

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

COMMUNISM WILL END THIS DEADLY RACIST SYSTEM!

UNITED STATES: WHAT HAPPENED TO SANDY BLAND?

The racist lynching of “Black Lives Matter” activist Sandy Bland on July 13 in a Texas jail, following her arrest for failing to signal a lane change has ignited smoldering anger over racist police terror in the US.

Marches around the country call for “justice.” ICWP must continue to join these protests, explaining how capitalism needs racism and racist police terror, and how communist revolution can create the conditions to end racism once and for all. We also must continue taking communist ideas to workers in our communities, factories, and bus divisions.

“Thank you for your work,” said a Los Angeles Transit (MTA) driver at a bus division where we regularly distribute *Red Flag* after taking a copy of the newspaper and our leaflet condemning capitalism for the murder of Sandy Bland.

“My brother was killed the same way,” said another driver.

At another division, more MTA workers than usual took *Red Flag* and the communist leaflet. Many greeted our banner calling for a world without money, wages, racism or borders and a sign saying “Sandy Bland’s life matters” with their fists held high. Others honked their horns as they passed comrades holding the banner and signs.

Several days earlier, three comrades in another part of town held posters and distributed over 100 Party leaflets in an hour and a half in a

pedestrian-friendly commercial area. Passers-by were overwhelmingly positive. “I have been upset about this all day,” said one white woman. “But what can I do?”

“Get out there with a few friends and some posters and markers like we did,” a comrade responded. “But to end racism we need to end capitalism. Read this copy of our communist paper *Red Flag* to find out more about how.”

Racism is a cornerstone of capitalism. Without racist terror, capitalism couldn’t have spread from 17th century Europe, forcing the commoners of three continents into wage or chattel slavery. It couldn’t have expropriated and decimated indigenous populations in Africa and the Americas. Without racism, a tiny handful of capitalist exploiters could not, today, maintain their deadly hold on the massive and mighty working class.

Without racism, the rulers couldn’t get away with the constant murder of unarmed men and women at the hands of the police. They need racist lies to justify the existence of a capitalist legal system that exists mainly to protect the wealth of the few from the masses who created it. The rulers are terrified that we the masses will rise and fight for a communist society that meets our needs, not theirs.

A communist world is possible. The elimination of the wage system, which pits worker against worker and keeps us all wage-slaves, will allow the development of new relationships of collective work for human need. We will share

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SOUTH AFRICA: MURDER OF MIDO MACIA

There are striking similarities between what has happened to Sandy Bland in the US and Mido Macia here in South Africa.

Mido Macia, an immigrant from Mozambique, was driving his own taxi apparently on a wrong lane. He was stopped by police officers for this minor traffic violation. When Macia supposedly resisted arrest, the police became annoyed. They handcuffed him on the outside backdoor of their vehicle and dragged him on the road for a while to the nearby police station. He later died from his injuries in the police cells.

This incident took place in February 2013 and the case has been dragging on since. Nine police officers accused for his murder are standing trial. They had all pleaded not guilty and the charges are likely to be changed to assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and not murder.

The family of Macia have been left without a breadwinner and are struggling to make ends meet. This is not the last and only incident involving police murdering their victims. Recently, there have been quite a few similar incidents reported.

The Marikana commission report is out and its findings do more harm than good to the families who lost their loved ones. The report absolves all those who were implicated and has left the families of the victims devastated. Like all other commissions before it, the commission on the Sharpsville massacre in 1960, and the Langa massacre in 1985 to name but a few, it has served

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OUR COMMUNIST VISION WILL INSPIRE MILLIONS TO FIGHT FOR AND BUILD A COMMUNIST WORLD



The workers of the world are facing economic attacks and the threat of widening wars and world war. Some of us face starvation in the midst of abundance because of capitalism's crisis of overproduction. Only capitalism can produce "too much" food while starving countless for lack of money. Only under capitalism are workers' lives worthless and snuffed out by the millions.

Communism will produce to meet everyone's needs. No one will have too much while others are hungry, homeless or lack medical care. Everyone will do mental and manual work to produce everything we need.

Communism will cherish human life above everything. Communist production and social relations will enable everyone to reach their maximum potential as creative human beings.

Building for Communism Starts Now.

We must see at every capitalist attack against our class as an opportunity to build for communism by mobilizing the masses directly to fight for communism. The racist murder of a black worker in the US, attacks on the maquila workers in El Salvador, on students and teachers in Mexico, or on miners in South Africa - can be used not only to indict capitalism but to project a vision of how communism will be different.

This vision will inspire millions to join ICWP and will fortify their commitment and dedication to the struggle for communism, and will be the building blocks - before, during and after the revolution - of the communist world we need.

The Old International Communist

Movement Lacked This Communist Vision

From its very birth, the main contradiction inside the international communist movement has been right opportunism: the belief that workers can't be won to fight directly for communism. This opportunism has taken many forms, from communists burying themselves in the trade

unions, to denying there will be war even on the eve of world war, to allying in war with "lesser evil bosses" against "worse bosses."

Because of this internal weakness, our predecessors did not take advantage of every opportunity to mobilize the masses for communism. Instead of presenting workers with a communist vision to fight for, they won the working class to fight for national liberation, for socialism, or simply for trade union reformism.

What is the Current Situation in the World?

