

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

SPAIN: FIGHTING ANTI-IMMIGRANT RACISM See page 3



TAKING COMMUNISM TO GARMENT WORKERS

EL SALVADOR—A group of comrades from the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) mobilized to distribute the party's literature to workers in the factories in the Salvadoran capital. Our leaflet explained our position about the daily suffering that the working class lives through in the maquila areas of El Salvador.

Because of previous experiences when police have threatened us, we organized this action with care.

We distributed more than 500 leaflets. One comrade had a conversation with a worker from the factory in which the worker began by saying, "I have worked here since they began building this place. These Asian bosses came to get rich off our sweat and have been supported by whichever government has been in power. The deal between these bosses and the government has been that they would not pay taxes and that they could open this place to exploit the unemployed."

We should have asked if it would make workers feel any better if the bosses who oppress them were Salvadoran.

"Where do you come from?" asked the same worker.

Our comrade answered, "We are members

of ICWP and we're distributing the newspaper *Red Flag*. Read this leaflet and have confidence that we're your friends."

"How many of you are here?" he asked.

"There are several of us," was the reply.

Our comrade asked him, "Is this the time you leave the factory?"

"Yes," answered the worker.

As we continued distributing the leaflet, the worker read it and told me, "This abolition of money: it won't ever happen."

I answered, "Well there is no better struggle than the one that is beginning. Let's shake hands and we'll see each other next time."

"All right," answered the worker.

What satisfaction to carry out this communist action! Not so much for the experience, because I am used to distributing the *Red Flag* newspaper in my community.

But not everything is the color of love. There are setbacks due to the television bombardment of capitalism which, I have found, is anti-human and anti-communist.

Most of the workers took the leaflets, a few did not. We need to continue with the actions of leafleting and distributions in a mass way.

Wherever we know workers inside a

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CAPITALISM MUST BURN UP IN FLAMES

SOUTH AFRICA, August 14 — Residents in Walmer Township of Port Elizabeth were up in arms the past few days in protest against lack of service delivery. Walmer Township is an impoverished area next to the Port Elizabeth Airport, which is in an affluent, leafy suburban area.

The angry residents barricaded the main roads leading into the business district. About five hundred protesters burned tyres and debris and hurled stones at the passing vehicles in an attempt to register their demands to the local municipality over the failed promises.

The workers in and around Walmer are fed up with the lack of basic necessities like running water, electricity, sanitation, transportation. The joblessness rate is over 50%.

The police came with water cannons to remove the burning tyres and debris on the road. They used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the angry crowd. One policeman shot himself in the foot with his shotgun, which went off in the ensuing chaos. Some protesters were arrested for alleged public violence and intimidation.

Later on in the day, the angry crowd gathered at the nearby police station demanding the immediate and unconditional release of their fellow protesters. They threatened to burn down the police station.

In Kenton-on-Sea and in Mthatha similar protests were taking place, with residents fuming over lack of provision of basic services like water, electricity,

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Inter-Imperialist Rivalry Sharpens in Sub-Saharan Africa

MASSES EVERYWHERE NEED TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

US President Obama visited Africa in July to tell leaders of the African Union (AU) that the US has more to offer them than China does. But he gave his speech in the new AU headquarters, built with Chinese money.

“Sub-Saharan Africa has quietly become the center of a struggle for influence between ... the world’s chief powers: China and the United States,” financier John Burnett warned readers of *U.S. News and World Report* last May. “There is no overstating the stakes.” Those stakes include oil, strategic minerals and the ability to keep them from rival imperialists in a future world war.

Trade between the United States and Africa rose to a high of \$142 billion in 2008, then declined to \$73 billion in 2014 and is still falling. Trade between China and Africa doubled from 2010 to 2014, reaching \$222 billion (22% of Africa’s total trade volume).

A growing share of China-Africa trade and investment is conducted in Chinese currency (the renminbi, or RMB). China just announced the opening of an RMB clearinghouse in South Africa to facilitate the use of the Chinese yuan instead of the US dollar.

Chinese Rulers: Capitalist-Imperialist Exploiters

China’s role in Africa has nothing to do with the international worker-to-worker solidarity that real communism builds. As Paul Krugman stated bluntly in the *New York Times*, “China is ruled by a party that calls itself Communist, but its economic reality is one of rapacious crony capitalism.”

Workers in Africa are rebelling against this Chinese capitalist reality.

Zambian copper miners went on strike in 2010 at the Chinese-run Collum Mine. Thirteen were injured when two managers opened fire on them. Two years later a manager was killed and another injured in a mass workers’ uprising.

Nigerian construction workers protested in 2013 against working conditions at the Chinese-run Lagos-Badagry highway construction site, where many worked seven days a week for 17000 Naira (about \$86/month).

Last year 230 Mozambican construction workers went on strike in protest against beatings by their Chinese employers and poor working conditions.

No, China is not communist. It is not even a “lesser-evil” capitalist as some still think.

Real communism means that workers will collectively own and control the means of production. It will produce for the needs of the masses, not for international markets. It will engage in sharing, not trade. Real communism will abolish



Chinese poster, 1964: “Resolutely support the anti-imperialist struggle of the peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America.”

money instead of opening currency clearing-houses. .

