

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

Seattle: Mass Response to Grand Jury Giving a Free Pass to Racist Ferguson Killer Cop Darren Wilson

Boeing Workers Discuss A Practical Solution:

ANTI-RACIST REBELS SHOULD TAKE THE NEXT STEP: TOWARDS COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SEATTLE, WA—More than a thousand demonstrated as two high schools emptied into the streets. A dozen workers at a suburban Boeing plant circulated a communist solidarity letter. Last September, vicious cops in Guerrero, Mexico disappeared 43 students. The letter linked this racist capitalist terror to Ferguson, calling for us all to join in the fight for communist revolution.

The union maintained a stony silence. The plants, on the other hand, were filled with debate the three days before the Thanksgiving holiday break.

Younger workers listened to the telling history of older workers. “Are these rebellions only the same old thing or can we finally end this racist terror by mobilizing for communism?” was the question presented.

It’s not that seasoned industrial workers lack anger. It’s that they are a practical lot. They are painfully aware of the staying power of the capitalist enemy.

“Mobilizing [for communism] is the heart of the matter,” said a vet-

eran of many anti-racist battles, pointing to a sentence in the solidarity letter. “We’ve always fought against this and that, but how do we get the new generation to mobilize?”

He didn’t ask this question as an excuse to fight less. He has every intention of continuing to struggle. He wanted to know ICWP’s plan.

The Detroit cops arrested him at 14 during a Black Panther rally. These same racist cops shot his uncle 32 times for advocating that black workers defend themselves by any means necessary.

We Learn From Our History, But We Don’t Have To Repeat It

A number of African-American workers told similar stories, some of relatives and friends, or of movements they were in.

None opposed violent rebellion. They were not happy that more blood would inevitably be spilt.

One friend was particularly incensed with Obama. “What nerve he has to talk about being peaceful! How many drones does he have?” he spat out.

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Factory Workers Study History, Theory

POTENTIAL TO RECRUIT MORE MEMBERS TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS’ PARTY

EL SALVADOR—“The party is growing in the factories.” With this clear statement a worker leader summarized the situation at the beginning of a communist meeting this weekend. Dozens of workers attended at a beautiful resort. There were several workers who were attending an activity of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) for the first time.

“The comrade gave us the newspaper *Red Flag*. We have already read several editions and this encouraged us to come when he invited us,” stated a worker who, together with his wife and three children—young students—made valuable contributions to the discussion.

There were three points on the agenda: 1) the Beginning of the International Communist Workers’ Party; 2) the difference between Socialism and Communism; 3) reading and discussion of the *Red Flag* editorial.

We began with a great political speech by a worker leader in which he explained, “The work of the ICWP cell inside the factory is giv-

ing great results. We now have the recognition of our class; they know *Red Flag*, and the bosses and the sellout union leaders hate and fear us.”

When new comrades come to a meeting, we think it is important to give an historical overview of how ICWP arose. A comrade talked of the efforts of workers to organize the working class to fight directly for communism, where workers will have control of the means of production. This will be based on needs and not for the accumulation of wealth through the exploitation of men and women, taking into account the errors of the old communist parties.

A comrade invited the workers to review *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* to find important information about ICWP’s line. He gave a comprehensive account of the communist ideological vision that strengthens the thinking for a proletarian revolution driven by workers and soldiers.

Men and women industrial workers and workers from other areas participated, showing their willing-

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Ferguson Shows:

REBELLIONS MUST HELP MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

The decision of the Grand Jury not to file charges against cop Darren Wilson for the August 9 murder of Michael Brown shows that capitalism will do whatever is necessary to defend its racist killer cops. Now a New York grand jury has refused to indict the cop who choked Eric Garner to death.

The cops defend the profits and property that the bosses steal from workers. They are the bosses' first line of defense to terrorize angry workers and try to prevent us from organizing against them.

The nationwide massive reaction shows that terror will not keep workers and youth from rebelling. Violence against the bosses' state can be training for revolution. Thus, the bosses use their agents to try to divert our anger into pacifism and electoral politics.

Terror, however, is inherent to capitalism. For centuries, black, latino/a, indigenous, asian, and white workers and youth have led courageous mass rebellions, against the US bosses' brutal racist terror. Yet, racist terror increases.

The week of the verdict, Cleveland cops killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice while he held a toy gun; Akai Gurley was slain in East Brooklyn when a cop shot blindly into an apartment stairwell. Every 28 hours, a black person is killed in the US by the police!

Racism hurts white workers too. It is used to try to turn them away from black, latino and other non-white workers fighting racist capitalism. All workers, however, have the need to destroy capitalism with communism.

Our fight is international. Worldwide the bosses use racist police terror to try to force workers to pay for capitalism's crisis as seen by the murder of the 43 Mexican students, and that of 34 striking South African Marikana miners two years ago.

We workers need a different system.

We need to destroy capitalism and build our system: COMMUNISM. Capitalism is based on production for profit to make the capitalist bosses richer. This condemns us to be their wage slaves. If they can't profit off our labor, however, they won't give us a job. No job means: no money. No money means: no life.

Communism will be based on production for need, not profits. We will no longer be wage slaves.

Millions of workers will run society without the bosses' racism, exploitation or money. We will have useful, fulfilling, creative work from cradle to grave.

In producing for need, we will bring forth new communist social relations: we will treat each other with the love, respect and dignity that we all deserve. Collectively we will deal with anti-social behavior as humanely as possible without police of any kind.

We workers need a new strategy.

To win communism, our strategy must be to mobilize the masses for communism. For this, we need a mass Party of millions of workers, soldiers and youth world wide. We urge you to join the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) to help accomplish this historic task.

We applaud the heroic defiance of the rebellious masses in Ferguson. Violence is an indispensable ingredient of communist revolution but it must be linked to mobilizing the masses for communism.

Soldiers and industrial workers are the main pillars of capitalism. Workers provide the labor power that keeps its economy running. Soldiers provide the military might that defends the capitalists from the working class and other capitalists-imperialists rivals.

Without the industrial workers and soldiers the capitalists are nothing. With them mobilized for communism the world will be ours. Thus, youth and young workers-black, latino/a, asian and white- leading these militant actions in Ferguson and elsewhere should see themselves as communist working-class leaders for life.

Those who are able should join the army to organize for revolution inside the armed forces. Others should go into the factories to help organize the industrial working class for revolution.