The main contradiction in the world today is the rivalry between the competing imperialists. They are lining up in opposing camps: the Russian and Chinese imperialist on one side and US imperialists on the other.

Both camps are forming alliances. These alliances are not set in stone. The dog-eat-dog nature of capitalism doesn't breed loyalty. Each capitalist group competes to be on top, while at the same time they increase their murderous attacks against our class. This inevitably leads to wars, and eventual world war. Even now they are planning and preparing for wider wars although the battle lines aren't completely clear. (See Iran, page 16)

Capitalist wars pit worker against worker. Communists strive to unite the world's workers to fight for and achieve a world without competition. We have the same interests and the same need for a communist world. Capitalist competition divides us; communist collectivity unites and makes us strong. Capitalist competition spells death and destruction; communist collectivity means life and creativity.

As a declining US imperialist power and the rising Chinese and resurgent Russian imperialist powers prepare to fight each other over world domination, the International Communist Workers' Party is organizing to make the main contra-

dition the working class versus the capitalist class: capitalism-imperialism versus communism.

It is not an easy struggle. But from the rubble of Stalingrad to the caves of Yenan to the mountains of El Salvador and streets of Soweto, masses of workers have sacrificed and fought courageously for the international working class. Through

theory and practice, masses of workers, soldiers, youth and others will continuously learn how to better mobilize the masses for communism.

Bosses' Wars and Economic Crises: Mainly Opportunities for Revolution

During France's wars against Spain and England, Haitian slaves organized a successful revolution, abolishing slavery in 1803.

During World War I, Russian communists led the Russian working class to power in 1917. Fighting the Japanese imperialist invaders and the Chinese bosses, before, during and after WWII, the Chinese communists led the working class to power in 1949.

These examples show how capitalist crisis and war, especially world war, put millions, especially soldiers and workers, in motion against the bosses. They present enormous opportunities for the working class to take power and establish communism.

The bosses launch their wars of destruction and death for profits and empires. Workers launch our revolutionary communist war to foster life and a healthy environment by eliminating capitalism forever with its racism, sexism, wage slavery, borders, exploitation, money and wars.

Communism will triumph because we, the masses, are the architects of history. Today we have at our disposal the most advanced political line our class has ever had: Mobilize the Masses for Communism.

We can all contribute and make a difference. We urge you to join ICWP and help build it massively internationally. Read and distribute *Red Flag* to your co-workers, friends and family. Organize study-action groups around *Red Flag* and recruit them to ICWP. This and only this will guarantee that the next historical epoch will produce a classless world inhabited by a communist human race.

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work and its fruits "from each according to commitment and ability, to each according to need." Mobilizing the masses for communism—creating the working-class unity required to smash capitalism and build a new society—will forge relationships of unity where there was division and enable us to win the fight against racism

On this foundation, with constant political

struggle, racism and nationalism, and the very ideas of "races" and "nations," will become relics of the past. When the masses rule, no one will starve while others live in luxury. The working class collectively will guarantee the safety of us all. There will be no place for the police that now function as an occupying army for the capitalist class.

The rulers are throwing us some crumbs of re-

form — like body cameras and indicting a few killer cops —but capitalism is based on racism, and no reforms can change that! We must mobilize the masses for communist revolution to end the material basis of the racism that killed Sandy Bland and so many others. Let's fight for a communist world in which all our lives will truly matter!



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El Salvador Bus Stoppage

EVERY DAY BRINGS MORE REASONS TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

SAN SALVADOR—"I had to walk three kilometers (2 miles), take a pick-up truck and then two buses that were still operating to get to my job," a co-worker told me. Comrades and thousands of other workers worked through their lunch time to be able to leave the factory earlier than usual because of the bus stoppage.

On Monday July 27, key points of the country, especially in the capital, were affected by the transit strike on some bus routes. Thousands of workers and students were kept waiting for collective transportation to take them to their jobs and schools.

In less than 20 hours, seven drivers from the routes that were not on strike were killed. In this, the most violent country in the world, every day

it's harder to live and every day there are more reasons to fight for communism.

In a week full of rumors of a coup, attacks against the government, and a fight between the FMLN and ARENA, this stoppage seems to be more a way for some of the bosses to pressure the government because they favor the capitalists allied with ALBA (Bolivarian Alternative for Latin America).

This was a stoppage organized by the bosses who own a fleet of buses which has been left out of the transportation business (SITRAMSS, The Transportation System of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador). They said that the strike was in answer to the threats made by the gangs as a way to show their power.

These bosses really couldn't care less about the lives of their workers. Murders of bus drivers and money collectors are common and they do nothing about it. Their agenda is political. A few months ago the same bosses had pressured the government about the transportation system implemented in the capital, since this benefited other bosses allied with ALBA.

We have to understand that none of these bosses and their speeches represent or defend the working class.

These are the positions of different sectors of the bourgeoisie in their fight for control of the economic power of the transportation business. The only position that the workers can take is to fight for the destruction of capitalism through the building of a communist society.

Transportation in communism will be collective and mass. The workers will get around in air-conditioned buses. The transit system will be controlled by the working class itself, without hunger for profit.

The bosses take advantage of the workers' pain to attack each other. Their struggle for economic power puts the lives of thousands of workers at risk. The stoppage, the violence and the attacks serve each group of bosses in their attack on each other. While ARENA, the spokesperson and defender of the traditional bourgeoisie, maintain their attacks against the FMLN government for its "inability and ineptitude to govern," the FMLN, spokesperson and defender of the new bourgeoisie, justifies the problems they face with announcements and threats about a "coup."