Sometimes workers ask us where communism exists in the world today. We say that we are building its nucleus wherever workers are starting to mobilize around *Red Flag* and the International Communist Workers’ Party—in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas. You, and people like you, will build communism worldwide.

US Imperialist Rulers’ Response: AFRICOM

The US Africa Command (AFRICOM) was organized in 2007 and its stealthy footprint has been growing ever since. The US government publicly describes it as a limited, mainly humanitarian operation that also uses Special Ops against terrorist threats to the United States. But its previous commander described it, among insiders, as “the battlefield of tomorrow, today.”

In his recent book *Tomorrow’s Battlefield: U.S. Proxy Wars and Secret Ops in Africa*, Nation Institute reporter Nick Turse extensively documents his argument that “the American military claims it’s not at war in Africa. But the evidence of that war and its early signs of failure are out there.”

Leading US imperialists are not entirely happy about this. *Washington Post* reporter Craig Whitlock suggested in 2013 that growing US involvement in Africa was a diversion from the Obama-Clinton “pivot toward Asia.” However, as Burnett said, the stakes are too high for them

to draw down.

Last spring, a special report for the influential imperialist Council on Foreign Relations called for the development of a new and coherent US strategic approach to enhancing “peacekeeping operations” in Africa.

The report recommended deployment of increased “specialist contingents and capabilities” within UN operations. This would provide “first-hand knowledge of operational realities in African crisis zones.”

While rising Chinese imperialism concentrates on industrial infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa, declining US imperialism is mainly building military infrastructure.

Workers in Africa and Everywhere Need Communism

Imperialism provokes resistance. In 2013 the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, called China’s presence “a new form of imperialism.” Michael Sata won Zambia’s presidency in 2011 by tapping into anti-Chinese anger with talk about re-nationalizing the mines.

Workers must learn the bitter lessons of past “national liberation” and socialist movements. Many brave fighters sacrificed their lives for an illusion. The surviving workers found themselves still enchained in capitalist wage-slavery and entrapped in imperialist proxy wars. We hope that comrades will write more about this.

The only way forward is to mobilize the masses for communism. Right now that means reading, circulating, and writing for *Red Flag*. It means helping to develop and spread our understanding of how to build communist society. It means joining the International Communist Workers’ Party and building collectives, especially in industry and the military.

We must take advantage of the many opportunities that the brutal reign of capitalism has created everywhere. Tomorrow’s battlefield for the imperialists is our battlefield for communist workers’ revolution – starting today!



JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS’ PARTY (ICWP)

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Spain:**FIGHTING CAPITALISM'S ANTI-IMMIGRANT RACISM**

SPAIN—Since the US police killing of Sandy Bland, the Catalan police killed yet another African worker in the beach resort of Salou in Catalonia, Spain. His name was Mor Sylla. He was 50 years old, from Senegal. On the morning of Tuesday, August 11 the Catalan police, in an operation to suppress what they call the “top blanket,” cornered Sylla, raiding his apartment with a judge’s warrant. When Sylla saw the situation, he jumped from the third floor and died instantly.

The “top blanket” is a form of selling by the workers, mostly black immigrants, in which they place a blanket on the ground and put their merchandise on it: wallets, sunglasses, fans, etc. When they see the authorities coming to raid them, the sellers quickly fold everything into the blanket and escape.

These goods are made in underground factories where capitalists also keep workers in unhealthy situations of extreme slavery. These workers mostly come from Asia and have no residence or any legal document to reside in Spain. The bosses simply bring them in by tricking them with the European Dream. When they see themselves in this situation—of being in Spain with nothing—they are forced to work in these factories to make counterfeit goods which are put up

for sale by the “top blanket.”

The police arrested twelve of these “blanket sellers.” On seeing this police repression, the black community took to the streets and confronted the police, blocking train routes for several hours until the twelve workers were freed.

Racism, as *Red Flag* said in the article about Sandy Bland, is necessary for capitalism to survive. This will be true until the working class forbids it.

In Salou there were confrontations between some neighbors and tourists and the African community. Capitalism divides the working class. We communists of the International Communist Workers’ Party, ICWP, are the ones who will unite the whole working class to destroy racism and wage slavery.

We must take and spread communist ideas everywhere and tell the workers of all colors that we are the same class, that we are not different and that we must unite to overthrow capitalism. We have to find a better quality of life regardless of colors or nations.



Madrid: Protest against police attacks on immigrant street vendors. Signs read “We Are Workers” and “No to Racism! Equality Yes!”

This time there was a small spark, and this spark freed twelve black workers. We must keep working so that this spark is not only something small, but that it’s for something big: a qualitative change to build communism worldwide.

Join ICWP, share communist ideas, and discuss international political issues with our classmates in school and the university, and our co-workers from work! These are the best weapons that we have to prepare the road to build communism.

GLOBAL REFUGEES: FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE

Hundreds of thousands of migrants fleeing capitalism’s crises and wars are seeking refuge in Europe, mired in the same crisis. They are increasingly responding with spontaneous mass actions, showing both the desperation of their situation and their revolutionary potential.

