [the communists] became socialists,

and in the end failed, like all socialists before and after, is mistaken at best."

I disagree. I agree that their struggles contributed enormously to the advancement of our movement. Thanks to their successes and failures we have a better political line to defeat capitalism-imperialism and build the communist world they strived for.

However, they became more than "socialists." They became capitalists-imperialists exploiting workers everywhere possible and gearing in Russia and China to fight the US and other Western imperialists for world domination.

One of those "giants," the Chinese communist leader Mao, did become a capitalist-imperialist. All those other "giants" would have ended the same, if they had been for long at the helm of socialist countries like Russia and China, unless they changed their line and mobilized the masses for communism.

The communist parties they organized did not correct this mistake. In China, the left in the CCP did try during the Cultural Revolution but failed. These parties recruited millions of members to administer socialism, state capitalism. They became and continue to be the new capitalist-imperialist rulers of these socialist states.

Dialectical materialism teaches us that the material basis of society determines our political consciousness. You can't administer capitalism without becoming a capitalist. Only a communist society can create communists. Anything else – like it or not – will inevitably create capitalists-imperialists.

—A Comrade

### Muhammad Ali was a nationalist

I think that the letter praising Muhammad Ali in the last issue should have had some comment from the *Red Flag* editors. Ali opposed the Vietnam war but he was a spokesman for the Nation of Islam, the most reactionary and pro-capitalist of the black nationalist movements. He even endorsed Ronald Reagan for president. I don't see how anyone is going to get a communist message out of his actions or his politics, as the letter claims. His view was thoroughly nationalist, not communist.

—Another old red

**RF responds:** We agree. Thank you.

## SHANGHAI COMMUNE from page 8

August 1966.

Beijing sent Zhang Chunqiao, a leftist cadre originally from Shanghai, to intervene. Zhang had close ties with Shanghai-area army commanders. He intimidated young activists with personal instructions from Mao. He convinced workers that fighting exploitative conditions was "economism."

Zhang brokered a deal that announced the formation, in early February, of the "Shanghai Commune." But it was not a mass-participation government like the 1871 Paris Commune. Instead, it was controlled by the Maoists in Beijing.

The Paris Commune, the first successful workers' revolution, established a radical democracy but it was not a model for communism. It capped salaries but did not eliminate them. It organized workers' cooperatives to reorganize factories but it did not promote the communist principle, "from each according to ability, to each according to need." The Shanghai workers needed to go much further. Instead, Mao pulled them back.

He insisted that Shanghai needed a "Revolutionary Committee" instead of a Commune. This would consist of army officers, "revolutionaries" from the old party leadership, and representatives of the mass organizations. The rebel organiza-

tions agreed—some very reluctantly. The January storm was over—for now.

Workers continued to be involved in Shanghai's administration until Deng Xiaoping came to power in 1978. Across China, however, the members of Revolutionary Committees were mostly selected in back-room deals in Beijing. They were dominated by the military.

Mao had made a concession to the masses by endorsing their "seizure of power." But he then negated it. It would take some months for "rebel" groups to grasp this new development and begin to formulate a response.

**Next:** *Political struggle within the People's Liberation Army and the Wuhan Incident*



## Chinese Cultural Revolution: The January (1967) Storm

### INDUSTRIAL WORKERS TAKE THE LEAD; MAO RESTRAINS THEM

The previous article described how the Chinese Cultural Revolution began among Beijing students in May 1966.

In the fall, Red Guard units formed in factories and other workplaces. Some (like the Shanghai Scarlet Guards) were loyal to local Communist Party organizations. Others were “Rebel” Red Guards, ready to take the Cultural Revolution much further than Mao had ever intended.

By November 1966, the movement to criticize the “bourgeois reactionary line” had emboldened masses of workers to rise up against the many ways they were still exploited as wage-slaves. For example, thousands of Shanghai apprentices staged a sit-in in the city center in December 1966 as part of a mass strike for better pay and working conditions. The Cultural Revolution had erupted into open class struggle.

That wasn’t what Mao wanted. His goal of discrediting Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping had been accomplished. He was ready to let the movement die down. But the workers wouldn’t

stop.

Many Party organizations were no longer functioning. Masses began to turn to rebel groups of students and workers for leadership. Within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) the Central Cultural Revolutionary Group became more powerful than the Central Committee and Politburo.

Mao and his leading Group were anxious to restore “order” and get production moving. They called on the rebel groups to “seize power.” That meant taking over paralyze party bodies, occupying their offices and carrying out their functions. In practice it meant reform of the system, not revolution.

Actually, Mao was not leading anything. The rebel groups were already taking over the functions of party bodies in many schools, factories and localities. Instead, Mao was trying to regain control over the situation and prevent real revolution.

#### The Shanghai Commune

Shanghai was China’s largest and most industrialized city. The Cultural Revolution took it by storm – especially when workers joined in. In October 1966, “rebel” groups had allied as the “Headquarters of the Revolutionary Revolt of Shanghai Workers” (Workers’ Headquarters). They demanded that the Shanghai party committee replace the old bureaucracy with new popular organs.