Everything has a class interest. The only strike that we can support is a workers' strike against capitalism, that carries the ideals of communism and in which thousands of red flags can be seen waving in the air.



US Marines Welcome Communism

KEY TO MAKING REVOLUTION

"Red Flag is a communist paper that critiques capitalist education," said a high school student that will soon join the military to a young marine.

"Do you accept donations?" asked the marine.

"Yeah," the student responded.

"Here's a dollar." He took the paper, shook the comrade's hand and went about his way.

The International Communist Workers' Party organized a multi-racial group of young and older comrades to go to Oceanside, a town near a US Marine base. We divided into two groups. One group distributed lots of *Red Flag* newspapers but were not able to engage marines in conversations.

The other group was more successful in engaging the marines. We approached them by asking about where they were from, their reason for joining and their military experience. The conversations led up to talking about the role of capitalist armies, the Red Army and communism.

"Do you consider yourself working class?" we asked. Everyone said yes. "We are here having these conversations with you because all throughout history soldiers have played a key role in making revolution and will play a key role in the coming communist revolution now."

"We understand that every country in the world from Russia to China to the US mobilizes

their armies and military forces to war. But the sons and daughters of the politicians and the capitalists are never part of this," we said.

"They don't have to. They have everything they need and more," responded a marine.

"Yes, and the communism we are fighting for is not the communism of North Korea or China like they try to tell us. That's still capitalist dictatorship. We're fighting for a world of true communism where all of us will be involved in all of the decisions that need to be made in the running of society. Where we all contribute and participate however we are able and share all that the earth and our collective labor has to offer, but in order to get us there we need a Red Army that will fight and defend the interests of the working class and not the capitalists."

Another marine agreed: "Like we are all in the same playing field." He then added, "I have to look into it more because it wasn't what I have thought." He and his buddy took *Red Flag* and the ICWP military pamphlet.

In talking about our experience on the way back, the student that will soon join the military said, "I didn't know how they were going to react but in the end they were open about it." He as well as the rest of us gained some experience about how to talk to comrades in arms about communism.

Sixty-two enlisted personnel and civilians took *Red Flag* papers from us. About fifteen young marines took

the ICWP military pamphlet.

"This was a nice experience," commented a recent high school graduate. "I need more practice in communicating communist ideas one-on-one. I'm used to distributing the paper in front of factories where workers are rushing in and don't have time to have conversations. This was good practice. I like how the marines were open-minded and not 'brainwashed' as I thought they would be."



WILMINGTON, CA, July 29--Oil refinery workers and community supporters marched against Phillips Oil Company's plans to force workers to tend two complicated machines instead of one--a safety threat to all. Marchers welcomed *Red Flag*, taking 75 papers and engaging in discussions about communism.



LOS ANGELES--On the way home from Oceanside, we saw this march. Faced with several unsolved murders in the neighborhood and a media barrage blaming the gangs, these activists had taken to the streets to proclaim "black lives matter." We joined them with our signs and *Red Flag*. As in El Salvador, the ruling class in the US uses gang violence for its own purposes. In this case it hopes to build support for the police who are under fire for an epidemic of racist murders.

THE MASSES OF TEACHERS SHOULD MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNIST EDUCATION



The masses are in motion in Mexico organized by the teachers of the CNTE (teachers' union)! Rivers of people inundate the main avenues of Mexico City, Oaxaca, Yucatan, and Guerrero. Thousands of men and women teachers, striking at their schools and marching through the streets, are struggling while they are being monitored by hundreds of cops and military personnel. And thousands of sympathizers of all kinds join their marches; parents of their students, university students, workers and union members such as the electrical workers of the CFE.

But without communist ideas, although the masses are in motion within the limits of capitalism, they will not succeed even in their limited demands. And this has become clear. With the CNTE's threat to prevent the federal elections of last June 7, the authorities suspended the implementation of teacher evaluations. But a few days later they announced that they had been suspended due to flaws in their system and that the evaluations would be resumed immediately. This

government has a clear vision; to continue exploiting the working class.

The teachers' struggle has been hard, bloody and massive, showing the great potential they have to help destroy the system. And this could lead them to the real change they need, but not without leaving aside the reforms that divert them from what should be the main struggle, the struggle for communism.

Furthermore, although the problem is general throughout Mexico, it has been the teachers of Oaxaca and Guerrero who have set the example of struggle against the system. Many of them serve remote indigenous communities in the mountains, and have this same origin. There the schools are in poor condition with dirt floors, and they don't have desks. But it is these super-exploited teachers who are giving the leadership, as they have in the past; and teachers must not be divided by racist ideas like those expressed by government officials.

It is they who have organized, slept little and

had a hard time in order to wage the struggle. That is how they are showing the great potential force of the masses in motion.

had a hard time in order to wage the struggle. That is how they are showing the great potential force of the masses in motion.

The marches and strikes that they carry out should be for the establishment of communism and not to prevent the bosses' reforms from affecting them. The struggle should aim for the real change. But the teachers alone cannot achieve this; that's why it is necessary that they join with the rest of the working class to achieve change.

We need the change from this system of savage exploitation to a communist system, where what really matters is the worker, the education of the worker's child but also the education of the worker herself and himself.