“They can’t stop all of us!”

Dozens of boats set off across the Mediterranean every day. The European coast guards can’t intercept all of them.

Over the last year, thousands of migrants have stormed the fences of the Spanish North African enclave of Melilla. This summer, hundreds have attempted the dangerous crossing from Calais to England through the tunnel under the English Channel.

And increasingly angry migrants have organized to demand asylum and humanitarian aid. Hundreds are sleeping on the rocks at the Ventimiglia border separating Italy and France. Hundreds organized a sit-in blocking the main road of the Greek island of Kos.

Migrants and refugees have seen the worst capitalism has to offer. They have had the courage to risk everything to survive. They have enormous revolutionary potential and much to teach us.

The working class in Europe (as well as in South Africa and North America where there are also masses of migrants) must welcome these class sisters and brothers. They can be militant fighters for a communist world.

We fight for a world without the borders the capitalists have created to divide and rule us. We

mobilize the masses to take power wherever we can. When we have power anywhere, we will welcome our sisters and brothers from around the world. We will learn from each other and share our work and its fruits. We will mobilize to spread communist revolution throughout the world. The comrades who have come from afar will play an important role in this historic task.

Capitalism’s only solution: fascism, genocide and war

The European capitalists have responded to this crisis mainly with what must be described as fascism. In Spain, the rulers have criminalized street vending, made most protests illegal, and deported authorized immigrants caught in the legal snare. In the UK, new laws will force landlords to become immigration agents.

France has installed barbed-wire fences in Calais. The Hungarian government is building a hundred-mile (175 kilometer) fence to keep out immigrants. The European Union has increasingly militarized the Mediterranean. Greek police herded migrants into a soccer (football) stadium on Kos without food or water and used fire extinguishers and batons on them when they fought back.

Openly fascist groups have organized attacks on migrants throughout Europe, as the rulers seek to divert workers’ anger at the economic crisis into anti-immigrant racism. This includes not only attacks on recent migrants, but intensified attacks on long-term immigrants (like Mor Sylla, who had been in Spain for twenty years) and their European-born children, especially Muslims. Other workers throughout Europe have reached out in solidarity to migrants, bringing them food and water when official agencies have refused to do so.

The worldwide capitalist crisis has created economic and political disasters, from the Syrian civil war and the Eritrean failed state in East Africa, to starvation, war and chaos in former European colonies in Asia and Africa. This has created a global refugee crisis of unprecedented proportions. The fascist response of European governments who attempt to turn back this tide is as futile as the attempt of the fabled little Dutch



boy who put his finger in the dike to stop the ocean.

Communist solution: the international working class will be the human race

The international working class must respond to the urgency of this mass refugee crisis with our own urgency in building a mass communist movement. We must translate *Red Flag* into French, Arabic, Tigrigna, and other languages. We must take communist ideas to immigrant communities at the same time as we mobilize our non-immigrant neighbors in revolutionary solidarity with migrants. We are one working class—and together we can build a communist world. They can’t stop all of us!

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factory, we must generate an intense struggle with them to sharpen the internal struggle among their co-workers. This means attacking pacifist and reformist (union) ideas among them.

It means talking to each one of them in coffee shops, visiting them at home or using other opportune moments to talk about communism, the need to organize and the contradiction between reform and revolution.

Read, discuss and distribute *Red Flag*!



NICARAGUA CANAL: IMPERIALIST COMPETITION, WAR, ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION DEMAND COMMUNIST RESPONSE

Five months ago the building of the Nicaragua Canal began. It aims to unite the Caribbean Sea with the Pacific Ocean from Point Aguila on the Caribbean Sea to Brito on the Pacific Ocean, under the control of the HKND Group of China. It will be 278 kilometers (172 miles) long, with a budget of \$50 billion and with a maximum capacity of ships double that of the Panama Canal.

This is a project through which Chinese capitalists plan to compete for the international market in the transportation of goods to the United States. The US bosses are planning to finish the expansion of the Panama Canal by 2016. It will nevertheless remain small compared to the Nicaragua Canal.

The HKND Group plans to build the route through Lake Cocibolca (also called Lake Nicaragua). The canal threatens to pollute this lake, the largest freshwater reserve in Central America and second-largest in Latin America. This shows that the capitalist-imperialists don't care at all about the environment but only the growth of their businesses, accumulating more capital.

The truth of the situation is reflected in the lives of thousands of farmworkers affected by the beginning of the building of the Nicaragua Canal. The Sandinista government will evict some seven thousand families who live on the future route of the canal. This has sparked

protests and blockades in the areas where construction of the canal has begun.

At the same time, it shows the inability of the environmental groups to carry out actions that prevent such abuses of the planet's ecosystems since they align with the status quo and the rules of the bourgeois governments.

The workers of Nicaragua and the world need a communist revolution. Only in communism will decisions on whether projects like the Nicaragua Canal should be built take into account environmental and social aspects and their effect on the lives of workers and their families.

