

# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**



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



## Fascist Attacks on Immigrant Children:

### **ANGRY MASSES NEED A COMMUNIST SOLUTION**

USA, June 6—Thousands of people across the US and around the world have taken to the streets in the past month to denounce the racist and fascist attacks by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE).

On May 7, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the US would begin to separate children from their undocumented parents at the border in every case—including those seeking refugee status. Since then, every week, an average of 329 children, including one as young as 53 weeks old, have been ripped from their parents' arms and put into detention facilities.

Then, on May 23, Claudia Patricia Gómez González, a 20-year-old Guatemalan immigrant, was assassinated at the US-Mexico border by an agent of the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). First claiming that she had been part of a group that had attacked the agent, the CBP later dropped that charge. Gómez González was shot in the back of the head.

The capitalists need borders to divide the working class and sharpen our exploitation. These latest attacks unmask the vicious racism of capitalism and its borders.

We fight for a communist world with no borders. As a high school student said while discussing this situa-

tion, "We can create a communist world where there is no distinction. But first of all we need to make a revolution to change the whole system, make a world revolution and get the power and set up a communist government."

We fight for a communist world where we work together to fulfill human need, where nothing is bought and sold, and where children are cherished. In that world, the ties of parents to their children are enhanced by the social bonds between comrades.

Capitalism has everywhere attacked the most vulnerable, exploited children, and destroyed families. This long and bloody history is interconnected with the racist exploitation of people of color.

The official policy of the US, until 1865, plucked the children of enslaved African-Americans from their parents. Until the end of the Civil War, it was common for slave owners to destroy families by selling children or parents to other slave owners. Enslaved women were used to breed children who would then be stolen from them and sold to other slave-owners.

This was the very nature of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, especially in the British colonies of North America and the Caribbean. Africans were kidnapped and sold to the highest bid-

## May Day, Mexico City

### **WORKERS EMBRACE COMMUNIST IDEAS**

MEXICO CITY, May 1—This May Day we distributed about 700 *Red Flags* to miners, students, teachers and unionized workers. The majority received it and read it enthusiastically. With several of them we discussed communism in more detail. Others asked us for an additional copy or gave us some coins.

We understand that the work of extending communist ideas is primary in the face of the imminent third world war, and that the extreme conditions that the bosses have imposed on workers from all over the world helps us to explain the nature of capitalism.

In this electoral process, the working class relies a lot on the false solution offered by the electoral parties. Thousands of workers trust the pseudo-left party MORENA. Nevertheless, ICWP comrades in talks with relatives, friends and protesters on this first of May, explained the death trap that the electoral circus is. We explained that only a communist revolution led by millions of workers around the world can uproot the evils of capitalism, and that only in communism will the needs of the entire working class be met.

When we explain communist ideas with clarity and confidence, workers understand that it is the real solution.

der.

In the US, Canada, and Australia, indigenous and aboriginal children were forcibly separated from their families and sent to boarding schools. There they were taught to reject the language and culture of their families and forcibly assimilated. They were often physically and sometimes sexually abused.

It was capitalism that enslaved African people and separated their families for profit. Likewise, the families of indigenous people were

separated to facilitate the occupation of their lands and use them to produce profits (money). Imperialism creates the precarious situation in which our brothers and sisters, like Claudia Gómez, are forced to emigrate for a better life.

This inhumane capitalist system cannot be allowed to continue. This mass anger must be mobilized for communist revolution, where we wipe out the bosses, their cops and border patrols, their borders, their system of exploitation and money

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## COMMUNIST RELATIONSHIPS: LIFEBLOOD OF COMMUNIST SOCIETY

“I like the idea of a world without money,” said a young black worker. “I don’t have any money now anyway.” He’s not the only one!

But how will communist society function without money?

Sometimes people think we mean a “cashless” society where everyone buys stuff with debit or credit cards. Some think we mean a decentralized “block-chain” system like Bitcoin. Or do we mean a barter system?

No.

Barter means a direct exchange of goods or services. It’s a limited system that could only lead to the creation of money to facilitate trade. Worse, those who don’t already have goods to exchange – or who have less ability to produce goods and services that others want – are out of luck.

**In communist society, nothing will be bought or sold – or bartered or exchanged. Instead, everything will be shared.**

We will share the work. We will share the products of our labor. We will give them to those who need them. We will ask for and accept as gifts the things and the help we need.

Most of us are used to sharing within our family or household. We are used to sharing with friends. These are the relationships that sustain us in good times and bad.

Building and maintaining those relationships is work. Sometimes it’s called “emotional labor.” Often, it’s not easy.

And as a comrade pointed out in a recent meeting, usually it’s the woman in the family or the relationship who is expected to do most of this emotional labor. She often has to do it on top of

her wage-slavery job outside the home and her unpaid housework. Part of the communist fight against sexism is more of us, regardless of gender, becoming more committed to the work of building relationships.

**What does this have to do with mobilizing for communist society?**

A society organized around sharing will require a vast expansion of our web of close social relationships—starting now. To make the leap from “me and mine” to “all of us” means intentionally building communist social relationships.

An industrial worker comrade talks about his deepening friendship with a co-worker who is increasingly helpful in building the work of the Party. They see each other more and more off the job—even sometimes when it might not be very convenient.

Clearly this means more opportunities to talk about communism and how to advance the work. But it means more. It’s relationships like these that sustain us.

*Red Flag* readers, including Party members everywhere, are learning a lot from the comrades in South Africa about building strong Party collectives. These communist social relationships reflect their commitment to each other. They are helping to sharpen the struggle to advance the work of each individual and their collectives.