In communism we adults can continue learning all our lives; this will be a necessity for society. Of special attention will be the education of the children, but their education will not be elitist, or much less one that serves the bosses' interests. It will be a quality education whose goal will be to support a harmonious and fruitful life for the benefit of the whole international working class.

It will be an education that provides adequate knowledge and techniques to meet the needs of our communist society. An education that doesn't only develop a person's theoretical understanding, but also develops each of us to have the adequate techniques to carry them out in practice. In which the agronomist and the farmer will be one, just as the construction worker and the architect. And we will all have the knowledge we need to have a healthy and productive life.

It is necessary, dear teachers, to struggle for communism. Many of you are reading our newspaper. We call on you to read *Red Flag* and distribute it massively, to write for it and to join our Party, ICWP. Only by fighting for communist revolution can we make the change we need.



POTOSI, BOLIVIA, August 5 – Thousands of striking silver and zinc miners have been on an indefinite general strike. They walked out of the Japanese-owned San Cristobal mine on July 7 in response to falling silver prices which are devastating their already precarious lives. Strikers have fought police with rocks and dynamite, and hundreds occupied a hydro-electric plant. They are demanding increased government investment in this poor, mainly indigenous region. But to liberate themselves from capitalism's brutal exploitation and crises of overproduction these miners need to mobilize for communist revolution. (More next issue)

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to bury the truth.

This shows the bankruptcy of bourgeois democracy which peddles the lie that police serve the interest of all, instead of the few in the propertied class. The illusions that hold the masses to believe in the executive, judiciary, and police arms of the capitalist states will be swept away by a thoroughgoing communist revolution.

Mobilizing the masses for communist revolution therefore becomes key. Reforms only serve to perpetuate the miseries of the working class and make the brutal bosses' system last much longer. The working class must understand that bosses' violence can only end with the workers and soldiers taking up arms to smash capitalism. Away with racist, brutal police! Join ICWP and mobilize the masses for communist revolution.

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OVERPRODUCTION SHOWS THE NEED FOR COMMUNISM

Tourists visiting France's famous Mont Saint Michel in July were greeted by an unexpected sight: a dozen tractors and farm vehicles blocking the road, guarded by a hundred or so farmers/ranchers. Similar blockades took place on freeways and the entrances to cities such as Lyon throughout the country. They were protesting low prices for their products such as milk and meat and demanding government aid. Ten percent of the French farmers and ranchers are all but bankrupt and most are heavily in debt.

The cause of the low prices? Overproduction of food in Europe. The farmers of France, Germany, Italy etc can produce far more food than the market can bear.

Lots of food? Sounds great! And under communism, it would be. We'd distribute it free, according to the principle "to each according to their needs" and no one would go hungry. In particular not the migrants at Calais, currently trying to flee to England to escape starvation in France. Not only would they be fed, they would be welcome to stay and live, work, study etc like everyone else.

It would be great for the farmers too. Under communism there will be no money, no debts, no bankruptcies. No private property either – farmers would no longer own their farms, and no longer be the employers of those who work there. Some would not like this tradeoff but for most it would mean that they can continue as farmers. They would no longer be at the mercy of capitalism's relentless drive towards corporate argibusinesses.

Organizing all this requires a huge party of dedicated communists. The ICWP is preparing to play this role everywhere in the world. We need you to join us, and be part of ending hunger and starvation for good!

Under capitalism, however, overproduction is a disaster even for those bosses who employ the farmworkers those who produce the food. They can't sell the food they produce and therefore can't recoup the money they invested in its production. Instead of feeding the hungry, they cut back on production, close factories and farms, lay off workers, and add bankrupt farmers to the unemployed. Then, to meet the sharpening competition, they try to increase productivity by making the farmers and workers still employed work even harder.

Under communism there will be neither layoffs nor speedup. With food produced in abundance we can make life easier for those who produce and process it. The farmers, for example, typically work 12-14 hours a day just to keep their heads above water. Slaughterhouse workers work similar hours. They can all take a break while we bring in large numbers of the formerly unemployed to spell them off.

In other words, while we will reduce the productivity (and work stress) of the individual worker, we increase the overall total level of production by making use of the abundance of available workers. Capitalism does the opposite; it increases to the maximum the productivity and work stress of the individual worker, while reducing the overall level of production.

We can also improve the quality of the food by dropping out of the productivity rat race while increasing production. For example, we can raise the animals in humane conditions. We can manage their waste better causing less damage to the environment. Finally, we can have mass discussions about what we want/should eat. Maybe not as much meat and milk. The important point is, we will be free to do what we want. We will no longer be slaves to the bosses and the blind forces

We Will Not Accept Capitalism's Destruction of Our Food

The crisis of over production sharpens other contradictions as well. For example, German agriculture is more competitive because of the racist superexploitation of migrant workers from Eastern Europe. In response, French farmers blockaded border crossings with Germany and stopped food trucks from entering France.

They opened up one truck and found milk. The farmers (who are small business men and don't have a working-class outlook) were outraged that Germans were bringing milk into France. What did they do with the milk? They didn't send it to Calais. They dumped it on the ground—they destroyed it.

To drive the point home, imagine an ICWP social event (we hold lots of them). Imagine someone from Germany showing up with some milk they want to give us. Would we chase them away? Then pour their milk on the ground? Not a chance!

