



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

CHILPANCINGO, GUERRERO, MEXICO, Sept. 29

Thousands of students, teachers, farmers and other workers marched through the streets of this city to protest the police murder of three and the wounding of more than 25 students of Ayotzinapa Normal School and the torture and disappearance of another 55 students in the city of Iguala.

The students blamed the mayor of Iguala and the governor of the state, both from the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), for these attacks and another in which three more youths were killed. The protestors were so angry that they attacked government installations and the PRD offices.

In Guerrero, like many other Mexican states, the workers' militant protests against capitalist measures have led to violent repression by the bosses. Dozens of liberal, trade unionist, and human rights groups are demanding "justice" from those who perpetrate the violence. The only way these workers can get rid of this murderous capitalist system is by joining ICWP and helping to organize a communist revolution all over the world.



CHILPANCINGO



EBOLA FORUM INDICTS RACIST IMPERIALISM & CALLS FOR COMMUNIST HEALTHCARE

SEATTLE, WA, Sept. 27 -- "Communist healthcare is the answer," said a Boeing worker friend at our discussion about the Ebola epidemic in western Africa, "but it's a new idea." Many Boeing workers had discussed this with us in the weeks leading up to this forum.

"I read recently that some slaves actually wanted to go back to chattel slavery because wage slavery was so bad," he continued. "Sitting here today, a hundred and fifty years later, we would ask why anyone would want something like that."

"I can imagine fifty years from now our grandchildren would have the same reaction to capitalist healthcare. Why wouldn't you want to switch to communist healthcare?"

He was responding to another worker who felt it would take too long to get a new healthcare system. The implication was that we should focus on finding some immediate relief under this system.

"It's easy to get frustrated when you face serious obstacles and at-

tacks. I'm sure that's why a few ex-slaves felt like that. But this [mobilizing the masses for communism] is the only way forward."

Hatred of Bosses, Love for Workers Marks Discussion

A comrade who worked for 35 years in health care introduced the topic. She meticulously described the progression of the epidemic. "I became aware of the seriousness of the conditions in West Africa in late August, which was months after it was already declared out of control," she admitted.

This was no accident. Liberian workers in West Point revolted against the cordoning-off of their neighborhood of 120,000 in August. Nurses in Liberia and Sierra Leone struck for help and basic protective gear around that time. These actions sent chills up the spines of US State Department operatives.

A State Department spokesperson held a news conference to publicize the danger of "destabilization." They were afraid workers would revolt against US client regimes in the

See EBOLA FORUM, page 4

MTA: UNION CONTRACTS CHAIN US TO WAGE SLAVERY

LOS ANGELES, CA, Sept. 30-- ICWP members and friends distributed a leaflet to transit workers last week entitled "Let's End Wage Slavery, Not by Voting on a Union Contract, But by Organizing for Communist Revolution."

The leaflet said, "MTA drivers have a new contract. The SMART General Committee, MTA bosses and the US ruling class are pleased. The strike was averted. They can breathe a sigh of relief. Their economy won't lose hundreds of millions, possibly billions, of dollars, and most important, they won't have to deal with a strike which could expose to millions that the real role of their state (their media, courts, politicians, and cops) is to impose their wage slavery."

"Many operators, however, are not pleased. The contract passed by a slim margin of 237 votes. Many did not vote. 1585 voted for a strike in spite of the union hacks' tactics of divide and conquer. ICWP and Red Flag recognize and applaud those workers' fighting spirit. We

call on them to join ICWP and help distribute and support Red Flag economically to build a revolutionary communist movement to destroy capitalism and its wage slavery."

We thank those who have contributed and urge them to continue to help us when they can, and to struggle with their co-workers who read Red Flag to do likewise. At Division 18, when distributors explained that due to the constant harassment and threats by the Sheriffs, we were asking workers to take more papers for their co-workers, 23 did so. Others did the same at Divisions 7, 10 and 5.

These are small but important advances in mobilizing the masses for communism. Let's not forget that a "journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step."

To workers upset because the contract passed, we responded that many who voted against it can become a force for communist revolution. Some nodded approvingly.

As the leaflet explained, "To help build this movement, our efforts in

See MTA WAGE SLAVERY, page 4

**INDIA:
IMPERIALIST
BATTLE-
GROUND
PAGE 2**

**INDUSTRIAL
WORKERS JOIN
ICWP
PAGE 3**

**CAPITALIST
HEALTHCARE
PAGES 5 & 6**

**HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS &
THE MILITARY
PAGE 5**

India: Imperialist Battleground

WORKERS EVERYWHERE MUST MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

“The transfer of power from West to East is gathering pace and soon will dramatically change the context for dealing with international challenges — as well as the challenges themselves... Major shifts of power between states, not to mention regions, occur infrequently and are rarely peaceful.” (*Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2004.)

This is what prompted Chinese President Xi Jinping’s five-day visit to Indian Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi last week, and what has taken Modi to the power corridors of Tokyo and now Washington.

Since 2004, the power shift to the East has accelerated tremendously. *Foreign Affairs* predicted that China’s economy would overtake Japan’s by 2020. It did so in early 2009, becoming the world’s second-largest economy.

In April 2013, *Financial Times* predicted that this year China would dislodge the US as the world’s largest economy, a position the US has held since 1872. Now, India boasts the world’s third-largest economy, Japan the fourth, and the fifth will be the ASEAN Economic Community to be created in 2015. The Asia-Pacific region has become the world’s economic center.

US imperialism and its western allies will fight to reverse this trend. They have dominated the world’s economy for the last 500 years. The US rulers’ avowed strategy is “to pivot or rebalance to Asia-Pacific” to “contain” a rising China. But, they know well that China can’t be contained. They need to stop it militarily.

Japanese, Chinese, and US imperialists are aggressively courting India.

The US’ main approach to India is military. It will offer further nuclear cooperation and economic aid to modernize its military, especially its navy. It hopes that, in case of war, India, the dominant naval power in the Indian Ocean, will help the US blockade the sea lanes and chokepoints through which China’s energy supplies must pass. Over 70% of India’s energy imports from the Middle East must travel over some of these same sea lanes. US rulers also salivate over a military alliance that could field millions of Indian soldiers against China, a historic rival.