ICWP industrial members and *Red Flag* readers – at Boeing, MTA, Salvadoran maquilas and South African auto plants and mines – should organize political strikes against racist verdicts, the rulers' racist terror and for the need to destroy capitalism with communist revolution.

Join ICWP. Read and distribute *Red Flag*. With urgency and patience let's organize a COMMUNIST REVOLUTION TO BUILD OUR COMMUNIST WORLD."



Miners in Goldfields, South Africa, protest police massacre of 34 miners at Marikana, August, 2012

"As members of ICWP in South Africa we wish to register our outrage to the Brown family and the Ferguson community."

Revolutionary greetings, comrades!!! This morning we've been greeted on the TV screens and print media with scenes of angry protesters registering their anger and outrage at the refusal of the grand jury to indict a white police officer who killed a young black youth, Michael Brown.

What we are seeing in Ferguson, Missouri is sadly nothing new. It is happening daily in almost all the capitalist countries but does not get to see the light of the day. This incident in Ferguson highlighted once again the bankruptcy of the racist ideology.

It highlights the bankruptcy of liberal reformism. President Obama said he is "deeply disappointed - even angered." The Brown family "asked the public to channel their frustration in ways that will make a positive change, we need to work together to fix the system that allowed this to happen." As members of ICWP in South Africa we wish to register our outrage but quickly point out that the capitalist system can never be fixed. It must be destroyed by mobilizing the masses for communist revolution.

The illusion that the system "needs to be fixed" is erroneous and dangerous. It serves only to perpetuate the interests of the bosses. These unfortunate utterances peddle the lie that there's something for everyone in the capitalist system, whereas there's none.

In fact, the capitalist system uses the murderous cops, judges, prisons, politicians, and prosecutors to prop itself up. They will create violence anyway and then blame it on the protesters with mainstream corporate media backing their lies.

In South Africa, there are countless

incidents where excessive force by cops was used to suppress protesters. The Marikana massacre is a case in point. The murder of Andries Tatane, a teacher killed by cops while protesting against lack of service delivery is another. The cops responsible were acquitted.

In the Marikana judicial commission of inquiry, the government paid expensive lawyers to defend itself but refused to pay for the lawyers of the poor mineworkers. It was forced to pay legal fees by the decision of the high court. This state advocate was arguing that the mineworkers were armed to the teeth and posed a danger to the state. So, the police as law enforcers had to act to disarm the mineworkers. He was arguing that the police were carrying out their duties and therefore justified to kill the Marikana miners. He was arguing that the police acted in defense and cannot be charged with the murder of the mineworkers.

As members of ICWP we noted that all that these commissions do is to bury the truth. Lots of money is spent on expensive lawyers to enrich themselves. Workers and their families are left without the breadwinners, and even poorer.

In all these instances, be it miners in Marikana, students in Guerrero, Mexico and recently youth in Ferguson, Missouri, the repressive apparatus of the state are used to terrorize the public.

This calls on us, members of ICWP, to redouble our efforts to mobilize the masses for communism through communist revolution, to bring an end to the bosses' tyranny once and for all.



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TEACHERS IN MEXICO SEE THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO DESTROY CAPITALISM AND BUILD COMMUNISM

“It is a very difficult situation,” said a couple of teachers during a meeting in Oaxaca. They are beginning to suffer the effects of Education Reform passed last year. With low wages and multiple expenses, they barely have enough to eat every day. These teachers have been working for over 20 years. They began working as rural teachers when they graduated from high school, and now are threatened with losing their jobs because they don’t have teaching certificates. Their years of experience are not taken into account.

They belong to Section 22 of the National Coordinating Council of Education Workers (CNTE). In spite of the organization’s massive mobilizations against education reform, it was approved and is being implemented.

“The rule of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) which currently governs does not respond to the interests of the poor or teachers,” they said.

When comrades asked if other governments had responded to their interests, one of the teachers said that for two six-year terms the Party of National Action (PAN) governed and it was the same.

They recounted that for many years the teachers had fought against the government’s education reforms, for higher wages and improvements in rural education, but had won very little.

“We just need a leftist party to rule,” said one of them.

We asked if they believed that the Party of Democratic Revolution (PRD), which governed for two six-year terms in the state of Guerrero repressing and killing protesting students, teachers and workers, would benefit our class.

“All the rulers, from any electoral party, look to their own interests and not those of the poor,” they concluded.

“The same happens with our teacher union representatives,” said one of them.

Disillusioned, they commented, “You can’t trust anyone anymore. In Mexico everything is bad; every day life is harder.”

Capitalism is the Root of the Problem

After that, it was time to move the analysis forward. Are reforms like education, finance, energy and telecommunications only being applied in Mexico? Who benefits from these reforms? Are the rulers responsible for everything or are they servants of others who are more powerful? Why hasn’t the situation of the poor improved in spite of nationalist revolutions, protests, and social struggles? Who must we fight against? These were some of the questions put up for discussion.

After their analysis and reflections, comrades explained that the guilty party was the whole capitalist system, that through exploitation, poverty is generated, and a few bosses who dominate the world accumulate wealth in their hands.

“Then it is clear that the rulers serve the rich and not the poor,” said one of them.

“If the capitalist system is guilty, then similar reforms are being implemented in other countries,” said another.

We explained that since World War II, the US capitalists have dominated the world, but in the last few years the Chinese capitalists want to take control. This dispute cannot be settled by peaceful means. It will lead to World War III, which is why the bosses need education reform to train the workers’ children for war. Both groups of bosses are pushing reforms such as energy, labor and finance in the countries they dominate to get more money for war.

“That is the reason why, despite the social protests, the reforms are approved,” reflected one of the teachers.

We clarified that many struggles, including that of the teachers, are reformist and do not aim to destroy the real enemy, capitalism. To put an end to all the evils we have to destroy the capi-



Teachers in Nogales, Sonora, protest education reform law at the US/Mexico border check point

talist system and install communism.

Workers Need to Liberate Themselves

“But how will this be possible and who will do it?” asked one of them. We explained that no one will liberate the workers, that workers themselves organized internationally will do it. The International Communist Workers’ Party is mobilizing the masses to destroy capitalism and preparing for communist revolution in many countries.