This project is part of the inter-imperialist rivalry for the control of international trade. This project, according to the spokesman for the HKND Group, already has investors from Asia, Europe and even North America. The principal US capitalist-imperialists are not happy with this, according to a report presented by the Wharton Business School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Michael Busch wrote in *Warscapes*, an internet magazine, "How should the U.S. respond? It could rethink its current focus on Asia and the Middle East, reorienting back to Latin America to counter China's growing presence there." The *Warscapes* article highlights that "given that the U.S. has military bases near China, there is strategic value for China in establishing its own

military presence in Central America, above and beyond the economic considerations."

China is eager to find a market for its surplus goods. These geopolitical movements will in turn provoke coup attempts and rebellions in the countries that are aligned with the China-Russia bloc. Future regional wars will lead to a third world war, all orchestrated by the capitalist-imperialists of the world.

From Nicaragua to Greece, it is evident that it is no longer enough to protest. It is necessary to organize the masses around the revolutionary project of the International Communist Workers' Party through *Red Flag* and the building of communist clubs throughout Central America and the world. That makes it possible to fight in an organized way against these abuses to the planet's ecosystems and to the lives of so many workers who, with the creation of free trade zones or maquilas in Nicaragua, will be forced to work in these modern concentration camps.

We must organize a permanent struggle for the political and dialectical development of the men and women workers so that those in the army and the factories form the Red Army that will wage the battle against the bourgeoisie for the building of a communist society that guarantees resolving the problems of the working class worldwide.



Sign reads "The lake is life. The canal is death." Since December 2014, tens of thousands of Nicaraguans (mostly farmers) have protested the Ortega government's massive land-grabs and evictions for the proposed canal. Some once supported the U.S.-backed fascist Contras against the first Sandinista government in the 1980s and might look to the US again for support against Ortega and his Chinese business partners. Others are former Sandinista fighters, once Ortega's strongest base. "I don't want a canal— that's for capitalists," one said. We must seize this opportunity to get *Red Flag* into the hands of the angry Nicaraguan masses.

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houses. These services were promised by the ruling party more than twenty years ago.

What has happened in Walmer can happen all over South Africa. The African National Congress that came to power has not only failed to deliver reforms but it is attacking the working class with vengeance.

One local resident described it: "We in South Africa are back in the apartheid days. Nothing has changed. I've experienced more than ten years of riots and civil unrest in the 80's and lived through military and police operations. The unrest in Walmer and Marikana has many similarities with the past."



It must be capitalism that burns up in flames! Masses mobilized for communist revolution will bring an end to this inhumane, barbaric bosses' system once and for all. No amount of reform will bring an end to the bosses' system. Only a thoroughgoing communist revolution will.

Slowly but with firm resolve we are building the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) in South Africa.

We will make sure that the angry masses of today will become revolu-

tionary leaders for communism. We have nothing to fear as the bosses' worst nightmare will occur, sweeping the entire world with a communist society built on the needs of the working class. There will be no money, no bosses, and no borders. Today we must organize as one class under the banner of ICWP. One class, one enemy; communist revolution is our goal.



Bolivia:**CAPITALIST OVERPRODUCTION LEADS TO MINERS' REBELLION**

The Potosi miners' strike/rebellion in July showed the potential power of workers in motion.

The provincial capital Potosi is a major mining center for silver and tin. The Potosi mines have delivered obscene amounts of wealth to their owners since 1545, when the Spanish conquistadors discovered and took over indigenous silver mining and smelting.

But mining brought the bosses' slaves / wage slaves nothing but misery. Even today 68% of the Potosi population lives in poverty, 38% suffer malnutrition, and 100 out of 1000 babies die at birth. Miners work 12-hour shifts and have a short 40-year life expectancy because of silicosis and related diseases.

To make matters worse, Potosi has been hard hit by the current crisis of overproduction. Commodity prices have plummeted and companies are laying off miners.

The crisis has spread worldwide. Australia, Brazil and Canada, for example, have been forced into recession. In Greece and elsewhere, government defaults on debt loom. In South Africa, mining companies are threatening to fire 10,000 workers – for starters.

Communist Good News, Capitalist Disaster

Under communism, 'over' production would be wonderful news. For a start, miners wouldn't have to work so hard. We could cut the shift from 12 to 6 or even 4 hours, and maintain production by bringing in currently unemployed workers to take up the slack. Of course this would only be possible because communism abolishes money and the wage system. Production would be for need, not sale.

Slowing down the work pace means taking time for safety precautions. We could also divert the no longer necessary labor power to making other things, like proper roads and hospitals.

Under capitalism, however, overproduction is a disaster. It means unemployment and possible starvation for miners. Those who remain face "lower production costs" (lower wages) and "higher productivity" (speedup and danger). As rival capitalist-imperialists compete for shrinking markets, they try to destroy the productive capacity of their rivals, which means war for control of markets, workers and resources.

The miners, almost all indigenous, are already super-exploited. The overproduction crisis fur-



ther intensifies this racist super-exploitation.