India, however, is not so easily wooed. The Indian ruling class is divided. Some want to strengthen their ties with US imperialism. Others want closer ties with Chinese and Russian imperialists.

Modi rose to power with support from both sections. His strategy apparently is to use all these imperialists to expand India’s economic and military influence. He is seeking help in modernizing India’s infrastructure, a trillion-dollar project over the next 5 years, and in creating jobs for the 12 million workers who enter its labor force yearly.

The US can’t meet either of those needs. It wants to open India’s market for investments and

exports to benefit US corporations. Modi refused US demands to sign a critical WTO trade deal that would have removed India’s subsidies to agriculture. Hundreds of millions of Indian farmers would have gone bankrupt as US agribusinesses reaped the profits.

Japan and China are better positioned to meet India’s particular needs. They have signed deals to invest \$35 and \$50 billion, respectively, in India’s infrastructure. Japanese bosses, facing political obstacles in China, are looking to move production to India, which has the world’s biggest workforce and one of the cheapest.

China is also eyeing this Indian workforce. Since wages are rising in China, Chinese imperialists are planning to move labor-intensive industries to India to keep their export-oriented economy competitive.



Japanese bosses are also seeking an alliance with India to confront China over territorial disputes in the East China Sea. India has territorial disputes with China in its northeastern region, which recently flared up again. But some Indian bosses are wary because an alliance with Japan would burn bridges with China and Russia.

Modi promises to increase military spending quickly to purchase and deploy a vast array of new weapons. India is the world’s biggest weapons importer. Modi is also fast-tracking a law to allow 100% equity holding by foreign investors in India’s defense industry, benefiting US and Japanese companies.

The world’s imperialists are locked in a bitter battle to dominate and re-divide the world market created after World War II.

Japan, Germany and parts of Europe are still occupied by the US military. The aspirations of rising imperialists like Russia, China, Germany, and India are in direct conflict with US imperialists’ interests. Cooperation among these bloodthirsty imperialists is temporary. Competition is permanent and makes World War III inevitable.

The message for the international working class could not be clearer. We must build the International Communist Workers’ Party to mobilize the masses for communism. Only an ICWP composed of masses of workers, soldiers and youth can end capitalism’s cycles of war, terror, hunger, disease and famine. We encourage our readers in India and everywhere to join ICWP and spread *Red Flag*.

Modi is Building Fascism

WORKERS’ ANTI-FASCIST FIGHT BACK MUST MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

Modi’s political party BJP has built the Hindu fascist movement for over 70 years. In the highly industrial state of Gujarat, Modi’s party came to power in 2000. The government was extremely weak and was on the verge of losing power. The BJP staged an incident where scores of its fanatic supporters were burned to death in a train. As planned, they blamed it on the local Muslims. BJP’s para-military organization RSS systematically killed 2000 Muslims; their properties, homes, and shops were burned or confiscated. Pregnant Muslim women were gang-raped, brutally tortured and burned alive. The state police force, heavily dominated by pro-Modi officials, actively aided the Hindu mobs attacking Muslim areas.

Modi’s model of attacking Muslims to gain votes was repeated all over India as the BJP, led by Modi, was elected to power in May 2014. Since then, the BJP is consolidating fascism. History books are being rewritten by fascist pro-BJP historians. Marriages between Hindu and Muslim are physically attacked. Hundreds of people, mostly Muslims, were killed during the elections in May.

Modi just brought this message of Indian fascism to Madison Square Garden in New York City. He addressed a crowd of over 60,000 people of Indian origin, some of whom paid as much as \$50,000 to hear his speech, which got top billing in India. As the crowd cheered wildly, the message to Obama was clear — the Indian capitalists are united and strong and will not hesitate to make deals with China also. Even more worrisome for the US bosses is the fact that a large number of key professionals of Indian origin are Modi supporters.

India has an available work force of 300 million workers that make less than a dollar a day, over 600 million workers in total. They are not putting up with the bosses’ growing fascist attacks passively. The auto workers have led many strikes throughout India (See auto, page 4). Faced with industrial workers’ strikes, the bosses need fascism to divide the workers. The workers’ class struggle and anti-fascist fight back is fertile ground to mobilize the masses of workers for communism.

Masses of Indian workers embraced the old communist movement, which had the wrong line of fighting for socialism, which was state capitalism. We need mobilize these masses of angry workers today for communism.



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST
WORKERS’ PARTY (ICWP)
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 487-7674
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362
3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA
90007, USA**

BUILDING COMMUNISM INTERNATIONALLY AMONG INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

BUILDING ICWP IN SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA—We had a casual but very interesting meeting today. We also welcomed a new comrade who eagerly accepted our line and showed tremendous appetite to join our party. We reflected on a meeting we had with Transnet workers on the Port Elizabeth harbour. (See R.F., V. 5 #15) We saw that labour brokers were at the center of the miseries of workers but we also saw that capitalist system is the main cause. We will keep in touch with these workers and keep track of developments on a weekly basis. We have plans to recruit them to be members of ICWP with a view of forming another cell.

Fortunately, we have copies of the whole series of Communist Dialectics. We will make photocopies for everyone. We plan to start with the first lesson in two weeks' time. We will meet again next week and also make sure that all comrades are available and ready to start. Our recruitment drive continues with the distribution of the *Red Flag* to various companies like General Motors. We also learnt that GM is threatening workers with retrenchments (layoffs) to make them submissive and not to strike. This threat comes after the four-week strike by more than 220,000 metalworkers in the metals and engineering sector. GM was one of the auto companies most affected by the engineering sector strike. Workers are open to our ideas; we want to reach out to workers using the *Red Flag* and GM is our target.

We are experiencing very cold and rainy weather over this weekend, but that did not dampen our spirits. Comrades attended the meeting in big numbers. Everyone was excited to hear about the upcoming visit by a comrade as well as a proposed conference to be held later in South Africa. Comrades were already zooming in on venues to be used, like schools in the area and community halls, they were having a field day. One comrade volunteered to write minutes of the meetings to keep track of things to do. We also emphasized the importance of expanding the network of the *Red Flag* readers as well as targeting workers at GM, Ford, VW, Continental Tyres, Bridgestone, Firestone, etcetera. We will be meeting again next week on Sunday. Come one, come all.