“This is very good, but it will be slow and complicated,” commented one of them. We explained that as complicated as it appears, history has shown that the workers can organize to liberate themselves from capitalist exploitation. This will be sped up to the extent that the working class organizes and joins ICWP, participating in the reformist protests to build for communist political protests aimed at destroying capitalism and building communism.

After this, they said: “We have understood that as long as capitalism continues, the situation will get worse, so we only have one way out, to destroy capitalism and build communism no matter what it costs or how long it takes.”

Every one of them took *Red Flag* and promised to read the upcoming editions, and to discuss these ideas with their co-workers and the parents in the rural community where they work.

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ness to fight to install a communist system for the well-being of the worldwide working class. A worker said very honestly, “They had made me very fearful and they told me that if I organized in the Party they would fire me from work, but I made the decision to come.”

Why do we fight directly for communism? History has shown us that socialism maintains the division of humanity into classes, the use of money which is the root of all evils, and wages. This continues the workers’ slavery and in the end it is clear that it is state capitalism.

For the second point on the agenda, a young worker organizer very thoroughly described the difference between socialism and communism. He showed how struggles for reforms don’t lead anywhere except to continue to be enslaved to capitalism, and that the only way to make change was through the direct path to communism. The discussion was very broad. A teacher who was invited to the meeting mentioned how the FMLN isn’t even socialist. But since the traditional right in this country continues trying to scare the working class, he ended by saying that it is necessary to have more ICWP communist cadre schools.

We began reading the editorial in *Red*

Flag about how ICWP is growing in South Africa as the comrades there are taking on the struggle against nationalism. We heard that the communist struggle is growing worldwide. The work that the comrades carry out in South Africa inspires us to continue organizing more and more workers in the factory. It shows the importance of study groups with fundamental topics to improve our understanding of communism. Every one of the workers participated in the discussion of the vision of ICWP reflected in *Red Flag*. “We should congratulate the comrades in South Africa and aim to carry out the same level of communist struggle as they,” a worker said.

The meeting concluded with an impressive atmosphere of camaraderie. The workers brought fried chicken, rice, soda, and bread, and there was enough for everyone. Some comrades argue that the best meetings are those that happen after the meeting. During lunch the workers explained how they are willing to continue, organized in ICWP, and to recruit many more workers. Several said goodbye hoping to see each other at the next communist school. Afterwards everyone went to enjoy the fresh relaxing waters of the natural springs, which in communism will be the norm and not the exception.

Read our pamphlets:
**COMMUNIST
EDUCATION FOR A
CLASSLESS SOCIETY**
and



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



Available at:

www.icwpredflag.org

RESPONDING TO FERGUSON, ON THE JOB & IN THE STREETS

LOS ANGELES MTA--The street protests against the decision to give a "green light" to the killer cop in Ferguson have mainly involved the youth. I, as an MTA worker, decided to interview my friends, fellow Party members and *Red Flag* readers. I asked everyone what they thought about the protests in Ferguson. Here are some of their responses.

S: "I think that a protest against the whole capitalist system would be even better. Many people sensed that the whole structure of this society is rotten and needs to be changed. The problem is that the leadership is sellout, reformist and opportunist. As workers we must involve the masses in learning the political ideas of *Red Flag* so that these marches culminate in a real revolution."

"Communist?"

"Yes, communist!"

W: "I think that the marches are good and necessary. People are tired. There are no jobs and the working class is waking up. They realize that the poor are getting poorer and the rich getting richer and they are trying to control all the movements and even the internet. The bosses are afraid. They know that the workers aren't only angry but that they are willing to burst into a larger movement."

"What do you think is the solution?"

"A revolution."

"Communist?"

"Of course."

G: "In these marches I don't see a definite objective, or leadership. They seem to be anarchists and I even think they are counterproductive. They send a wrong signal and in some cases they attack or damage the same community."

"Don't you think that if we are involved more and we give communist leadership, these demonstrations will have better politics and would help more workers and youth understand the real solution to the problem?"

"Maybe so, but it won't be easy."

J: "Now that I've seen that it's not only us black people protesting but also latinos and whites, I understand more what *Red Flag* says about the unity of workers regardless of color or nationality. That's why I think it's very important that more people read the

newspaper."

D: "What many people don't understand is that this anger isn't only about this case but because of a history of abuse, mistreatment, harassment and murders. As a black man, every time the police stop me I have the feeling that any movement can be the motive for being killed by a white man."

"Do you think that this isn't a fight between whites and blacks, but instead a class struggle between rich and poor because there are also rich blacks and latinos and also black and latino cops?"

"You're right."

"Would you like to join ICWP to better understand how the system functions?"

"O.K. Let me know when the next meeting is."

DD: "I don't understand why they are protesting over this death and not over the hundreds of youth who die in the war. I think that the leadership of these marches only do it to get personal benefits."

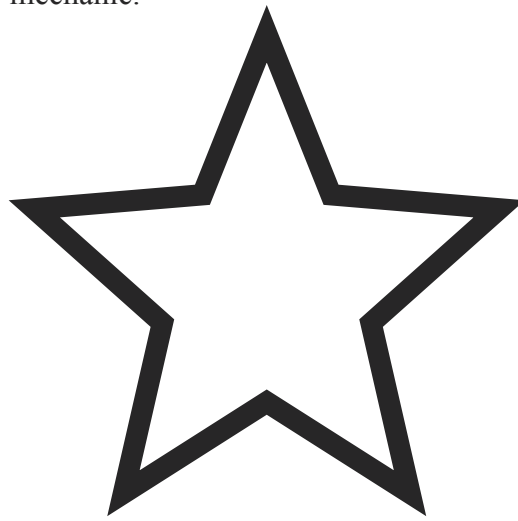
"I know you understand that by trying to ignore the problem this situation is getting worse. If you don't struggle, it will have to be your children who will have to look for a solution. As workers, it is our duty to help spread communist ideas to give leadership to the protests."

"Maybe you're right."

After the questions, there was a small discussion between a black, latino and an asian worker about the need to get more involved in the struggle.

"Wouldn't it be more effective not to go out shopping on 'Black Friday?'" suggested a black worker.

"It would be better to have a political strike against capitalism!" said another mechanic.



LOS ANGELES, November 25—"Capitalism isn't capable of anything that you or I would call justice," said an ICWP comrade. She was responding to the chant of "No justice, no peace! No racist police!" that rang out at the protest at Leimert Park on the day the Ferguson grand jury report was revealed.