Destroying food that workers need is unacceptable. To end this insanity, we must establish communism. This requires an ICWP millions strong. Join us – we won't chase you away!

of their markets.

The crisis of overproduction is causing large scale suffering but at least it is making it crystal clear that capitalism must end. As Marx said, the capitalists can't even feed their wage slaves. However, to end this suffering we must establish communism. This requires an ICWP millions strong. Join us!

Is \$15 an hour a victory? No!

LET'S ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM!

City councils from Seattle to New York to Los Angeles have adopted the \$15 minimum wage to begin in 2020. The bosses' media and the "\$15 an hour" movement call this a victory against poverty. We say it is only an adjustment to our wage slavery while posing as an example that capitalism can meet our needs.

The wage system chains us to the capitalist bosses. It creates profits for them and poverty for us. The bosses use the wage system to pay us as little as possible to guarantee that we have to keep working or our families don't eat, so we can

make them big profits and raise the next generation of wage slaves.

Communist revolution aims to smash the wage system. It's us wage slaves who produce everything in society. Our skills, our work, our cooperation and knowledge create everything we need. Communists say the main thing we need is each other and the last thing we need are capitalists, their profits and their wage system.

The vast majority of humankind are wage workers. Organized as communists around principles of "from each according to commitment and ability, to each according to need," we can create a world that values people not profits. Our collective labor can and will build houses, roads, bridges, desalinization facilities, and everything else we need—directly—without any wages or money.

Money or wages also create the illusion that we workers can't survive without the bosses or run the world without money. Even the old communist movement fell for the fallacy that money is indispensable, at least temporarily. That is why they fought for socialism – state capitalism – which kept money and wages, and not for communism.

Today the \$15/hour movement follows the reformist tradition which from the beginning of capitalism, has fought for higher wages as the way to eliminate poverty. But with higher or lower wages we remain exploited and oppressed.

Thus, many US bosses see no danger in supporting the \$15/hour campaign, claim-

ing they also want to eliminate poverty. Their goal, however, is to calm the anger of millions of fast food and retail workers who slave today for a much lower minimum wage. They want to corral these workers into the dead end-street of electoral politics and pacifism.

US bosses, however, have other concerns. On May 6, Governor Cuomo of New York advocated raising the minimum wage to "fight income inequality." He said: "Fast food workers and their families are twice as likely to receive public assistance compared with other working families... New York State spends \$6,800 a year (on food stamps, welfare, etc) per fast food worker."

This he claimed is a big subsidy to fast food industry which last year made enormous profits from \$551 billion in global revenue! \$15 an hour will not make a dent in this vast income inequality that is built into capitalism. But it is being used to build the lie that capitalism can be made "kinder" to meet workers' needs, while using the money the government will save to pay for their current and future wars.

Many activists fighting to raise the minimum raise do want to eliminate poverty. Laws, City Councils, and Congress cannot and will not achieve this goal. They need to join the struggle to mobilize for a communist revolution to build a society based only on meeting human needs.

McDonalds won't exist. We will produce only healthy food for workers everywhere. We urge you to join us, to start by reading *Red Flag* and distributing it to friends and co-workers, and invite them to join also.



LETTERS

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Students Mark 1975 Massacre

SAN SALVADOR, July 30—Once again there was a march to condemn the massacre of students by the dictatorship on July 30, 1975.

These students march on this day against the military repression of that time, fighting for the reformist illusion of a better world, like the supporters of the 43 Normal School students of Ayotzinapa, Mexico who were disappeared by the Mexican bosses.

“Reds (fmln) and tricolors (ARENA); the same exploiters,” “The capitalists fear the communists’ advance,” “Long live the martyrs of the 30th of July!” These were some of the slogans that the students of the University of El Salvador shouted in the streets.

Before the march two friends and a member of ICWP mobilized at the university. We made a banner that said, “The people sentence politicians and bourgeois to death,” in the context of the violence and death that descend from the ruling class and its lackeys.

Self-critically didn’t arrange to bring our literature. However, we had good talks and discussions with students throughout the march. We talked about the need to organize for a communist party and leave the reformist and opportunist ideas of the fmln behind, and the idea of establishing a revolutionary radio station, among other things.

The march was divided in two: Those who support the fmln government and those of us who advocate a more radical struggle. “I don’t believe Sanchez Ceren; he helps the bosses and exploits the worker,” was one of the slogans shouted the most in front of the general leadership of the fmln.

This mobilization ended in the exact spot where the students were massacred. As happened in Tlatelolco in Mexico, they don’t really know the exact number of those killed. The laws, at the service of the powerful, have not captured any of the guilty. The communist struggle will bring the killers into the workers’ hands.

After the speech and the burning of a figure of a gorilla—which represents the national guard—the hundreds of students returned to the university in the rain. We spent many hours until late into the night talking with anarchist and communist students in the office of their organization. We shared ideas and contacts.

They asked what organization we were from and with pride we responded “from the International Communist Workers’ Party.” They were amazed and said that we were welcome to come whenever we wanted. We interchanged contact information to share our literature.

--Young comrades in El Salvador

**Spreading Red Flag Among Health Care Workers**

Revolutionary greetings, comrades the world over. There have been several weeks of absence, an absence that has not meant abandoning communist political work. Today with pleasure I can share with comrades, readers and friends of the party, a little about the political work developed in the health care field in Mexico.