The Potosi miners were having none of that. They struck and occupied the American-owned Manquiri mine. They and the Comité Cívico Potosina (Comcipo), Potosi Civic Committee called a general strike and blocked all roads leading to the town. They demanded that the Government invest in local infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, an airport and a cement factory.

These demands will mainly benefit the local bosses. The miners, however, need to fight for communism. They were the backbone of the Bolivian Communist Party and have a history of mass violent class struggle for reforms.

Joining ICWP would unleash their tremendous potential to mobilize masses of workers, soldiers, students and others for communism. Short of this, the Bolivian working class will be at the mercy of the imperialists and the local capitalists.

The Government refused to negotiate, so Comcipo sent a 'delegation' of several hundred miners to La Paz. They demanded to speak directly with Evo Morales, the indigenous supposedly left-wing president of Bolivia. He refused to meet them. Instead, he went off to play football. When the miners heard this they attacked the cops and the ministry building with dynamite charges. Seven ministers had to escape by the rooftops.

However, after a month-long strike food started running out and Manquiri threatened to

close shop. The miners had to go back to work – for the time being.

Take Advantage of the Opportunities

What if communists had state power in South Africa or the U.S. where miners abound? At the very least, we would mobilize mass demonstrations calling for an end to overproduction crises with communist revolution. Miners in these Red zones would lead multi-racial millions to provide material and political support to those still under the yoke of capitalism in, say, Bolivia.

We in the International Communist Workers' Party often predict workers' rebellions but are sometimes taken by surprise when they happen. Self-critically, this was one of those times. We don't have state power yet, but we can still organize solidarity based on communist politics. We won't make that mistake again!

Our party's growth in South Africa has been faster than many of us would have expected. After comrades in South Africa started reading *Red Flag* and the ICWP pamphlet about South Africa on the internet, they wanted to join and build the Party. We have to be ready when workers step forward like this and not be taken by surprise!

If you are reading this paper in Bolivia, please join us! Spread *Red Flag*. If you know people in Bolivia, please send the paper to them. Let's build ICWP all over the world so masses of workers fight for communism and produce only for our own needs.



We will rise again in armed struggle
To smash oppression once and for all
We have absolute faith in communism
In dialectics and materialism
Our life belongs to the struggle
Like Marx and Engels
We will fight and walk the road of victory
With the torch of our fallen comrades.
--Internationalist Red

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Racism in Brazil:

ANSWER FASCIST ATTACKS WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!

Over 100 million black people live in Brazil. Most of them live in slums and favelas with very few facilities like water, electricity, clinics.

According to a recent report, every black Brazilian will become a victim of violent crime at some time in their life. Drugs and joblessness drive youth to gangs and violence. Twenty-eight Brazilian children are killed every day.

In the last six years police have killed over 16,000 people, mostly black and indigenous people. Brazilian police are militarized with assault weapons, helicopters, drones, water cannons and tanks. They systematically carry out what the locals call 'blitz' where hundreds of heavily armed police attack favelas and brutalize the workers and youth.

Last week hooded armed gunmen, who were really vigilantes organized by the police, killed nineteen black people in Sao Paulo. This is the eighth mass murder in Sao Paulo this year.

The super-exploitation of black and indigenous workers has made Brazilian capitalists a formidable power to challenge US influence in Latin America. They have made an alliance with Chinese capitalists to provide raw materials and oil.

As the crisis of capitalism intensifies in the US and spreads to Europe and China, the prices of raw materials, minerals and oil are declining.

From Brazil to Bolivia to South Africa, the workers are fighting back.

We have a network of readers of *Red Flag* in Brazil and other areas of the world. These readers should join the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) to

fight for communism. We need hundreds of millions of workers and youth to join ICWP.

Masses of workers armed with a communist vision will have to mobilize for a violent overthrow of the capitalist bosses. Bosses' terror, racist attacks and imperialist wars for profit can only be defeated by communist revolution.

Communism is a society based on need. Every person will be encouraged to build the new society according to their ability. Hundreds of millions of workers who are without work and starving under capitalism will contribute to build-



Protesting racist police murder in Brazil, March 2014

ing a society for all. This will largely eliminate drugs, racism and gangs.

However, we will have to constantly struggle with the old capitalist ideas of individualism, anti-communism, racism and sexism. Bosses will use every weapon available at their disposal to defeat us. But the bosses are powerless without the soldiers and workers on their side.

Our urgent task is to massively build the party now with a vision of the communist future. Joining ICWP, and distributing and writing for *Red Flag*, are the steps in the right direction.

TO SATISFY HUMAN NEEDS WE MUST TAKE THE ENVIRONMENT INTO ACCOUNT

EL SALVADOR--"The scientific-technological research and its implementation in great part are financed by capitalists to justify the irrational and/or dangerous use of the earth's resources," said a friend in a conversation while a group of us had lunch. We began a discussion about the use of systems to generate electricity and how these depend on who handles the market.

Hydroelectric dams were built in the last century due to the demand for new technologies and the construction of a power grid that supplies the kilowatts needed for emerging industry. Hydroelectric dams destroy the habitats of hundreds of species. This is a serious danger to the environment. It was justified at the time due to the lack of any other power supply for the country.