RECRUITING GARMENT WORKERS IN EL SALVADOR

EL SALVADOR—“The distributions of *Red Flag* and leaflets outside the factory have already started to give results, comrades!” a worker leader told us with great revolutionary excitement. “That some workers from the factory have already started to contact us means a great advance for our ICWP,” he continued.

This week the workers organized in the International Communist Workers' Party had a meeting with a worker leader to mainly discuss the responses of the men and women workers in the factories where we have massively distributed *Red Flag*.

“There are two co-workers in the factories who took the newspaper and contacted me to find out more about our communist line and what is ICWP. One of them asked me if we were some party that participates in elections, because if we were he was not interested. I explained that we were a communist party fighting for worldwide revolution and that our ideology was that we men and women workers should never again be exploited,” he continued telling us.

“Oh, if it's like that, then we want to be in the meetings that you have and we will organize in the Party,” these workers ended up saying.

This report by a comrade leader of the workers' cell excited all the other participants in this meeting.

As the next point on the agenda and after hearing about the response of the

working class, it was raised that we need to spread communist ideas massively in all these factories, by passing out leaflets that reflect the internal struggles in each factory. We need to publicly expose the bosses' fascism, and explain how we members of the working class are organizing ourselves and fighting to exterminate the capitalists and their servants.

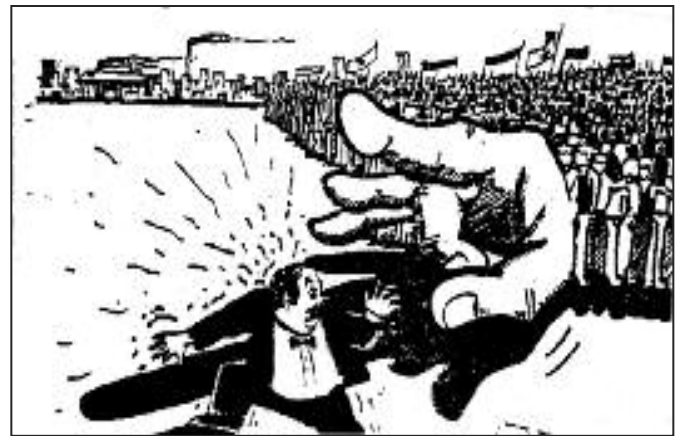
As a final point, and given the advance that ICWP is having among the workers of various factories in the Salvadoran capital, we decided to have a party collective that supports communist ideas at each meeting that we have, and that these meetings be carried out once a month, together with other members of the International Communist Workers' Party of the whole country. We decided to make an effort to add other comrades from neighboring countries. Everyone agreed to carry out this idea and to conclude every year with a communist school. It was also agreed that if possible a member of the international leadership of the party participate actively in this end-of-the-year meeting.

With the efforts of each member of ICWP, communist ideology is growing and showing that only by fighting for worldwide communist revolution will the working class be coming out stronger. The struggle continues...from El Salvador to South Africa, from Los Angeles to India, from Mexico to Brazil.

Read our pamphlet:

**BIGGER INDUSTRIAL WORKING
CLASS:
BIGGER COMMUNIST POTENTIAL
WORLDWIDE**

Available at: www.icwpredflag.org



COMMUNISM--NOT SOCIALISM: DISCUSSIONS WITH BUS MECHANICS IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, CA—At Los Angeles MTA, one afternoon last week, close to the end of my shift, I started talking to two mechanics on the night shift. One of them said in a joking tone to the other, “Look at that guy” (referring to me) “he's a socialist like you.” The other mechanic is from a country that used to be part of the socialist republics of the USSR.

He continued, saying that socialism would never win because people are selfish and that capitalism is about the best system that could exist.

When he finished, I clarified that I am not a socialist, but a communist. I said that the facts of history show that during the great revolutions, thousands and millions of workers, soldiers, farmers, students, etc., have united. If today there is no communist country it's not because people didn't unite to fight for a new society, but rather because the old communist parties believed that to get to communism it was necessary to go

through the stage of socialism.

After the victory of the revolution, with power in their hands, the communists, instead of directly installing a communist society, opted for the socialist road, which left the capitalist system in place, with some reforms, but its roots intact. The proletariat is now uniting again. This time we won't settle for half measures, because communism will be installed immediately after the seizure of power.

The worker that had made those comments tried to give credibility to his arguments, while the other one told him, referring to me, “Listen to what he's saying. He knows what he's talking about.”

“No,” said the first worker, “capitalism won't disappear.”

“Look,” I answered, “all the societies that came before capitalism disappeared because social development can't stand still. Just like capitalism replaced feudalism, in due time it will be

replaced by communism. Dialectical philosophy has proved that everything that is born develops and dies. And capitalism, as a system, is dying on a world-wide scale.

“Listen, listen,” the ex-socialist mechanic told him. “I believe what you say,” he told me, “but I'm going to join you when I see more people.”

The comments of the first mechanic are not those of a reactionary, but of a worker who is trying to overcome the mistrust that he still feels because of the defeats of previous revolutions. This mechanic is a careful reader of *Red Flag* and always contributes economically for the paper. I'm sure that one day soon he will expand the ranks of our party. Patience and urgency will make the difference so that these two mechanics join our party very soon.

The conversation ended here because the whistle announced the end of the shift. They had to go to work and I had to go home.

WE MAKE CARS, THEY MAKE PROFITS! LET'S ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM! (PART 3)

One of the reasons to abolish the wage system is that it creates profits. The profits (technically speaking 'surplus value') then get divided up among bankers, land developers and industrialists.

In 2001 the auto industry began to grow in India. By 2006 a group of capitalists decided to make India a "global manufacturing hub" for autos. They saw 20% of the population - the middle class - living on about \$2.50 a day. They saw millions of others subsisting below that. In other words, they saw a massive cheap labor force. But they wanted more.

They got government subsidies, tax breaks, research grants and, above all, favorable labor laws. They got, for example, legislation that made low rural wages even lower. This forced migration from the villages to the cities in search of jobs, pushing down wages even further. (NAFTA produced the same effect in Mexico helping turn it into a hub for auto manufacturing in the Americas).

Clearly workers in auto (or any industry for that matter) face a full-spectrum political attack on their wages. It can never be otherwise. Wages are central to capitalism. Without wage labor there would be no profits. Without profits there would be no capitalism.