"You're right about that," interrupted an older black worker. "Capitalism in its inception was based on the slave trade."

"And capitalism is based on a fundamental robbery," continued the comrade. "You work, and the bosses take what you produce and sell it to make a profit. They only give you enough—barely—to come back to work the next day. I don't think anybody would call that justice."

In conversation after conversation that day, workers agreed that capitalism is the problem.

"We have to get rid of it," emphasized our comrade. "We have to fight for a communist world, without money, or wage slavery. Only by uniting workers of all 'races' against this capitalist system can we build that world."

"People are afraid," said person after person. "I'm 66 years old and I'm afraid to go out at night," said one black worker. "Black people walk around with targets on their back."

"The bosses are even more afraid of us than we are of them," said the comrade. "That's why they hide the history of ghetto rebellions of the 1960's and the anti-racist rebellions in the military led by black soldiers during the Vietnam War. By building a movement for communism we can get rid of capitalism for good." And all those workers gladly took *Red Flag*.

The next day, hundreds of angry protesters—black, latino/a, asian and white, mainly youth—defiantly marched and blocked traffic at busy intersections in south and downtown LA. When marchers sat in the intersections, the police backed off. The bosses are worried that the growing anger at their system means that the youth they need for their wars and slave labor are turning against capitalism.

They will try to turn these youth toward elections and reform. ICWP is struggling to help turn the youth to the working class and the mobilization for communism.

At the march, there were chants about fighting back against racism, and the whole system, for jailing killer cops, and for "freedom," but no chants for communism. However, marchers and on-lookers gladly took *Red Flag* and our communist leaflet calling for a new system, communism, and a new strategy of mobilizing the masses, especially the industrial working class and soldiers, for it.

A young woman comrade and her friend came to the march ready to distribute *Red Flag* and the leaflet to their friends and others there. As we explained to marchers that we are mobilizing for communism, which will have no cops, racism, or bosses, two different marchers offered to pass out the leaflets and *Red Flag* to fellow marchers.

Clearly this is a good opportunity to win angry youth and others to communism. Self-critically, we should have mobilized more comrades and friends to bring our communist vision to these angry marchers. Anticipating the verdict and the reaction, we should have prepared more literature in advance. We ran out of leaflets and *Red Flags* at the Tuesday march.

We are now inviting youth and others angry at capitalism's growing racist terror to help distribute *Red Flag* and communist leaflets about Ferguson to workers to mobilize for communism.

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He was, however, inspired by young people in Ferguson who said they didn't want visits by Al Sharpton or other traditional "leaders."

This started a longer discussion on the history of anti-racist movements in the US.

"I understand people can only move on the knowledge they have or what is presented to them," the worker began. "So I don't blame those that followed traditional civil rights leaders."

"At the same time, I agree with those that have said the end result of those movements was to find places for some leaders in the bosses' system, while the rest of black people and other workers continue to suffer."

"I admire the courage of the demonstrators and those in the rebellion, but I worry about following the same old formula."

Hard Won Lessons

Generations of violent struggle against racism

and cop murder have taught us some hard-won lessons. First is that capitalism has to be torn out by its roots. There is no halfway solution to racist state terror.

The bosses produce for profit. No capitalist regime can survive without super-exploitation from racist pay differentials. The profit cancer assures that no matter how brave the rebels, how widespread the rebellion, the racist disease will recur in more virulent forms.

The second lesson is that this is a struggle against international Capital. The cops killed 34 Marikana miners in South Africa to defend the bosses' profits, probably 43 students in Mexico, untold numbers in cities like Ferguson across the U.S. The list spans the world.

The third is that violence is the way the capitalists rule. We will be called upon to answer in kind because the bosses will never give up power peacefully.

The most important lesson is that communism opens the door to a real solution. Communist production for our collective needs will replace the bosses' need for more profits. The long, hard mass ideological struggle against racism will be buttressed by this collective production. There will be no money or wages, hence no racist pay differentials to justify. There will be no racist terror to enforce super-exploitation; be it cop murder, mass incarceration or racist imperialist war.

"What should we say to this new generation of anti-racist rebels?" asked another veteran comrade. "Not just that this is the same old thing, but that we can finally win if we mobilize the masses for communism."

Just think what would happen if tens of thousands of Boeing workers—like the black, latino/a, asian and white workers who debated this past week—emptied the plants with this strategy in mind. Now there's a practical solution.

RED SAILOR WRITES: ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNISM & MAKE FRIENDS

Our experiences in the US Navy have shown us that our military brothers and sisters share a deep-seated concern for our working-class interests. We come from working-class families and we live in working-class neighborhoods. Sailors know there is a unique connection, on a working-class level, among all people who go out and earn a living. We don't respect the lifestyles of capitalists, who live off of the work of other people, or the children of capitalists, who are unfamiliar with hard work and often actually envy the authentic life of workers.

There are a few sailors who cling to the capitalist myth that they can join the ranks of the elite if they just work hard enough. While hard work is essential to making a difference in the world, the capitalist system is not an even playing field. We don't need to be sociology professors to know that the circumstances we are thrown into are sometimes stifling. Meaningful upward social mobility, even with endless effort, is a rare exception rather than the rule.

The US Navy at the moment is not quite on the mutinous edge, as Russian sailors were right be-

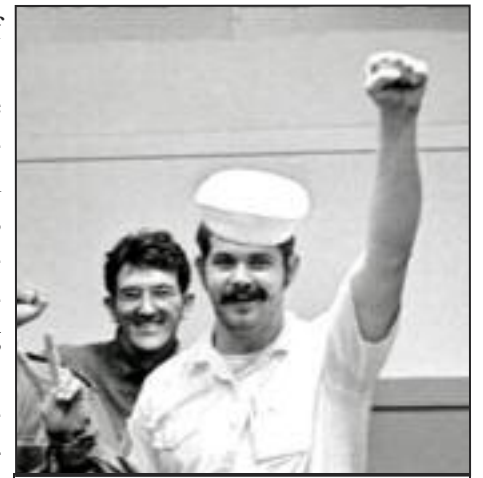
fore they took control of the Potemkin in the early 1900s or as the sailors on the USS Kitty Hawk were during the Vietnam War. But circumstances change quickly and in some cases revolutionary opportunities arise surprisingly fast. This is why it is essential that comrades work in the military. Communists need to be in the right position when events begin to shake up the system. Any serious movement must have people influencing and organizing inside the military.