However, a new hydroelectric dam was built in 2015 despite the existence of new technologies for renewable energy. These hydroelectric projects also affect the populations who live on the river banks.

El Salvador and other countries also use geothermal energy generation.

Geothermal energy consists of extracting steam generated by lava flowing under subterranean rivers. This steam makes the turbines of a generator move. It is connected in series with an alternator and a transformer that injects the energy into the grid.

This power generation uses a steam-condensing system which changes the steam to a liquid state and returns it to the same water source. However, this is already an alteration that affects the aquifers (subsoil) of the country. In 2014 the country was declared to be in water stress, due to drought and to human intervention.

In communism, we will utilize the scientific and technological advances for the needs of humanity, taking into account the environment. We will find ways to coexist with the earth in a way that we can feed ourselves and live on it and at the same time protect it.

The lobbying, bribes and the role of the state in responding to the needs of the capitalists have led to the implementation of energy-generation technologies that impact our planet despite the great damage it causes, since profit comes first.

In the 1960's scientists discovered that lead is highly harmful to human beings. The high levels of lead in almost the whole environment were mainly generated by the oil companies. The oil companies pushed to discredit these investigations and make life impossible for those who carried them out.

Scientists in service of the bosses interpreted these results differently. They argued that the oil companies only contributed insignificantly to rising lead levels. Other scientists admitted that the

levels of lead had not changed significantly, but were found in almost everything around us. But they showed that no level of lead is tolerable to humans.

In El Salvador this hardly mattered. Just in the past decade it was reported that the Record battery factory polluted rivers that entire communities depended on for daily life. Dozens of children in the municipality of San Juan Opico suffered illnesses and even death because of lead in their blood. Even though this factory closed, it moved to another place and continues to pollute our environment.

We will put an end to the irrational and harmful use of the earth's resources. We will not create technologies for profits, but instead for the common benefit of the human race. We will utilize the existing scientific knowledge and create new advances.

Innovations that have been forgotten simply because they were created for use and not for trade will be valued in communist society. Innovations and discoveries are not individual feats. They are the result of the collective acquisition of knowledge throughout history. From the discovery of fire, to the spear, to the wheel, all of them belong to humanity.

**ICWP
Pamphlets**

Mobilize the Masses for Communism

icwpredflag.org/MMC/MMCnewE.html

Communist Education for a Classless Society

icwpredflag.org/EDU/EdPamE.pdf

Bigger Industrial Working Class: Bigger Communist Potential Worldwide

icwpredflag.org/IndustrialE/WorkE.html

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines: Crucial to a Communist Workers' Revolution

icwpredflag.org/MIL/mpe.html

South African Strikes Call on Us to Mobilize the Masses for Communism

icwpredflag.org/MMC/SApamE.html

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Politics and Religion

The comrade who criticized the editorial on racism and religion made a good point about needing to deepen the critique of both the African Methodist Episcopal and Catholic churches as reformist. I am in a good position to do that because I have experience in a black Baptist church (similar to AME) and a Roman Catholic Church and school.

They are different because the Catholic Church uses the fear factor. Confessing sins and saying Hail Mary's didn't make me feel better. It felt kind of stupid. The Baptists want you to shout out your sin, pray your sin or trouble away, give it to God to handle. That seems ridiculous as well. You're not doing anything about it.

Politics is about the material world, religion is about the spiritual. The political standpoint is taking or demanding what you need to live, a society that meets our needs. Churches tell you to meditate and wait for it.

In my opinion, activist churches are just making a spectacle of themselves, settling for less than we really need. That's what I mean by reformist. The picture with the editorial, of Denmark Vesey preaching slave rebellion, showed a different kind of church. I want to find out more about him.

I don't feel that we are attacking people for going to church, but in my opinion the churches are trying to brainwash us. They are telling you that God will give you anything. They are trying to soften the pillows of a hard bed. We want people to wake up out of that bed and come to the realization that there is something better that is possible in this world.

—Young comrade

Raising Communist Ideas in Reformist Actions: Don't Be Shy!

Eighty people, including low-wage workers and members of local churches, rallied and marched before attending a Pasadena (California) City Council meeting that was to consider

a \$15 minimum wage ordinance.

A *Red Flag* reader was discouraged by the enthusiastic reformism of the crowd. She consulted with a friend, who encouraged her to speak during the "open mic" period.

"I see signs about economic justice," she said. "We all know that \$15/hour isn't a living wage here. It's pretty far from economic justice. I think we should think more broadly about what we really want. We should think about a society where everyone would work as they could and everyone would get what they need.

"This is not a new idea. It's in many of our faith traditions. In Judaism there was the Es-sene tradition. The Christian book of Acts is probably the original source for the saying 'from each according to ability, to each according to need.' If we want economic justice we should begin talking about that now."

There was some applause. "You got a good response," the friend said. Half a dozen church friends also congratulated her. Clearly it would have been much better if she'd organized a few people to bring Party leaflets and a stack of papers.