Which brings us to another reason why we need to abolish the wage system: although it creates profits, capitalism's laws demand maximum profits, which must be wrenched from the workers hides! This is especially true in times of world crisis. Although car production soared in India, going from 1.7 to 3.3 million in seven years, the growth did not satisfy investment capitalists. They can invest anywhere in the world

and only do so where they get the maximum rate of return.

This forced the auto bosses to cut costs. And they did it by speeding up work and cutting wages. Where in 2001 the bosses and bankers got \$2.63 for every \$1.00 they invested in wages, by 2010 they got \$6.14 for every \$1.00 they invested. It was a vicious assault on an already impoverished working class. In India's main auto production area just outside Delhi, 80% of the 1 million workers are now hired 'on contract' (non-permanent), others are 'trainees' and still others 'apprentices. All three categories pay less than permanent jobs.



Striking Auto Workers at Maruti-Suzuki in India

Of course the workers answered the attack. Between 2009 and 2012 a militant strike wave swept the industry. It came to a head with the arrest of 147 Maruti-Suzuki workers in 2012. They have been framed for the murder of a personnel manager during a strike. Although all the evidence points to their innocence (the personnel manager actually agreed to their demands) they have been held in jail for over two years without trial. In 2013 the Punjab High Court refused them bail, arguing that "foreign investors are likely not to invest money in India for fear of Labor unrest."

The High Court harbors no illusions about it: wage labor is central to the existence of a capi-

talist state. But the Maruti-Suzuki workers weren't striking against wage labor or the capitalist state. They were just striking the company they worked for, aiming to make wage labor there a little more livable. In this they were like the hundreds of thousands of auto workers who had taken part in the 2009 - 2012 strike wave.

Which brings us to the most difficult obstacle to abolishing wage slavery: the ideological hold it has over us! Because the capitalists have made us believe we can't live without money, from continent to continent, we only fight to modify the wage system. Instead we should fight to abolish it. A global survey like this series helps

make it clear that the exploitation and oppression we face are not primarily the result of a company (management), an industry (market forces) or a country (electoral parties). They are the result of a world system - capitalism. We produce all of value in society. Why, we need to ask ourselves, should we continue to produce for private profit? Why can't we produce for social

need?

We can, of course! And that's the importance of **Red Flag**. Now in continent after continent it is sparking revolutionary discussions about abolishing wages and building a communist society like never before. Generally, these discussions are too small, but that only highlights the important role of you, the reader! Join ICWP, help distribute **Red Flag** and start the discussions where you work on abolishing the wage system and fighting for a communist world without bosses or money!

MTA WAGE SLAVERY from page 1

this contract struggle were to win all MTA workers to organize a political strike against capitalism and for communism. Such a strike would not fight for 'better' union contracts but to abolish



all contracts by abolishing capitalism.

"No matter how the MTA bosses and the US rulers, their media and union hacks peddle it, this

contract like all union contracts just justifies and legalizes capitalism's exploitation and dehumanization. A contract can never change the fact that the bosses have power over our lives. Their wage slavery decides who of us lives or dies, and how we live or die.

"While they live in unprecedented luxury, their wage slavery condemns billions of our brothers and sisters worldwide to a life of crushing poverty and untold misery. These conditions kill millions from curable diseases like malaria or pandemics like Ebola. Those "lucky" to have jobs are under constant pressure to produce more for less wages and benefits to maximize the capitalists' profits.

"The bosses do this because they have state

power. We need to fight for communist state power to take our destiny in our own hands. Let's destroy capitalism and build communism so that no one ever faces capitalism's horror of only having a job if they can make the capitalists richer, or starving to death, if they can't.

"Capitalism can never stop its relentless attacks against us. We can never stop organizing to destroy it. That's class warfare. It can only end with our victory and communism. Our struggle to organize a political strike is just a skirmish in this war. It has advanced the political understanding of the need for communist revolution among MTA workers and workers internationally. The future is ours and it is a bright communist future!"

EBOLA FORUM from page 1

region. We still wouldn't have known the extent of the tragedy had it not been for the revolts of these courageous workers.

Our comrade described her reaction to learning about the heroes of this epidemic: the nurses and burial-detail personnel who have unnecessarily died by the hundreds trying to provide basic health care and contain the spread of the disease.

"I was screaming at the walls after I read about these heroes. How could these so-called health organizations around the world let this happen?" she asked rhetorically.

"My friend walked in the door at that very moment. She asked if I was O.K. I explained what was going on. She hadn't heard a thing before this."

That's when our comrade realized that ICWP had to get on the move.

The ensuing discussion returned our comrade's passion. A Boeing worker born in Africa described how capitalist pharmaceutical companies stole local medical remedies to make disgustingly huge profits.

Blame was laid at the foot of capitalism and imperialism (see Africa Healthcare letter, page 14). Another Boeing worker told how he showed a Freetown slum picture when workers on the job asked him how this epidemic got started.

The photograph showed children and babies mixed with pigs and raw sewage. When capitalism packs people into cities under conditions like this, what else can you expect.

The bosses expanded these big cities in western Africa over the last decades. Most of the peo-

ple in these cities live in conditions like this.

The group was particularly pissed off with the excuses the bosses use to avoid their own culpability. Climate change explanations and the re-emergence of racist eugenics all serve to divert out anger from racist imperialism.

We began to make plans to organize modestly-sized groups of medical workers to debate communist healthcare. We got commitments for more **Red Flag** letters and articles. We're going to produce a leaflet on communist healthcare with the help of other healthcare workers around the country.

"I'm going step it up," said the Boeing worker who told the story about chattel slavery. "I'm going to work to get my family and friends from work to come to our next discussion." A healthy attitude!

Sailors Share Medical Experiences

SYMPTOMS OF A NAVY UNDER CAPITALISM

Every sailor has a story of his or her experience with Navy Medical. *Red Flag* has heard one frightening story after another about the medical treatment sailors and their families receive in the Navy.

One of the popular plugs for the Navy is full health coverage for enlistee and family. After being in the Navy we learn that there is a big difference between being fully insured and actually receiving quality care.

The healthcare we receive tends to focus on shortsighted problems and neglects long-term problems like chronic illnesses and cancer, which become noticeable only after our enlistments are complete.