When the demands were refused, masses of workers seized a Beijing-bound train. They intended to present their demands to Mao, but the train was intercepted and held up in a suburb. Half of the workers remained on board, sparking



a three-day siege.

Beijing first responded with a warning against disobeying party instructions. Workers were told to get back to the factories. But a second message ordered Shanghai authorities to legalize Workers’ Headquarters and agree to its demands. The rulers could no longer rule in the old way.

On December 30, better-paid workers organized as Scarlet Guards rallied, twenty thousand strong, to defend the Shanghai party office. Workers’ Headquarters (mostly part-time or temporary workers) attacked the Scarlet Guards, who surrendered after hours of bloody fighting. An already-fierce propaganda war escalated through wall-posters and mass demonstrations.

A few days later, the Workers Headquarters – now boasting one hundred thousand members – announced the “overthrow” of the city’s party structure to a mass rally of about one million. They now demanded a “Shanghai Commune” modeled on the egalitarian principles of the Paris Commune of 1871, as promised in the “16 Point Decision” issued by the Party leadership in

[See SHANGHAI COMMUNE, page 7](#)



### COMMUNISM WILL ELIMINATE DEPORTATIONS, IMMIGRATION LAWS, AND BUILD A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS

LOS ANGELES, USA – Over 4 million undocumented immigrant parents and 728,000 undocumented young immigrants lives have been placed again in limbo. Their hopes for “better, more stable lives” were dashed by the US Supreme Court’s refusal to change a lower court ruling denying President Obama’s expanded DACA and DAPA programs.

These programs would have given—DACA the undocumented parents, and DAPA the undocumented youth—temporary work permits and the assurance that they will not be deported.

Capitalism worldwide, however, is not in the business of improving workers lives. Its crisis of overproduction – producing more than what the market can bear – intensifies the bosses’ racist attacks on the working class. Immigrants are one of their main targets.

Communism will put an end to capitalism’s nations, borders, passports and immigration laws. All workers will be welcome everywhere. No one will be “illegal” or deported.

Obama has deported more than 2.5 million immigrants - more than any other US President. He has also committed \$86 million to get Mexico to deport workers and youth crossing Mexico fleeing gangs and violence in Central America.

This program has deported over 800,000 Central Americans. This includes some 40,000 children, sent back to face possible death at the hands of gangs. This is US capitalists’ “humanitarian” response to the crisis created when thousands of unaccompanied Central American children left for the US fleeing the gangs’ terror and hoping to reunite with their undocumented parents here.

US imperialists had previously deported gang-

busters to create the murderous Central American gangs. It was their response to the armed struggle, waged during the 70s and 80s, by Central American workers and youth against US supported tyrannical regimes.

They have succeeded temporarily in channeling some youths’ anger against capitalism-imperialism into a suicidal drug-addicted way of life. Instead of being at the forefront of revolutionary activities as before, these youth terrorize whole communities now.

However, ICWP youth collectives are growing there and elsewhere. We need to inspire masses with a communist vision.

Capitalists in times of crisis have two other inhumane needs: super-exploitable workers to maximize profits and patriotic soldiers to fight their expanding wars for markets, natural resources, cheapest labor, and world domination.

US and all capitalists use their borders and laws to terrorize immigrants extracting super-profits, forcing them to slave for lower wages and no benefits under the threat of deportation if they rebel. The bosses use this to lower wages and working and living conditions for all workers.

They also use these laws to recruit patriotic soldiers and workers. There are 5.2 million US born children of undocumented workers ages 1 to 31. Their parents are oppressed by these laws. So are 1.4 million young undocumented immigrants. Obama and Clinton’s immigration reform strives to “alleviate” this oppression providing these immigrants a path to citizenship. In return the bosses expect gratitude and patriotic fervor from these youth, workers, and their children.

Trump’s rabid anti-immigrant ravings have

driven many immigrants and their supporters into the arms of the liberal capitalists represented by Obama and Clinton.. Trump’s open racism builds a fascist movement that will be used to try to crush rebellions in the US when needed, and wage genocidal wars for US imperialism.

Racist anti-immigrant politicians in Europe and elsewhere do the same. Germany’s Merkel hypocritically claimed to welcome refugees, only to later stop them from coming to Germany. Anti-immigrant racism has been the fuel that has built fascist movements across Europe.

Only capitalism, an inhumane a system, could force workers and children to leave their homes and families because of the poverty, gang terror and imperialist wars it created, and then hunt them down like criminals for escaping these horrors and work to feed their families.

This system is based on exploiting billions for the profit of a handful of capitalists. We need to fight for communism—a system without money, wage slavery, racism, sexism, borders, or imperialist wars. We will all plan, produce and distribute collectively the fruits of our labor according to need. Everyone’s contribution will be needed, encouraged and appreciated.

The bosses’ poisonous ideologies are an obstacle to this. Racist fascist immigration laws divide immigrants from native born workers and “legal” residents - black, latin, asian and white. Our class interest demands that we reject this and all racism to unite to destroy capitalism and organize a communist society.

For that, we need to build ICWP collectives among the masses of workers, soldiers and youth. Join ICWP and help further this historical task.