But this little speech, despite its weaknesses, revealed a contradiction in what had seemed to be a thoroughly reformist action. It became clear that many in the crowd, even some of the most active, wanted something more, or even something different, from what the organizers put forward.

We need to take more advantage of these openings to raise communist ideas. In other words, we need to mobilize ourselves for communism!

—California comrade

U.S. Bosses Fear Communism

I would like to comment on last issue's caption: "August 1945: US Imperialists Murdered 100,000 Japanese Civilians to Threaten the Soviet Union."

This title is historically correct but the main

reason given for this US atrocity is not completely accurate. The caption stated that "the US already shared 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, and refused to share its victory in the Pacific with the Soviets as well."

A closer look at the events during and after WWII would suggest that the main reason the US bosses committed this horrific crime was because they were afraid that the world's workers would opt for communism.

In the aftermath of WWII, because of the tremendous prestige of a victorious Soviet Union over Nazi Germany a "specter – the specter of communism" was not only haunting Europe but many countries on all continents.

From Eastern Europe to France, Italy, and Greece, millions had joined the communist parties and the armed communist-led resistance that defeated the Nazi invaders and their local capitalist supporters. Likewise, from Vietnam to Korea to China millions joined the communist led resistance that defeated or helped defeat, as in the Philippines, the fascist Japanese invaders. Old and newly-founded Communist Parties in Latin America and Africa grew tremendously. Millions joined the communist-led armed struggle against their local bosses and colonial masters.

In short, the world's masses longed for communism and were willing to fight and die for it. Unfortunately, the old communist movement betrayed them. Instead of fighting for communism they continued to fight for socialism, national liberation and "democracy." All of these have proven to be a capitalist disaster for the working masses.

However, the main lesson we should draw from this brief history is that the vision of communism has inspired hundreds of millions before and it will do so again. The masses were ready for communism then and are ready for communism today. Let's not defraud or betray them.

--Red student of history

DESTROY RACISM from page 8

nism.

Sixty-four thousand are in retail sales.

This is Los Angeles: 86,000 are in the arts, sports, and entertainment. White people are extremely overrepresented here, even in blue-collar jobs like camera operators.

Almost 100,000 work in health care. They are overrepresented in the higher-pay, higher-status categories (like physicians) and underrepresented in the lower (home health aides).

Over 100,000 are teachers.

Many work in financial, scientific or technical fields where white workers are strongly over-represented. This includes 26,000 engineers and 29,000 accountants and auditors.

Industrial workers and soldiers have a leading role in mobilizing the masses for commu-



Los Angeles has 340,000 employees in "production occupations." About 73% of them are latino/a, 12% white, 11% Asian and only 3% black.

Almost a quarter of white production employees, about 6500, are first-line supervisors.

Five thousand are inspectors, testers, or sorters.

Almost 6000 work in metal and plastic, where they are just 11% of all workers. However, 2500 of them are machinists (21% of category), 110 make models and patterns (29%) and 485 are tool-and-die makers (41%). White workers are also over-represented in other highly skilled jobs such as computer control programmers and tool grinders and sharpeners.

None perform the dangerous jobs of working with extruding and drawing machines or heat-treating equipment.

Only 4% of Los Angeles textile, garment and shoe workers are white. Over half of those are tailors or dressmakers. Many are probably in specialties like costume production.

The "racial" segmentation of the labor



force today is not absolute, as it was under slavery, but it's still the material basis of the bosses' racist system. Communism will end it by abolishing the wage system.

The difference between \$10 per hour and \$50 per hour may seem big. But it's tiny compared to the capitalist executives who get \$5 THOUSAND per hour and the wealthy stockholders who reap the profits. All workers will have better lives when we produce for our collective needs and get these parasites off our backs.

Comrades in relatively integrated workplaces like LA Metro (mass transit) are strategically situated to build ties across the boss-created "racial" lines by joining and building the International Communist Workers' Party.

SOCIALISM COULDN'T END SEXISM – COMMUNISM WILL!

Part III: Developing Communist Women Leaders

The first two parts of this series described how the wage (work-point) system in socialist China made it impossible to end sexism.

“Women play an active role as leaders at all levels and in various kinds of work at the Taching Oil Field,” the woman leader Hsin Hua wrote proudly in 1977.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) made many efforts to develop women as leaders (“cadre”). The representation of women in leadership positions did increase, in some situations up to about 30% but less at higher levels. However, they did not influence or change party policy, even towards women. More women officials did not change things for the masses of Chinese women any more than it did in the West.

A deeper question is what the CCP meant by “leadership.” As in other class societies, leadership was equated with having an official position in the party, civil service, army or production. These cadres were usually CCP members. However, in 1973 only about 6% of adults were even Party members.

Today the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) has a very different idea. We aim to build a mass party embracing everyone willing to help mobilize even broader masses for communism. Our collectives help all members to take leadership around this, in big ways or small. We expect that, a generation after we’ve won



Wu Kuei-hsien, cotton mill worker, became Vice-Premier of the People's Republic of China

power, most of the population will be ICWP members.

“We lead women in the study of Mao Tse-Tung Thought and in collective labor,” the leader of the Long Bow Women’s Association told William Hinton in 1971.