Here are a few stories that describe a range of problems that sailors face when dealing with Navy Medical.

The common theme throughout all these stories is that the military reduces sailors to the status of high-end machinery essential for U.S. capitalism to dominate its competitors. They show the Navy's disregard for sailors and their families. Healthcare for sailors ensures the bosses that their machines run properly and are ready to be used or sacrificed when needed.

Capitalist healthcare in the Navy is based on spending as little money as possible on sailors and their families while they fight to defend the interests of the bosses. Sailors need to mobilize for a communist system, where masses of sailors, soldiers and workers will organize healthcare, production and our Red Army to meet our needs, instead of being sacrificed in wars for the bosses'

profits. These angry sailors and their families can be a vital force to mobilize for the interests of the working class with communist revolution.

Colombian doctor: Not a reliable source?

A sailor's wife had a rash on her face. After being evaluated and tested by a doctor in Colombia, she knew the rash was related to an internal health issue. She received medication for the problem, and the rash went away as a side effect. The rash returned and she went to see a doctor on base.

She told the doctor about the problem, but he did not take the diagnosis seriously because it was given by a Colombian doctor. This was evident when she was explaining to the doctor and mentioned her doctor in Colombia. The Navy doctor looked at her with a face that implied, "We don't take foreign doctors seriously." The doctor insisted that the rash was simply acne and let her go. From now on, the sailor's wife will get all her medical treatment when she goes back to visit Colombia.

A pinched nerve ends your active days

A friend pinched the sciatic nerve in his back and suffered severe pain for about three months. He couldn't exercise, which led to his general health worsening. When the doctor diagnosed his problem, he said that this problem was in line with how long he has been in the Navy, but he had only been in for two and a half years. The doctor then told him that he was through with



Russian sailors played a leading role in the revolutions of 1905 and 1917. Many were communists who mobilized shipmates in these struggles for workers' power. Also during World War I, the Wilhelmshaven mutiny (a communist-led sailors' revolt) sparked rebellions across Germany and led to the abdication of the Emperor – but not to revolution. As we are inspired by these heroic sailors, we must learn from their mistakes and mobilize the masses directly for communism.

physical training and that he would never come back to the health he used to have.

My friend thought these were overly dramatic claims since he was only talking about a pinched nerve. He did not take the doctor's advice and began exercising within his capability. Over a couple of months he recovered, and the injury was just a slowdown. But had he taken the doctor's medical advice, he could have been duped into giving up an active life. *To be continued...*

High School Comrades Talk About Revolution:

“FORM A GREAT MULTITUDE OF WORKER WARRIORS!”

A Los Angeles ICWP youth collective has started a debate about what it means to be a soldier. It started when a fourteen year old high school student said, “I want to be a soldier to defend my country and my family.”

A comrade wrote up the conversation. “Where is your mother from and where are you from?” he asked.

“She is from El Salvador and I am from here, the U.S.A.”

“Then which is your country and which one is your mom's and which one would you protect and fight for? When your mother arrived in the United States, the capitalist government of this country called her an illegal. It's admirable to fight to protect the family but to defend a country is unacceptable. Capitalist governments from different countries use us as soldiers to make war against other workers from other countries. We have to be soldiers of the international working class to make war against all of the capitalist governments.”

We shared this with other high school students. Some were skeptical: “How would one achieve the unity of the different people from different lands and borders when everyone will not always

follow?”

Others were more positive, “What we need is not borders but understanding. If it would be like this then maybe many massacres and tragedies would not happen. I believe that words are important and that they can destroy borders.”

Here a student comrade interjected, “But governments do not respond to words, they respond to arms and revolution.”

Many agreed, “I think that workers do not have countries. They are just brainwashed into thinking that. Why do they tell kids that violence is not the answer, yet they promote killing one another and solve their differences through war?”

And, “I think it's good that all the poor people get together and make war against the capitalists, the rich, so that no one lives better and in this way we all live equally.”

A comrade student added, “What the party of *Red Flag* needs is a great effort to form a great multitude of worker warriors, to hell with the capitalists who with their money they think they can do everything. Workers have their power, faith, will and struggle.”

Another student comrade said, “Why defend the government that will send you to war for their

own interests and causes but if you die it's just ‘sorry for your loss?’ It is the same government that brainwashes us into believing that our enemy is our working-class brothers and sisters, when in reality it's them we fight against, people that are hardworking like us. It's always workers fighting and dying and when they die, then they bring in their children and then their children and the cycle continues. We must break the cycle and fight against the real enemy.”

Workers of the world and their sons and daughters do not have countries. From El Salvador to the U.S.A., from South Africa to China, the capitalist governments of these countries divide the international working class with their borders. Young people need to join the military and be soldiers with communist ideas and get other soldiers to build a red army, to protect our working-class families, make revolution and eliminate all borders.

The young comrades in this collective are distributing, reading and studying *Red Flag*. They are building distribution networks of the paper among their family, friends and peers. They have committed themselves to widen the collective and widen the distribution networks.

This is the paper of the working class. We get no funding from the capitalists, their foundation or NGOs.

This newspaper is not a commodity produced for sale. We're fighting to abolish commodity production.

However, we have to pay for the costs of producing and distributing the paper, as well as for other expenses of building an international party. The box below includes a suggested donation of \$20/year which is about the current cost of mailing a single copy to a U.S. address. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

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LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Declining Rate of Profit

We are not here to win an argument; we have the world to win. This is what the articles from El Salvador tell us. After the struggle at the international meeting the comrades are more active and writing clearly. Articles like these are what we want for **Red Flag**.

One suggestion: when we discuss where the value workers create goes, we must be clear. While it is true that some of it supports the bosses' lavish life style and their police, most value goes back into productive forces like raw material, better machinery, etc. The lavish life style of the bosses and police brutality are real and visible to the workers. However, the bosses face life-and-death competition from other capitalists. This competition propels the bosses to invest more in machines, replacing workers constantly. But since only workers produce value and profit, their rate of profit declines.

The bosses counter this declining rate of profit by intensifying exploitation: speeding workers up and moving capital to areas where the wages are cheaper. Horrific working condition and constant threat of job loss are what workers face. In *The Communist Manifesto* Marx explained this process this way: "The development of industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products. What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable."