Three months ago I went to work temporarily in this field, where the idea that every process takes time was reinforced.

The area in which I work allows me to be in contact with several workers, from administration to maintenance, doctors and nurses. This helped me to get to know and broaden political discussions with them. Listening to the workers having discussions about the national situation has surprised me, as the situation gets worse.

However, they don’t realize that the contradiction between the capitalist bosses internationally and the working class is crucial to the lives of the workers in every country.

Self-critically, I have not participated in some of the discussions since I don’t yet have enough confidence in these workers. However, I ask myself, does it require confidence in these

workers to talk about how rotten this capitalist system is and what it does with our lives?

In other discussions, I have gotten involved or have supported them and I have noticed the workers’ interest in the issues that I mention. I recognize that I need to know this field more to have solid arguments since they know better about this field, but this is not a limitation.

Issues like health, education, the environment, jobs, poverty, politics, etc., are what make us workers more similar than different.

Therefore, I have broadened the discussions to be not just about the health care field, or just in Mexico. I have discussed the situation of workers internationally in every sector. In the best case, this awakened the interest of some nurses to whom I have given the newspaper. Next I will also get it to some doctors. Soon I will leave this job, but I am certain that we will continue to take the newspaper to the friends who are reading it here.

Another self criticism is that I stopped writing, but I am taking this on again. We need to share our political work. I did the same thing fully with a co-worker doctor whom I thanked for his confidence. I commented to him that the discussions that we have had are very important. When a reader from another part of the world reads the paper and sees that workers in the health care field in Mexico are learning about our communist ideas and writing for the paper, it inspires them.

I thanked him for his openness, like the nurses who have now allowed me to share this experience.

Workers of the world, let’s unite in one International Party! Let’s fight for Communist Revolution!

--Young Comrade in Mexico

**August, 1945: US Imperialists Murdered 100,000 Japanese Civilians to Threaten the Soviet Union**

August 6--This week, the world remembers the seventieth anniversary of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in which more than one hundred thousand civilians died horribly. This was the culmination of US fire bombings of Japan which had taken half a million lives over the previous year and a half. It shows the racist disregard for human life which characterized the US war in the Pacific.

The illustration to the left, from *Time* magazine, April, 1945, explains the timing of this attack. German surrender was imminent (Germany surrendered on May 8). The Soviet Union had agreed to declare war on Japan 90 days after the end of the war in Europe. The US was already faced with sharing the occupation of Europe with the Soviet Red Army, which had done the bulk of the fighting and dying in the battle against Nazi Germany. It refused to share its victory in the Pacific with the Soviets as well. The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki signaled not only the end of World War II, but the beginning of the Cold War between the US and the USSR. For the US rulers, 100,000 more dead Japanese civilians were acceptable collateral damage.

The US media will be publicizing photographs of the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki this week. We should recognize them as evidence of the willingness of the US bosses to commit mass murder to maintain their empire, faced with rivals abroad or revolution within. Our response must be, “Let the imperialists start their wars. We will end them.”



LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



Ford workers in Pretoria during the nationwide strike wave in the summer of 2013

South Africa: Communism Shows Workers' Power

I recently went to Ford to go and distribute the *Red Flag*. So I went there at lunchtime. I was surprised to find out that most of the workers there don't go out for lunch. Apparently there are tuck shops inside the factory for workers to buy their lunch there.

Then a thought struck me. Not only do the bosses exploit the workers' labor but they still want to rob them of their hard-earned money in those expensive tuck shops. As another man puts it you must spend at least 50 Rand a day in order to afford to buy something to eat in those shops, which is almost twice as much as their hourly wage.

So as I was distributing the paper, another old man asked me an interesting question, "How are we, the ICWP, different from the South African Communist Party (SACP)?" Apparently he had a membership card of the SACP. So I told him that the SACP only serves the bosses. They don't care about the masses. They only want to reform the system. But we on the other side, we want to destroy it, to eradicate the system because capitalism and communism cannot co-exist. It's a lie to say they can.

And then he asked me how are we going to achieve that because the bosses have all the power. Then I told him that he was wrong. They don't have the power. It's only the workers themselves who have the power. But the only way to see that power is for the masses to unite and fight capitalism with communism.

A Comrade

Greetings to Comrades in South Africa

When I open a new copy of *Red Flag* I always look forward to reading your letters and articles. The growth of our Party among industrial workers in South Africa inspires confidence in the working class everywhere. It encourages the revolutionary optimism we all need to strengthen.

I'm guessing that you probably have a lot of discussions about how communist society will

As our Party grows in more and more places, *Red Flag* grows in importance. It's the main way for us all to be in the same discussion. It's how we can all help to develop the political line of the Party.

Comrades, your ideas about communism will be helpful to all of us.

—Los Angeles comrade

Criticism of "Racism and Religion" Editorial

I agree with the editorial "Racism and Religion" that only communism can end racism. If I didn't, I wouldn't be a proud member of ICWP. But I think the editorial went wrong in a couple of places.

The editorial makes black Christians out to be nincompoops. It says that Blacks are "being promised a better life in the next world," and "praying for a better world in the afterlife." I've never heard any of this and I've gone to a black church for thirty years!