Huge qualitative leaps of change do not occur often, so in the meantime we should be building up our influence inside the military. The more influence we have on the inside, the more power we will have when big changes present themselves. These big changes build up in time and when the proper circumstances are set, it only needs to be ignited by a seemingly random event. For the Potemkin mutiny, for example, it was rotten meat being served to the crew. The conditions had been brewing for a while and the rotten meat was just the spark that started the fire. But the mutiny would never have succeeded if the sailors had not previously planned and organized a

course of action.

On the whole, enlisting in the Navy as a communist is a fulfilling experience. I am making a contribution to an important cause.

On one hand, I have influenced a lot of Sailors' lives, and most respect the struggle for the working class. On the other hand, I never anticipated how much the Navy and other sailors would affect me. I never thought I would make so many lifelong friends while I was enlisted. I have grown leaps and bounds by becoming a sailor and struggling with sailors to fight the good fight, that is, struggling to advance communism.



Rebellious sailors during the Vietnam War

LETTERS

Academic Communism or Class Struggle

I recently got close to some members of the FMLN, the electoral party, who distort the class struggle and who, like the 21st Century socialists, dress reforms and wars between empires with the red flag of the international working class, a great betrayal.

Youth and adults who come to the FMLN looking for alternatives to the problems of the system only encounter an illusion, with a dead end. They offer the struggle for reforms, which do not resolve the structural problems of the capitalist system, like hunger, poverty, insecurity, drug dealing and money.

Because of this the cells of the International Communist Workers' Party must carry out political work with people regardless of their age who are in the "political base" of these electoral parties, civil organizations, unions, in our homes, etc. But not with those who are aware of the situation of poverty in which the great majority of men and women workers are forced to live but completely ignore this or look the other way to protect their privileges. These prefer to embrace a university career or study Capital from the comfort of their desk.

One problem reflected in the "left" parties is the affinity or twisted desire to elevate theory to a higher level than practical work. They train many youth, like those I met, with the slogan of fighting for the people, but in everyday real life they are purely academics who fill their mouths with "For the People United." But they despise leaving their comfort zones to go to the masses and lead them for a communist revolution. And the most important thing is that many youth and adults who want to contribute and be part of the class struggle fall into this trap.

LETTERS

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In this case, ICWP and we comrades around the world are aware that theory and practice must be at the same level for the quantitative and qualitative development of the workers' movement. We need to train communists and communist cells with a solid foundation that is both practical and theoretical so that we are not seduced by the bosses or won to the counterrevolution.

The cells of the International Communist Workers' Party must reach out to as many workers as possible. Comrades, this letter is a call that we not forget the development of our party (ICWP) and our newspaper **Red Flag**; from the birth of our party (the result of previous struggles by our comrades and the resolution of political contradictions) to the last international meeting where **Red Flag** has touched lands in Africa and continues to expand eastward. This is an inspiration when we find ourselves in difficult or adverse situations for the development of communist work.

—Comrade in El Salvador

Don't Let Religion Divide Us

"You should put more about God in your paper," suggested a bus operator at Division 18 who usually takes **Red Flag** and stops to talk. "Then more people would want to read it." We didn't agree. But we offered to print a letter about that if he wrote it.

A few days later, I was talking with an operator at Division 7. He is also a regular reader of the paper who likes to converse. He brought up something reflecting his religious views. So I asked what he thought of the other guy's comment.

"Oh, that's not right," he said. "This paper isn't about religion. It's about taking care of bu-

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

siness." Then he said, very seriously, "You are doing God's will. You don't have to talk about God to do that. You should keep on doing what you are doing."

He continued, "Some people don't want to read the paper because they think communism is like Russia or China. But that's not what communism really is. If they read this paper, they will find that out." I agreed. I suggested that he write a letter to the paper about it.

The pages of **Red Flag** are open to readers' questions and opinions on things we write about and also things we don't write about that are important to them. To understand and mobilize for communism, we need lots of frank conversation. Often we'll disagree but find ways to move forward together.

People who read the same religious texts (like the Bible or the Koran) often come to opposite conclusions about poverty, racist exploitation, imperialist war, and the dictatorship of the rich over the rest. Some decide that we must suffer in this life for the sake of an after-life. Others say that we must be "God's hands" and set the world right.

I am a life-long atheist. For me, communism is grounded in the real needs (physical and social) of the masses. We can understand it better by discussing it with lots of people and studying political economy, history, and dialectical-materialist philosophy. If you agree, you should join us.

But if you believe that we are doing "God's will" by mobilizing the masses for communism, you too should join the Party and help with this work. Conversations about religion will go on for a long time. We need to change the world now.

—Los Angeles comrade



EAST LOS ANGELES, November 21—One hundred friends, relatives, and neighbors of Eduardo Bermudez and Ricardo Lara gathered at the corner of Verona and Hillview streets, where LA County sheriffs killed the two men in a rain of bullets early on November 15th. Witnesses said that Eduardo and Ricardo were complying with orders when the sheriffs opened fire. Speakers angrily and tearfully demanded "justice" for two workers who were well-known and respected in this stable, cohesive community. But dozens of workers and youth eagerly accepted copies of **Red Flag** from a comrade who declared, "There is no justice for workers under capitalism, in the workplace or the streets or the courts, here or in Ferguson or in Iguala. That's why we need to fight for communist power instead of demanding justice." The comrade and a friend also exchanged contact information with a worker who took a stack of extra papers for her family.

LETTERS FROM COMRADES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Our Party is becoming younger

Red greetings comrades, I thought that the two weeks stay was a bit short, but it has equally printed an indelible mark for our party to grow in the right direction. The revolutionary seeds have been planted and with patient, persistent nurturing can only grow stronger and bear the revolutionary fruits to feed the masses for communism. I likened it to a fire made out of solid wood that takes a while to burn and is long-lasting to cook the pot to feed the masses for communist revolution. From day one, we struck the right chord and each day that passed by was eventful. I personally learnt a lot, I learnt something new about ourselves and everyone we interacted with. It was like a crescendo, in

Red Flag Explains the World

This is a tribute to all my working-class brothers and sisters around the world. I would like to send this message of gratitude for helping me see the light. Before I knew the **Red Flag** I was like a blind man walking. I thank those comrades who have sacrificed to make this paper possible.