“I encourage all the women to go out and work. Women are the majority on our team and my work is to mobilize them,” said the assistant leader.

These women described Party policy. The role of women cadres was mainly to mobilize women to become more active in collective production, achieving better results there and also in house-keeping. Cadres were to be industrious, impartial, and unselfish and to share the work and conditions of masses. They were specifically advised not to scorn doing “women’s work.”

As our previous articles explained, the slogan “women hold up half the sky” didn’t mean ending gender discrimination or the sexual division of labor. It meant that they should work harder: in social production (wage labor) as well as their heavy unpaid housework. The ideal revolutionary woman was supposed to do her political work on top of shouldering her duties in a “stable family” and being an exemplary production worker.

The ICWP struggles with this today in working to develop young leaders. Some men in and around the Party take on major responsibilities in their families and households. But this is much more common among women. Sometimes this limits their ability to participate in meetings and other typical Party work. We need to get better at finding ways to develop them as communist leaders and at recognizing the important leadership they already give.

During the Cultural Revolution the one-sided emphasis on production was criticized with the slogan “politics in command.” A better slogan would be: “COMMUNIST politics in command.”

The CCP told women cadres to get women to improve their ideological think-

Kuo Feng-lien, Branch party secretary and member of the Tachai Production Brigade



ing. But in practice this meant that women should accept the same old party line: that they should prove their revolutionary zeal by living up to the multiple demands made on them, rather than fighting for further collectivization or an end to the work-point (wage) system.

New women cadre themselves were mainly educated to give leadership to traditional “women’s work.” By all reports, their political education (like that of most men) was generally limited to an uncritical study of Mao’s writings. They were not expected to help make important decisions or develop the Party line.

Today the ICWP encourages all members and friends to study fundamental principles of communism, especially the philosophical tools of dialectical materialism. We are developing multi-media materials in several languages so that masses can learn to analyze the world situation and criticize our work. In small and larger meetings, and in the pages of *Red Flag*, we strive to involve everyone in developing the Party line.

In communist society, a mass ICWP will provide the structure for everyone to help make decisions that affect our lives, not just to carry out decisions already made.

Communism, and only communism, can end sexism.

SOURCES: Vibeke Hemmel and Pia Sindbjerg, *Women in Rural China* (1984); William Hinton, *Shenfan* (1983); Chi Pen, Ed. *Chinese Women in the Fight for Socialism* (1977)

Workers’ Unity Will Destroy Capitalist Exploitation

COMMUNISM WILL DESTROY RACISM AND THE IDEA OF “RACE”

LOS ANGELES – “Where are the white workers in Los Angeles?” asked a comrade.

The most run-down neighborhoods and the worst jobs are filled mainly with “black,” “latino/a” and immigrant workers. This leads some to believe the bosses’ lies that “white” people are all racist, “privileged” and untrustworthy. It’s no accident that young activists hear this in colleges and supposedly “anti-racist” organizations.

For over 400 years, capitalism has organized society around invented “racial” categories that divide the masses. It uses racist terror to super-exploit one section of the working class, creating a material basis for its “divide-and-conquer” politics.

By mobilizing the masses for communism we begin to smash these divisions in practice. The victory of communism will create the material basis for ending racism and racial categories forever.

The capitalist US government categorizes the work force by “race” and “ethnicity.” In December 2014 nearly 5 million people were counted in the Los Angeles County labor force. They were

44% Latino/a, 31% White, 14% Asian and 8% African-American (Black). The remaining 3% included Native Americans, Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, and people identifying as “mixed.”

Not all of these are workers. Out of 1.5 million whites, 188,000 are “managers” or school administrators. Thirty thousand are chief executives and legislators, and 31,000 are lawyers and judges. White people are over-represented in these categories. Twenty thousand are cops or jailers (whites are not over-represented here).

None of these occupations will exist in communist society.

But neither will the “jobs” we wage-slaves have today. We’ll all do many different kinds of work. We won’t identify ourselves with a particular occupation. Eventually we’ll all identify ourselves as “comrades” instead of by “race” or “ethnicity” or “nationality.”

Who are the white workers in Los Angeles County?

Some are among the worst-paid and worst-treated wage slaves. About 5700 workers in Los Angeles are classified as “combined food

preparation and serving workers, including fast food.” About 1400 of them (24%) are white. Another 5600 are “counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession and coffee shop” workers. Fifteen hundred of these (27%) are white.

Twenty-six thousand white workers wait tables or tend bar.

Thirty-two thousand work in transportation.

Thirty-seven thousand install, maintain or repair engines and machinery.

Forty thousand are in computer fields, over-represented in almost every job category.

Over forty thousand work as hairdressers, personal-care aides, child-care workers, or related occupations.

Fifty thousand (mainly women) work in offices as secretaries, administrative assistants, etc.

Fifty thousand (mostly men) work in construction. Of these, 9000 are first-line supervisors. White workers are more likely to be better-paid wage-slaves like electricians, plumbers, boiler-makers, inspectors, sheet-metal workers, and heavy-equipment operators.

See DESTROY RACISM, page8