It is our job to recruit the masses of these angry workers to be grave-diggers of capitalism in our party. With struggle, criticism and self-criticism, the workers in El Salvador are showing that we can advance and win.

--A comrade

Imperialism and Health Care in Africa

After some discussions with other comrades, I think that the box in the climate change article in the 10/2 issue was seriously misleading. It mentioned that Ebola and other diseases may increase as the result of global warming. Whether this is true or not, the current epidemic is caused by capitalism, not global warming. Given the fact that Ebola only spreads by contact with the body fluids of infected people, it is preventable by simple means. The epidemic is happening because the infrastructure of medical care, sanitation and public health education is nearly non-existent in many African countries.

This fact is not only the result of poverty or neglect by African governments or imperialist countries, but the ongoing exploitation of Africa by imperialism plays a big role in holding back health care for the African masses.

In the 1970s a number of African countries had government-sponsored medical care. In the 1980s some got into debt trouble and asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to bail them out. As usual the IMF imposed a series of "structural adjustment policies" as a condition of the loan. These conditions aim at making sure that governments cut back spending for things like medical care or food subsidies, so the big banks will get paid back at the expense of the working class. The World Bank and the IMF want everyone to be dependent on



Angry Liberian workers confront fascist police terror during Ebola epidemic

capitalism, working for wages or producing a cash crop, rather than growing food for their own consumption. In Tanzania and other countries, the IMF required that either government clinics charge fees, private for-profit clinics be opened or health insurance be set up. IMF requirements also severely limited local government spending on health care and other social services at the same time as Tanzania faced (and still faces) major epidemics of HIV/AIDS and TB.

In recent decades foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs), funded by imperialist governments and foundations, have greatly increased their activities in Africa. These NGOs usually focus on particular regions or particular diseases, often for limited periods of time, rather than general improvements in health care for the masses. The NGOs have numerous links with big businesses and help those business carry out profitable projects, like testing new drugs. Similarly, the Gates Foundation money goes almost exclusively to private organizations, not to health care infrastructure.

Even when NGO activities help some workers, their decision-making benefits the bosses, who fear instability and revolts, loss of workers to exploit or threats to their intellectual property. US and European drug companies finally provided some anti-retrovirus drugs for African AIDS patients at low cost only after production of copy-cat drugs by companies in India. The drug companies wanted to protect their patents, just like Microsoft, whose billions bankroll the Gates Foundation.

There is nothing new or charitable about imperialists dispensing some health care to benefit themselves in countries they dominate. French rubber plantations in Vietnam used to force skilled rubber workers to take anti-malarial medications on the spot in order to get paid.

I hope that **Red Flag** and its readers will write articles to help show why the fight for communism is a matter of life and death for the working class.

--A Comrade

How Capitalism Killed my Mom

Yes, my mom was elderly and sickly but the capitalist system definitely hastened her demise. During her hospitalization that led to her death, she contracted MRSA, a "staph" germ that is resistant to many antibiotics. This infection spread to her lungs, causing respiratory failure and eventually killed her.

The ICU she was in had numerous rooms under isolation precautions for these bacteria but somewhere there was a break in those precautions and she contracted the bacteria.

It could have been as simple as a health care worker not washing their hands or improper sterilization of instrumentation. Unfortunately this is not uncommon in the US. There are 99,000 patient deaths annually from hospital-acquired infections like MRSA. The very nature of capitalist health care makes these infections endemic in the US hospitals. Hospi-

tals run for profit. Obtaining zero infections would cut into hospital profits. Understaffing, poor maintenance of sterilization equipment, poor infection control procedures in general all contribute.

There is a lack of attention, inherent in US hospital and health care culture and practices when trying to prevent or dealing with infections like MRSA under capitalism. Some hospital administrators even strongly believe that some infections are inevitable, just the cost of doing business, while patients suffer and die from these preventable infections. MRSA and other US hospital-acquired infections are like a revolving door, through which new MRSA infections are passed from one patient to the next without regard to the consequences to the lives of working-class people.

Some capitalist countries like Norway have been able to reduce MRSA by establishing "costly" isolation procedures of patients. According to US hospitals, adopting similar procedures would cost too much, even though it has been proven that a screening program for MRSA would actually cost the same as treating a single MRSA patient.

Under communism the entire culture of health care will change. Health care would not be for profit. Workers' lives will be more important than profit. Therefore there would be a zero-infection policy that would ensure the infection revolving door is closed.

All staff would be trained in infection control as a top priority. This can only happen when profits are no longer the goal of hospitals. Rather the goal would be to help working class people recover their health and return to productive, fulfilling lives, not make more money.

--A Comrade .



October 1—Middle-school students have joined high-school students and 70% of the teachers at two Jefferson County (Colorado) schools in a weeks-long protest against the Board of Education's proposal to review the teaching of US history "to promote patriotism, respect for authority and the free market system, and avoid material which condones civil disorder, social strife, or disregard of the law." Capitalist schools never have taught the history that would help our youth fight for the communist future we need. And they never will. We must teach and learn it ourselves as part of our struggle to transform society.

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

End Sexism; Fight for Communism

A worker told me that Emma Watson, a British actress known for her role in the Harry Potter movies, spoke about the challenges of gender equality. She said that they should do away with the belief that feminism is synonymous with hating men. He commented to me that what she argued is reasonable, and added that there are people who confuse feminism with women who think they are superior to men.

In extreme cases, there are people who use the term "feminazi" to refer to the contempt that some women have for men. These women feel superior to the opposite sex who they try to subjugate and look on with hatred.

He also told me that equality is within the reach of everyone, that it is a question of working on discarding backward ideas that they teach to young girls and boys like, for example,

"you are a man, don't cry," or "ladies first."

In confronting these ideas, as the International Communist Workers' Party, we argue that the capitalist system, in which everything is based on exploitation of the workers, uses tools like racism and sexism, and when this sexism flows in the midst of the working class it confuses our thinking and makes us think that being a man or a woman are very different things.

We understand that when the bosses want super-profits they resort to low-down tricks like these to divide men and women workers who are both being exploited. In this way they create low-paid labor and build an environment of competition among the workers. Capitalism doesn't want the working class to be united.