I am a South African comrade who is unemployed. Before I read this great paper I was blind to the reason why unemployment is a common trend not only in South Africa but in the rest of the world. I was unable to explain why there is so much hunger, poverty, disease. The rich lived in luxury while the working class struggled for few crumbs but we created everything.

Because of the **Red Flag** I know that the capitalists are parasites sucking the life out of the working class. They are just a cancer that must be removed. The only way of doing that is to mobilize the masses through the **Red Flag** so that we embrace communism and understand that only communism can smash this brutal system.

I want to tell you that we must wage vigorous and constant struggle against capitalist ideas and practices that contradict communism. We must weed out revisionist ideas that would have us believe that capitalism cannot be defeated. We are succeeding in smashing nationalism which spreads poison among the working class. Fighting for our line without fear and with full conviction, we are recruiting many to ICWP. Long live communism.

--Young South African comrade.

From Soweto to Ayotzinapa

I just read an article about the 43 students from Ayotzinapa, Guerrero who disappeared, and it is very painful. I can imagine how their parents, families, relatives and friends feel. Capitalism and its elements are brutal in uncouthable ways. It kills, it exploits the society and working class. It's unbearable. It must be destroyed. It's long overdue. Its life span must come to an end—as in yesterday. It does not value the lives of the society and working class—it values money and profit and will do anything possible to achieve this evil.

Even though I am in South Africa, my heart is marching with the students of the Los Angeles high school in solidarity with the students of Guerrero, Mexico. This event reminds me of that historic event of June 16, 1976, of the high school students in Soweto—masses who were brutally murdered by the police. This horrible event in Guerrero has led me to wait not a second more to destroy the capitalist system. I

Latin, they say, poco-poco, little by little, gradually growing out loudly.

We learnt about the universal laws of dialectics and their applicability and interaction. We learnt that the main contradiction in a capitalist mode of production is between the bosses and the workers. This contradiction cannot be reconciled. Any attempt to do so only serves the interest of the bosses with tragic consequences for the working class. It can only be resolved by communist revolution. The bosses dominate, exploit, alienate the workers from the fruits of their labour. We also dealt with political economy which showed how the contradictions between use value and exchange value occur in a commodity-producing society. We've seen

have zero tolerance for this homicidal system. I will mobilize the masses for communism like a mad man. I want this evil system to die with its people. Not even one capitalist must be left breathing; they must experience the brutality and slaughtering of the Guerrero students.

—A comrade

Communist Philosophy Helps Us to Fight Capitalism

We were visited by an ICWP comrade in South Africa. I saw the comrade the first time about seven months ago and then again at the international meeting recently. When I met the comrade the first time, I was not yet a member of ICWP. In fact I had many doubts about communism. After my first visit with the comrade, we continued to meet every week regularly and with lots of struggle I joined ICWP, convinced that communism is the only solution.

The international meeting of our party advanced my understanding, it was very useful. I came back with lots of enthusiasm. Since the comrade has been in South Africa, we have been holding daily meetings and mobilizing the masses for communism. What we learn in theory, we put it in practice. This helps us to understand the theory better and improve our struggle. The visit by the comrade has been very good because all these days we have been studying communism, dialectical materialism and political economy. Now we have very clear understanding of the contradiction of capitalism and how it can be resolved by eliminating money and wage system. This requires us to mobilize the masses for communism.

We are now growing as a communist movement. Our meetings are growing in numbers. New comrades now see that ICWP is the only party that can free the working class from the brutal system called capitalism.

We really enjoyed the classes. This material we studied is very important for new and old comrades because it helps us mobilize the masses even more effectively. We gained knowledge about how contradictions are resolved by intensifying the differences.

Our first meeting was very big, with new members on board. Many of those members had a lot of questions and nationalist ideas about changing the society. They disagreed with communism, just as I did the first time I met the comrade. But after having communist

that the falling rate of profit leads to inter-imperialist rivalry and inevitably to war.

Interestingly our party is becoming younger; we had in our midst a large number of roaring young lions. They are all still at school but have demonstrated maturity in grasping our correct political line. We gave them the pamphlet **Mobilize the Masses for Communism, Red Flag** and the T-shirts which have become so popular—everyone is clamouring up for them. All the dialectical materialism DVD's are gone. All that is left for us to do is to consolidate the gains that we've made and build a stronger party that is ready to fight in the ideological terrain to combat all forms reformist-revisionism.

--A Comrade

classes for a week, with lots of honest struggle, studying dialectical materialism, political economy, now they agree that communism is the only way to destroy capitalism. We enjoyed a big braai (BBQ) and consolidated our forces in a social environment of collective struggle to advance our struggle to mobilize the masses for communism.

—A comrade

Revolutionary greetings comrades,

I must confess how things have turned out is beyond my imagination. I remember when we were planning for the visit, the comrades were

very eager to show the positive side of our work. Some were a bit embarrassed to expose our weaknesses.

I struggled with the comrades that we must not hide our weaknesses. The visit must reflect the concrete material conditions existing on the ground. It must reflect concretely the challenges we are confronted with on the daily basis and how we overcome them. What are our strengths and weaknesses? What do we do

to change what we have identified as our weaknesses into our strengths?

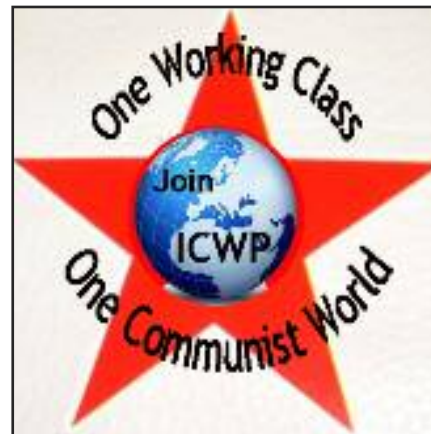
I think that having done this exercise is now paying off. It would not have helped us papeering over the cracks. I think that we are now beginning to take the first step in the right direction. Like a child, we are beginning to crawl.

I know that the classes we held on dialectical materialism and political economy will go a long way in preparing and shaping our ideological thinking as a class that can change history. I am now convinced with what I see taking place, unfolding in front of my eyes, that capitalism is a system based on production for profit maximization by the few. Only a communist revolution will bring it down.

All other measures only serve to strengthen and perpetuate its class rule. Our robust interactions and engagements in the past few days have exposed this tyranny and its tendency to replicate itself in open and disguised nationalist and parasitic brands of capitalism.