Yes, black churches are reformist and the belief in god is unscientific, but they fall in different places on the political spectrum, from conservative to very progressive. Also the people make up the church and people go for different reasons: social, political, cultural, not just religious. It's not like all or most are just waiting for heaven and not doing anything here on Earth. Take Denmark Vesey, and Jeremiah Wright, the progressive Chicago pastor that Obama hurried to distance himself from.

I also didn't think the editorial did a good job explaining the idea of the politics of forgiveness, which supposedly permeates black churches and explains both why the families of the victims of the Charleston massacre forgave the murderer Dylann Roof and why the Civil Rights Movement was nonviolent. Maybe the idea wasn't explained well because it wasn't *Red Flag's* idea. You-all were quoting some professor. I think the editorial should have put the paper's ideas across instead. The article about Bishop Romero shed light on the Catholic Church in El Salvador, but the editorial did not do much to further our understanding of the

work. That's usually what leads to recruitment and Party growth.

Is that true? If so, I wish you would write more about those conversations.

What questions do the workers ask? How do you try to answer them? And what would you like other comrades and readers to write about? Together we are blazing a trail toward a new communist future. What do you think it will look like?

black church.

--Bay Area Comrade

Obama on Black Churches: Deflecting Black Workers' Anger

At the funeral for the victims of the Charleston, SC, church massacre, Obama delivered a bravura performance in the interests of US capitalist rulers before a receptive church audience.

He praised the politics of State Senator Clementa Pinckney, "that was neither mean, nor small. He conducted himself quietly, and kindly, and diligently. He encouraged progress not by pushing his ideas alone but by seeking out your ideas...He was full of empathy...able to walk in somebody else's shoes..."

Obama pushed electoral politics to the masses and implied that an effective Black elected official does not attack racism or challenge the status quo of capitalism—in other words be militant. In his elected office, gentle, quiet, diligent Senator Pinckney actually worked to maintain and sustain capitalism.

About the history of the Black Church, Obama said, "Black churches served as hush harbors where slaves could worship in safety; praise houses where their free descendants could gather and shout hallelujah...no better example of this tradition than Mother Emanuel—a church built by blacks seeking liberty, burned to the ground because its founder sought to end slavery, only to rise up again, a Phoenix from these ashes."

What is most glaring here is that Obama omits the name of Denmark Vesey, a former slave and founder of Mother Emanuel, who preached a theology of armed insurrection against slavery and planned a rebellion of enslaved persons. Obama had to acknowledge some of Mother Emanuel's history, yet leave out the struggle against slavery and racism: Vesey's militancy might give workers ideas.

Obama said that Black churches "have been and continue to be community centers where we organize for jobs and justice..." This is a deceptive illusion that a capitalist legal system can somehow serve both the exploiters and the exploited. "Justice" under capitalism consists of a whole system of laws, courts, cops, and prisons that exist to protect the wealth and property of the ruling class. No matter what is preached from any church pulpit, there is no justice for the working class under capitalism.

Obama played his role in deflecting workers' anger and possible rebellions (as in Ferguson, Baltimore and other cities across the US) about the Charleston massacre.

We in ICWP must struggle even harder to take communism to the masses and win them to the fight to destroy capitalism, the source of racism.

--Veteran Bay Area Comrade

IRAN from page 8

surround us. (See p. 2)

Supporters of the Iran deal compare it to the Roosevelt-Stalin and Nixon-Mao agreements. These comparisons actually illustrate what was wrong with 20th-century socialism and its foreign policies. Instead of leading the world's masses toward communism, socialism disarmed and betrayed them by making deals with their exploiters.

In a communist world there will be no "foreign policy" because nobody will be "foreign."

But the fight for communism will develop unevenly. For a period, communism will exist in some places while capitalist nations survive elsewhere.

We won't try to make treaties or alliances with any capitalist enemy. We won't engage in capitalist trade in cash or kind. Mobilizing the masses for communism means a clean break from the past.

We must be prepared to defeat both counter-revolutionaries backed by imperialist powers and direct imperialist military attacks. Meanwhile

we will do everything we can to support our comrades who are still fighting for communist power. Where possible we would airlift or smuggle communist literature, weapons and supplies to them as well as to our class brothers and sisters in capitalist-run disaster areas.

Communists don't offer false promises of "peace in our time." Instead we offer the chance to fight for the communist world that can end the vicious exploitation and bloody wars of class society. Join us to mobilize for communism: the only way to secure our future.

SOCIALISM COULDN'T END SEXISM – COMMUNISM WILL!

PART II: ENDING SEXISM DEMANDS COMMUNIST SOCIAL RELATIONS

“Women play an active role in various kinds of work at the Taching Oil Field,” the woman leader Hsin Hua wrote proudly in 1977. “There is practically no housewife at Taching today who is not productively employed, except for the old, weak, ill or disabled.” This wage labor, argued the Chinese Communist Party, was the material basis for the emancipation of women.

Almost all Chinese women were far better off in 1977 than their mothers or grandmothers had been before the revolution. But, as the previous article explained, women still carried heavier burdens than the men in their families because socialism maintained a wage system.

Today we fight directly for communism. The immediate end of the wage system will destroy the true material basis of sexism.

William Hinton recorded a 1971 discussion among communist cadres about the constant quarrels in Little Lin’s poor-peasant family. Veteran Wang thought that the economic question (low wages) was the principal contradiction. Judge Kao replied that the principal contradiction was between old and new ideas of women’s equality.