In Communism, there won't be hatred of men, feminism, sexism, or any other tool to divide the working class because in Communism people will not be treated like tools of produc-

tion who make profits only for the owner.

In communism, there is only a working class that produces to meet its own needs, vastly improving on whatever quality of life that we can imagine. Education, health, housing, food and clothing will always be within the reach of the workers.

It will not be necessary to divide the strength of the workers as women or as men. The ability and dedication of each will determine their type of work. We will eliminate this type of sexism that says that a man is "more capable," than a woman for a certain type of work.

Building communism, we will defeat this type of sexist or racist ideas that the capitalists have developed to keep the working class divided. It is our duty as communists to fight against these ideas. LET'S FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM...we ask for more opinions.

—Comrade in Spain

Red Flag is the Newspaper of the Masses

Red Flag is the newspaper of the ICWP (International Communist Workers' Party) that combines, shares, addresses and exposes the problems, pains, suffering and the exploitation of the workers in the working environment by the bosses the working class is slaving for world wide. **Red Flag** is the best newspaper I have ever read simply because it's written by the working class and all the members of the party. Anyone from anywhere in the world is free to write to our newspaper because we believe we are all equal.

Which other newspaper in the whole wide world that you know is written by the victims, working class and the community oppressed by the capitalist system? Our newspaper brings together all the people from all countries and corners of the world into one single newspaper. **Red Flag** alone is clearly a revolutionary newspaper because this kind of a newspaper has never existed before in the newspaper media world.

All the stories in the **Red Flag** newspaper address the struggle and the suffering, the exploitation, low wage system and our fight against capitalism, which is the same all over the world. South African, American, Mexican, Brazilian working class, the list goes on; we are all the victims of the capitalist system. We urge the working class from anywhere in the world to write to our paper. Racism, low-wage system, labor exploitation, unfair labor treatment and practices must be destroyed.

It is of vital importance to read **Red Flag** because the stories are encouraging and show the working class that we support their struggle, and we will fight together in the struggle. They show that all the working class around the world shares the same struggle. We are all victims of this cruel and heartless system called capitalism.

Write and express all your struggles in **Red Flag** and mobilise masses for an international strike against this ruthless capitalist system. Let's use the paper to expose in black and white all these bosses of these firms, companies who are getting rich from the sweat, blood and lives of the hard-working labor. No mercy for capitalism the same way they don't have mercy for the working class. Let's all sing one song: "destroy capitalism and all its elements once and for all."

Forward with **Red Flag**, forward! Say no to slavery, say no! Say no to racism, say no! Say

no to poverty wages, say no! Say no to employment agencies, say no! And say no to capitalism, say no! The workers deserve far much more than the peanuts these greedy bosses offer. The time, the lives and the energy labor of the workers are brutally abused by the bosses and capitalism; they are starving, slaving and abusing the working class. The money they give us doesn't meet even 10 percent of the needs of the working class. Join ICWP.

--Comrade in South Africa

MTA Driver Calls for Militant Union Leaders

Sisters and Brothers of our union, for too long we have let things go, thinking that those we elected into power had our best interest in mind. We have seen this is not the case. Bus operators like us that were given our trust have failed us. Instead of uniting us and doing the right things by us, they have pitted us against each other. There has been a struggle to wrangle this power from this union, and it has been defeated, because we have not had the courage to take the power back from those that hold it like misers, not willing to change to benefit the masses. They only kowtow to MTA. The majority of the operators got a raw deal in this contract. Those in power have given our future away. We will see in the days to come how insidious this contract is.

Now more than ever we must unite and wrangle away the power that the elected officials have. Elections are fast approaching; nominations will be at next union meetings. Keep in mind, the chairmen got to go back to driving, so they can get a feel of the "greatest" contract they negotiated for us. We must place people into office that are willing to buck the trend. As for the elected officials that currently are running our union, let them work under the harshest work rules this company has ever imposed on a workforce in any contract.

We, as united sisters and brothers can start to take back this union and find the right path back. We need a plan: that starts with the general chairman being ousted, that begins to deal with the aftermath of these stringent work rules, that gives every union member the knowledge to protect themselves from the unwarranted attacks of the MTA, that gives us more details of everything that might affect anyone of the membership, where we bring what occurs at union meetings to all the members of every local. I am sure there are more suggestions you sisters and brothers can think of. Together

strong we can be the Strongest and most Effective union ever!

--**Red Flag** Reader and Distributor in MTA

Red Flag Responds:

Thank you for your letter. We workers are slaves. Slaves do not need a union; we need an organization that fights to end the master-slave relationship. This organization is the International Communist Workers' Party.

Taking the same road with a different person in charge won't change the nature of the system. A slave/worker who gets better treatment is still a slave/worker. A contract is just a "piece of paper" that can be broken at any time.

The capitalist masters still have the power. If we unite as the slaves we are, we can make a real change, without contracts and union leaders. We don't accept being worked as slaves because we should be in charge of our lives, and not others.

We should not fight for temporary solutions. It's better to fight for communism where we, free men and women workers, will make and implement all decisions on all levels of society. Join us!

RACIST POLICE TERROR from page 8

and the workers' exploitation and wage slavery.

If the growing rebellions against racist police terror are limited to demanding better police training, voting for a "better" Supreme Court, or more cameras for cops, capitalism, its wage slavery, racist terror, and war will remain intact. If, however, the angry masses who have defied the cops take up the fight for communism, we can change the world. We can and will put an end to the capitalist state, its racism and police terror for good.

Communism won't have or need police, courts or jails. It will abolish wage slavery and racism. Since there won't be money and everyone will share what we need, there won't be motivation to steal or hoard. Everyone will participate collectively in organizing production, safety, health care and all other aspects of life.

There will still be anti-social behavior but workers' collectives, through the party, will deal with it by mobilizing against racism and any other anti-worker behavior when needed. Since everyone will know and work with their neighbors collectively, they will know when there are problems and deal with them together. Let's mobilize for communism!

U.N. CLIMATE SUMMIT: STORMY WEATHER AHEAD

“There is no Planet B!” This was the message of the recently-concluded UN Climate Summit and mass mobilizations around the globe. It’s the truth – but it’s also a lie.