We have ICWP which has a clear and correct revolutionary political line of mobilizing the masses everywhere for communism. The visit laid bare enormous tasks that are needed to be done and gave us the confidence to accomplish them. We will definitely soldier on and with renewed enthusiasm continue to work with our new comrades. With our young lions, the roar is going to be even louder!!!

--A Comrade



LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

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Letter of Support from Seattle Workers to Families of the 43 Students of Ayotzinapa

Greetings to the families and friends of the brave students of Guerrero, Mexico.

We would like to add our voices to the many around the world who were appalled at the abduction of the 43. Your fight is our fight!

This unforgivable, violent act was carried out by racist police who receive their orders from a fascist government controlled by the capitalist ruling class. It is the same here in the US, where Michael Brown was killed by police in Ferguson.

What Future Awaits Mexico?

It is hard to believe in a good future for Mexico. To have a hope would be sad, unfortunate and unbelievable when human lives are destroyed in broad daylight. It is clear that the capitalist system feels the proximity of its own suffocation. Since it is unable to control its anger and desperation, its representatives show their incapacity to resolve the social problems, responding with the worst aggressive, bloody and murderous methods.

Today the media has focused on the disappearance of the 43 Normal (teachers' college) students from Ayotzinapa, Guerrero. They criticize, question and indicate the supposed culprits, but let's be realistic, how will this event end? Where will we go with events like these that are happening nationally every day? What will happen to the guilty? Who are carrying out the investigations?

Whatever the answers, **Red Flag** readers must know that no parent or relative of the disappeared would be able to replace their son when, after so much publicity, it is concluded that they have been murdered.

The well-known policy of the system is to build up a whole scandal to try to hide that the intellectual authors of these bloody events are the rulers themselves. Clearly, in the end, what can they do with the guilty when they are from their same class? What can the authorities do when they themselves are the leaders of organized crime?

After all, nothing will happen, all will go unpunished and all the system's media will talk of the government's heroism. With the necessary lies they will try to silence all the voices that now rise up, because this is a way created by all the capitalists to stop at all costs the growth of revolutionary consciousness. The most they could conclude is that the families will be compensated with certain quantities of money while the guilty are only removed from their posts to occupy others. But will this be the solution?

It's time to take the blindfold off our eyes. We have to look at all the events that have occurred on the local, state, national and international level and stop believing blindly in the electoral political parties and their loyal fol-

There will never be justice for these young victims or their families as long as the capitalist bosses own the factories, farms, the media, the banks, the Internet, and control the military, the police, and the courts.

The working class will always be exploited until we mobilize ourselves to fight for a communist world; a world without banks or money, without wars or borders. Where we produce for need, not profit. Where mobilized masses create

lowers in the unions, who are nothing more than the clear reflection of the capitalist system, resolving everything in capitalism's interests and with money. It is time to look for new alternatives because this system no longer has any credibility. Let's read ICWP's literature, and even though it will be a future slow in coming, it will be a more secure future.

It is time to give the students the opportunity to read **Red Flag** so that they know about another alternative for the future, encouraging them to make their viewpoints and suggestions known.

In that way they would be grateful to the members of ICWP if your newspaper can suggest other literature that explains society. We need **Red Flag** to deepen our understanding, since personally it has been difficult to get good literature, considering that many sources of information that the government doesn't like are simply banned from being sold or prohibited.

--**Red Flag** Reader

More on Contradictions

In the last issue, **Red Flag** published an article on the history of dialectics, called "All Contradictions are Antagonistic." I think this title is a serious mistake. The article argues, correctly, that the Soviet concept of "non-antagonistic" contradiction is a bogus idea, used to cover up the internal conflicts of socialism. But the concept of antagonistic contradiction doesn't make sense, either. What is antagonistic supposed to mean? Soviet writers claimed that antagonism is a kind of social relation that is produced by exploitation. That certainly is not present in all contradictions. Others claimed that antagonistic contradictions have to be resolved by violence. This is certainly not true of contradictions in the party. Many other definitions have been tried out, but the best view, I think, is to recognize that "antagonistic contradiction" is a bogus category, invented to try to make "non-antagonistic contradiction" seem to be a legitimate notion. This concept was never used by Marx, Engels or Lenin, and our use of it can only create confusion.

A dialectics student

For Communist Media:

Some comrades recently had a conversation about the role of the media under capitalism, and how it would be different in a communist society. A comrade from Mexico City said that the only reason he watches Univision and Televisa is to see what lies they are going to tell. Not only do they lie about news and events, but also

education and health care structures that serve the needs of our class, not the profit system.

We share your anger and grief in these terrible times. But we hope that you will be encouraged by reading about similar struggles in the pages of **Red Flag**, the newspaper of the ICWP. Together, we can work to mobilize the masses for communism.

--Members and Friends of the International Communist Workers' Party, Seattle, Washington



Teachers in Guerrero protest the disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa

they use movies, TV shows and literature to portray the working class in a negative way. This brings on cynicism and passivity. It leads one to believe that it is impossible to fight the bosses' system.

We then discussed what the media might be like under communism. First of all, they would be "owned" by the masses; they would be the voice of the working class. They would tell the truth about what was happening all over the world AND would encourage the working class to mobilize the masses for communism.

We would have a dialectical materialist approach to news. This means that articles would analyze the contradictions in a process, finding the main contradiction to move the process toward communism. This is not limited to just describing a situation or exposing this system—it's about how to effect change. This is the opposite of building cynicism, because it gives the working class the tools to analyze events and mobilize the masses.

Under communism, there will not be so-called "professionals" who work only in media. Everyone would have a responsibility to write for the media and work on production and distribution, no matter what they do. And it won't be an individual or even a group of individuals expressing their opinion about something.