Kao’s position sounds “left” because he said that “politics is primary.” But Wang was closer to the truth. He asserted that “with higher incomes there will still be economic contradictions ... and contradictions in ways of thinking also” though at “a new stage.”

Sexism could not disappear as long as families were dependent on wages (“income”).

In the 1970s, the Chinese Communist Party led a series of campaigns attacking the traditional sexism of Confucianism. Its central theme was rejecting the idea that women’s work was confined to unpaid housework. Women were told to give up their “feelings of inferiority” and engage

in wage labor.

The Liu Shao-Chi and Mao factions argued about whether or not women should get “equal pay for equal work.” They agreed, however, that the main goal was increased production.

Neither faction argued for communist social relations, including comradely unity of women and men, the way we do today. Both emphasized changing women’s attitudes, not the material conditions of their lives or even men’s attitudes toward them.

Women were pressured to be “good housewives” while also becoming wage laborers—a double burden. They were supposed to be “frugal” so that wages could stay low for everyone, increasing the state’s capital accumulation.

Hinton asked the Long Bow Women’s Association leader why there wasn’t a full-time nursery. “It’s not really necessary,” she answered. Except during the busy season “the women with children stay home, cook and make clothes.”

And, she said, “When others look after your kids you have to give work points. Most people don’t feel it is worth it. If grandparents and old people do it temporarily that’s one thing. But to give work points, that is something else.”

That meant that “as long as the social value of work is not discussed in China, and work remains to be evaluated according to the production of surplus value, that is, as long as the commodity economy remains, women will be tied down in their traditionally belittled roles,” as two Scandinavian researchers concluded in 1984. “In other words, women are not liberated.”

Women’s double-burden was never even de-

scribed as “transitional” which would have been bad enough. Instead “a virtue is made of necessity and turned into a socialist ideal for all women to emulate and prove they are revolutionary.” The main work of the Women’s Federation, led by the Chinese Communist Party, was the ideological struggle to get women to accept the double-burden of sexism.



Nursery on grounds of research lab provided all-day childcare.

Our conclusion is a positive one:

When commodity production is replaced with communism, work will be evaluated in terms of satisfying human needs. Distinctions between work outside and inside the home will be eliminated. Then the sexual division of labor can be ended and sexist ideas defeated. The work of all comrades, women and men, will be respected and valued. Women and men will finally liberate ourselves from the chains of class society.

SOURCES: Vibeke Hemmel and Pia Sindbjerg, *Women in Rural China* (1984); William Hinton, *Shenfan* (1983)

Behind the Iran “Nuclear” Deal

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN END IMPERIALIST WAR

Is peace about to break out?

That’s the conclusion some draw from the so-called Iran nuclear deal. Iran agreed not to develop nuclear weapons. What’s more, the major imperialist powers (the US, China, Russia, the UK, France, and Germany) worked together to close the deal.

Don’t get your hopes up.

We all want a world without war, and communism will eventually guarantee it. There will be no profits to fight over. No nations to go to war. No nuclear weapons. There will be no unprincipled “diplomacy” either.

Instead, one International Communist Workers’ Party will unite the masses on every continent. We will mobilize as many as possible to make decisions collectively through open (and multi-lingual) discussion. Our goal will be to use the world’s resources to meet everyone’s needs sustainably.

Until we have communism worldwide, “peace” is impossible.

The pro-US imperialist website Stratfor said of the Iran deal that “the end of the arduous negotiation period is just the beginning of a very volatile period for the Middle East.” That could mean rapid change for the worse, even worse for workers than the civil war in Syria or the rise of the Islamic State.

Or it could mean rapid change for the better, if *Red Flag* readers spread communist ideas to



Teheran, 2015: Workers celebrate May Day in Iran for the first time in eight years.

friends and relatives with connections in the region. If you can translate *Red Flag* articles into Farsi, Arabic, or another language, please send translations to icwp@anonymousspeech.com.

The deal isn’t really about nuclear weapons. Iran didn’t have one. All the imperialist powers involved do, along with Israel, India and Pakistan. If the Iranian rulers developed and used a bomb, their cities would quickly be incinerated.

The deal is mainly about the US and China jockeying for position in preparation for an eventual face-off.

China is already ramping up its economic, military and political ties to Iran. Iran was a founding member of China’s Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Ending UN sanctions could

allow Iran to join the Shanghai Cooperation Group, further integrating Eurasia.

The Chinese capitalist-imperialists’ interest in Iran is mainly strategic: part of their plan to secure the oil they will need for war via overland routes if critical sea lanes are blocked.

Leading US capitalist-imperialists hope for the opposite: that the Iran deal will lead to an alliance with the US that will block China’s access to oil. That’s unlikely.

But the deal – if it happens – would let the US disengage militarily from the Middle East, perhaps finally leaving Iraq. That would free resources for the Obama-Clinton “pivot to Asia” that is a

thinly-disguised attempt to “contain” China.

Other US imperialists bitterly oppose the Iran deal. They say that Iran “can’t be trusted” but that’s not the real issue.

They think that the best strategy to reverse the decline of US imperialism is to attack Iran militarily, alongside Israel and Saudi Arabia and (they hope) Turkey. That would likely mean fighting Russia and China in that region instead of in China’s backyard.

Let’s always remember that wars – especially world wars – have opened the door to revolution. Our Party must prepare workers for these eventual opportunities by making the case for communism now, using the opportunities that already **See IRAN, page 7**