We live on one planet, but a few live obscenely luxurious lives, many of us just get by, and billions are forced into misery by the capitalists who rule every country in the world. The inner logic of capitalism forces those capitalists into ever-sharpening conflicts and ever-widening wars. We are not “all in this together.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s upbeat messages can’t change these facts. The leaders of China, Russia, India, Australia, Germany, and even Canada skipped his “climate summit.” Chinese vice-premier Zhang Gaoli bashed the US as the world’s largest long-term polluter. US President Obama bashed China’s coal consumption while sending gas-guzzling bomber jets over Syria.

No climate treaty is likely to appear anytime soon. If one does, the US won’t ratify it, as it failed to sign a recent World Bank resolution.

When communist workers’ power rules the world, we (the masses) will tear down borders, abolish nations, and work together globally to implement environmentally sustainable policies to meet the needs of our class. We will truly be “all in this together.” Until then, responses to the growing climate crisis will be shaped by the imperialists’ needs to prepare for world war by squeezing the life-blood out of the masses.

The Pentagon is the world’s single largest energy consumer. Over ¾ of that energy comes from oil. A 2007 Pentagon study warned that “the [US] military’s growing consumption of fossil fuels ...leaves Pentagon leaders with little choice but to break with the past as soon as possible.” It urged “immediate steps toward fielding weapons systems and aircraft that run on alternative and renewable fuels” while recognizing that the US military would remain dependent on fossil

fuels for decades.

This dual strategy – securing the oil needed for war while developing alternative energy sources – seems to be the US imperialists’ emerging energy policy. Their main tactic appears to be “carbon pricing” (a fee or tax on fossil fuels). This is “the most powerful move that a government can make in the fight against climate change,” said a World Bank vice-president.

“The new carbon pricing push comes as countries and institutions that once fought the idea are now embracing it,” reported the *Financial Times*. The forty countries with a carbon tax include India and China.

Zhang mentioned (for the first time) setting a target for “the peaking of total carbon dioxide emissions as early as possible.” We’ll see – if the smog’s not too thick. Chinese people are wisecracking that Mao’s slogan “Serve the People” has become “Serve the People Smog.”

Chinese rulers are under pressure to clean up the air, and the growth of coal consumption has slowed down – possibly due to economic downturn. Meanwhile, massive (sometimes violent) protests have rocked the cities and countryside over toxic contamination of land and water. If any *Red Flag* readers can help translate the paper into Mandarin or get it to friends in China, these angry workers could have the chance to grasp a real communist alternative.

In India, Prime Minister Modi talks out of both sides of his mouth. Sometimes he denies that climate change is an issue; at other times he brags about fighting it. But the Modi government has doubled the carbon tax from \$8/ton to \$16/ton and increased the budget for solar power. The Indian capitalists may see climate negotiations as a



LOS ANGELES, Sept. 20—California Nurses’ Association joins climate protest. ICWP comrades distributed *Red Flag* and opened discussions about how capitalist competition for maximum profit drives everything, including the growing climate crisis. We explained that only mobilizing the masses for communism – not “taxing Wall Street” or other reforms – can end the evils of this deadly system.

way to enhance India’s claim to global-power status (see p. 2).

India’s CO₂ emissions are growing the fastest, a likely indicator of relative economic strength. But it emits just 1.9 tons per capita, compared with the EU (6.8 tons), China (7.2 tons), and the US (16.4 tons per capita).

By snubbing Ban Ki-Moon and Obama, the capitalist leaders of India and China showed that their national energy policies are driven by their own interests and not by the US or the so-called “international community.” Neither they nor the US imperialists will hesitate to make “their” workers pay the price of ever-deepening misery and, eventually, catastrophic war.

There is no “Planet B.” The only way forward for the international working class is to make this one “Planet C”— for Communism.

Next: *Environmental Movement Benefits US Rulers*

CAPITALISM AND ITS POLICE: RACIST TO THE CORE WE NEED COMMUNISM!

Last week in Ferguson, angry protesters demonstrated again when a memorial to Michael Brown was burned. As they marched calling for the removal of the Police Chief, he tried to join the march. But the angry youth and workers refused to let him. This rebellion was led by black youth, in the proud tradition of anti-racist rebellions from Watts to Detroit in the 60s and 70s.

From Ferguson to protests in Los Angeles against the killing of Ezell Ford, to rebellions throughout the US, and rebellions led by black soldiers in the military during the Vietnam war, the rulers have been and are terrified of black and latino workers’ potential to rebel against the racist system and to fight for revolutionary change.

That’s why, especially in this period of crisis and increasing attacks on workers, capitalism needs racist terror to enforce its exploitation. The bosses use police terror to enforce their racist wage slavery—to try to prevent rebellions especially by black and latino workers, who they attack the hardest. Therefore the bosses’ government will defend their killer cops.

But since racist terror is not keeping rebellious workers quiet, the bosses are also trying to divert this anger and hatred into a movement to “reform” the police. Some US rulers want to slightly reform their racist criminal justice system of mass racist terror and incarceration, aimed especially at black and latino youth and workers.

But any reforms they make will be to help their system. They might change sentencing laws to



have more youth ready and willing to join the military, and save money by releasing some aging prisoners. But any reform will aim to calm down angry workers and youth, not to stop racist terror.

For example, one demand of this reform movement is that cops have cameras on their uniforms, supposedly to keep them in line. Now many cities are having police wear cameras. But this is being used to favor the cops. In a situation where a tape goes against the cops’ story, they can turn the camera off, or say it wasn’t working.

The bosses have state power and will use it to defend and protect their racist police. An example is the US Supreme Court, a pillar of the US “justice” system, supposed neutral arbiter for all in the US. However, like all other capitalist institutions, the Supreme Court serves only the interests of the capitalists.

The court has made it almost impossible to hold the cops or the governments that they work for accountable. In May the Supreme Court ruled that police who shot and killed a driver and passenger in a high speed chase were “justified,” that shooting them 15 times was a legitimate way to stop a car chase.

The court has also ruled that all government officials, including police, can raise “immunity” as a defense when being sued for monetary damages.

The Supreme Court is part of the bosses’ state, which imposes and legalizes their capitalist dictatorship over the working class. The state includes: cops, courts, education, media, the military, the electoral parties and unions. It’s there to guarantee the bosses’ profits and power

See RACIST POLICE, page 7