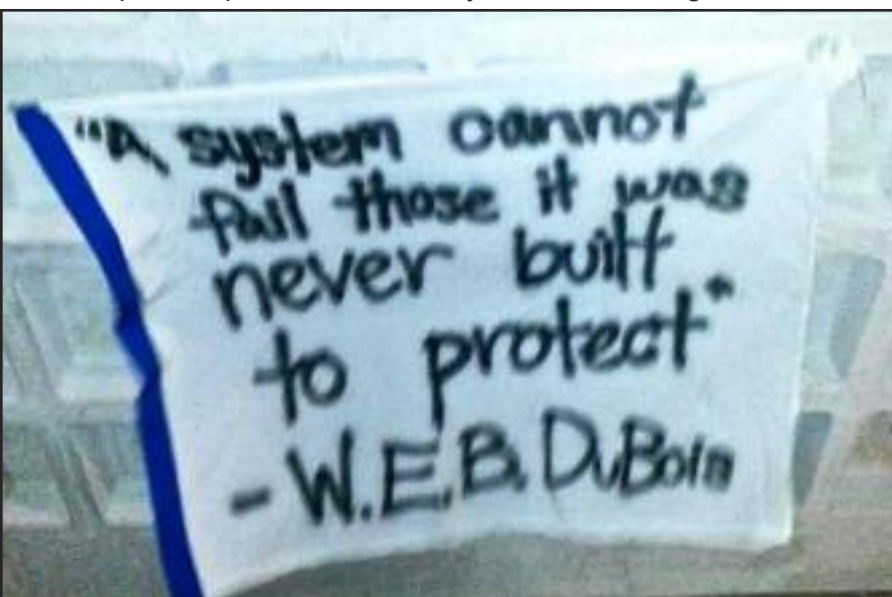
Of course, the term "freedom of speech" is often said to be a person's god-given right. In fact, the ruling class controls the media; they determine who has the freedom, politically and financially. The Party will struggle with workers to understand that their interests are the same as workers everywhere.

Therefore, the motivation will be to produce not for one's individual ego but for the whole of humanity. So the question will be "will this film or book help our class move forward to communism?"

What does this mean for us as Party members and friends of the Party right now? It means that we need more comrades and friends writing for and distributing **Red Flag** and other party literature. This means that more of the working class and its allies will be won to mobilizing the masses for communism.

Intensifying this struggle generates good media. Good media advances this struggle.

--Seattle readers



Banner at Ferguson protest at Brandeis University 12/1/14

U.S. RULERS NEED IMMIGRATION REFORM TO DEFEND THEIR DECLINING EMPIRE WITH WORKERS' BLOOD

Millions of immigrants and their supporters in the immigration rights movement are disappointed that Obama's executive action "doesn't go far enough." Only half the undocumented workers here will "benefit" from it, with no path to citizenship. Every three years, those will be granted renewable relief from deportation, and work permits. To qualify, they must have arrived in the US before 2010 being younger than 16 or having least one US-born or legal resident child.

The dominant imperialist wing of US rulers was also disappointed. "The problems remain pretty much as deep as they did before the president announced his action last night," remarked CFR Senior Fellow Ted Alden. The CFR (Council on Foreign Relations) is the most influential US imperialists' think tank.

These US rulers need a comprehensive immigration reform that puts the nearly 12 million undocumented workers and youth here on the path to citizenship. The millions of disappointed immigrants and supporters also wish for this.

Workers: beware of wishing for what the rulers want

The reasons for Obama's executive order have nothing to do with humanitarianism. He is catering to the needs of US bosses' dominant imperialist wing trying desperately to shore up and defend their declining empire from rival imperialists.

Their needs are to remain competitive in the world market, while pivoting to Asia-Pacific to contain and eventually militarily confront a rising imperialist China. If that were not enough, they are militarily stuck in the Middle East and are also pivoting to Eastern Europe to restrain and eventually militarily confront a resurgent imperialist Russia.

Their main priorities are patriotic low-paid labor and soldiers. They hope their comprehensive immigration reform, which eluded Obama, will provide them both. Their reform is opposed by a sector of their class whose main source of profits is based nationally and therefore has little interest in financing foreign military interventions. The dominant wing, however, still hopes to eventually prevail in Congress.

Immigrants and supporters should shed all illusions about any of these butchers being humane. Capitalism-imperialism has bred the most murderous, monstrous ruling class in history.

Capitalism came into existence by depriving the masses of their basic necessities and forcing them to sell their labor power to survive. It is inhumanely inhumane because it produces for profits, not for human needs. Production for profits dehumanizes our class. For the capitalists we are ei-



ther beasts of burden to be bled for profits, or expendable cannon fodder for their wars for profits and empire. In either case, when no longer useful to them, we are discarded like garbage.

Only communism can restore our humanity. Communism's production for need means that we will all have creative useful work for life. All will contribute to society according to ability and commitment and receive according to need. Collectively we will administer all aspects of our communist society without money, bosses, or their racism, sexism, borders or wars.

Immigrant workers are crucial to US imperialism's survival

Workers' labor is crucial to all economic activities. Its availability or lack of it can determine the rise or fall of empires. Thanks to its geographic location, the US has Mexico, and through it Central America, as huge sources of labor.

These immigrants help prevent labor shortages and keep labor costs low. To regain their competitive edge and rebuild their war industry on the cheap, US bosses will force this labor cost even lower and use that to drastically reduce that of all US workers.

As soldiers, workers are also crucial for war. In preparation for wider wars, including world war, US bosses need to win immigrant workers to patriotism. Obama's executive order aims mainly to win the gratitude and loyalty of the more than 4.5 million US-born children of undocumented workers and of about 2 million undocumented youth brought here before age 16.

With millions of them of military age, US imperialists could wage wider wars without reinstating the hated draft—for now. For global war, since the average age of Mexican immigrants is 21 years and that of all legal immigrants is 37,

millions more, together with other US citizens, will be drafted into the military.

Immigrant workers, soldiers and youth: potential force for communist revolution

Immigrants are not passive, submissive victims. They have a rich history of militantly fighting capitalism-imperialism, including civil wars against US imperialism and their local capitalist lackeys.

The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) welcomes and urges these workers and youth to help mobilize the masses for communist revolution. In a communist world, without borders or nations, no one will be "illegal." Neither will anyone be forced by hunger, poverty or war to leave their families in search of survival. Everyone, however, will be welcome everywhere to contribute their intellects, hearts and labor for the good of the collective.

Communist production and social relations will enable us to develop our human potential to the maximum, sharing our experiences and knowledge to develop communist collectives worldwide.

For this to become reality, we must wage an unrelenting ideological struggle for communism, most importantly in the barracks and the factories. We call on workers, soldiers and youth here and worldwide to join ICWP and concentrate our efforts in those two crucial sectors. Long live communism!

Our manifesto: *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* is

available on our website:

<http://icwpredflag.org/MMC/MMCnewE.html>



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