Too often we don’t pay enough attention to the emotional work – and rewards – of building communist social relationships. These don’t come “naturally” in capitalist society. We can’t rely on spontaneity.

Late-stage capitalism – intentionally, and by its very nature – promotes alienation and isola-

tion. It atomizes and fragments the working class. All forms of capitalist entertainment contribute to this. Racism, sexism and xenophobia are part of it, but not the whole story.

We need to spend more time with the students, workers and others we hope to convince to join and build the International Communist Workers’ Party. We can’t live “two lives” (a work life and a “private” life). We need to struggle collectively and intentionally to build and strengthen communist social relationships.

**We need to rely on networks of relationships to take advantage of the opportunities to advance communism that exist around us today.**

These friendships are the basis for recruiting and consolidating new Party members. And we’ll need to rely on these expanding networks to take advantage of revolutionary opportunities when they arise.

But – equally or even more important – the quantitative change (“more communist relationships”) will become a qualitative change (“building communist society”).

The lifeblood of capitalist social organization is money. Money allows a tiny but powerful ruling class to accumulate our social labor as their private property. It greases the wheels of their political system as well as their economy.

In contrast, communist social relationships will be the lifeblood of communist society—the world without money that we, the masses, desperately need.

*This article summarizes an important theme discussed at a recent ICWP leadership meeting. We welcome your experiences and comments.*



The indigenous Iroquois people of North America (shown here in a 16th century European etching) had a traditional “gift economy.” They held land and worked it communally. When smaller groups hunted or fished, the whole community shared what they brought back.

Among Iroquois communities, gift-giving was more common than trading. Iroquois people taught their children to think for themselves and work hard for the community.

Today, more and more people around the world are talking about – and trying to build – small-scale gift economies. Communism will build on the best of these traditions and experiments, taking them to a new and higher level.

### Communist Relations among Maquila Workers

How can we establish communist social relations? This is an important question and maybe I don’t have the complete answer, but I consider that a main aspect is solidarity.

A few weeks ago, a worker from a factory had her stove burn up. It was very dangerous because her children were there at home while she was working, but we were glad to learn that they were safe.

We decided to collect a little money to buy a stove. The confidence of this comrade to communicate her situation to the collective was important since it means that she has understood that all aspects of everyday life matter. In communism we will all be responsible for everyone. Why not do it today to some extent? A comrade in the base of ICWP should be important.

A few months ago we went to visit a comrade who has fought against an illness, and we took a basic food basket and spent a few hours at her house. These mo-

ments are valuable and we shared ideas about how to advance the organizing work of ICWP.

These examples that I share are difficult but common moments for the working class. But there are also moments of joy that are good and that we must create and take advantage of politically to speak about communist ideas, mainly because they are spaces in which people are willing to share and to listen. I think that this collective participation is helping make our way forward.

Someone is not a comrade just in a meeting, in a march, in a leaflet distribution, or during agitation. They are our comrade all the time.

The discussion on this subject must continue to combat capitalist practices and ideas about how to relate in a communist way. Let’s read and distribute our newspaper *Red Flag*.

Long live the working class!  
—Comrade in El Salvador



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## Capitalist Transportation is Dangerous to Your Health

### COMMUNISM WILL GET US ALL MOVING

LOS ANGELES, USA—"It's nice to see you. How have you been?" asked the *Red Flag* distributor to an MTA bus operator getting off her shift.

"Not so good, I hurt my hand helping a wheelchair passenger onto the bus. My hand got pinned by the wheelchair. The doctor is still evaluating my injury. I hope it hasn't caused permanent damage. I need surgery but MTA denied my claim," she answered.

"I'm so sorry to hear that. Wheelchair-related accidents seem common. Another driver told me that manually operating the W-wheelchair lift injured his shoulder. The hydraulic system wasn't working," said the comrade.

"Tell me about it! Recently it happened to me. It didn't work on my bus either. I did it manually three times. It was really hard," added the operator.

A retired bus operator explained, "MTA's normal procedure is to deny operators' claims, especially if they have no lawyer. However, if the mechanism was cleaned and lubricated daily, this problem wouldn't exist. Also, installing a winch by the fare box would enable operators to raise the lift without getting into health-hazardous positions when done manually."

"Why isn't the hydraulic lift cleaned and lubricated daily?"

"Because," continued the retired operator, "management does it to save money, pitting drivers and mechanics against each other. They make both responsible for the inspection but don't allocate enough time for either to do an adequate job."

Undoubtedly, many drivers and mechanics have tons of ideas about how to make things easier, safer and more pleasant for drivers and passengers. But, MTA and its capitalist masters are not interested in this.

If they were, they would replace the 263 million cars, clogging US roads and streets, with a good, safe massive transportation system. This would greatly improve the physical and mental wellbeing of over 222 million drivers, especially bus operators.

It would, however, eliminate the huge profits of oil, automobile, tire, and construction companies. "Profits before people," is the capitalists' logic and they won't act against their logic.

"For them, we are not human beings... we are just a number," said a driver at a different division. Another driver from yet another division commented, "We are just wage slaves carrying wage slaves from their homes to the plantation and then back to their homes."

They are totally right—and no reform can ever

change this. Wage slavery robs our humanity. To gain it back and develop to our fullest human potential we must destroy wage slavery and money, the chain that binds us to the capitalists. Only communism can do this.

Transporting people and goods is a social need which we will plan and implement collectively. Helping those in need to get on or off the transporting vehicle will be done collectively. The attitude on the buses or trains will be "We're all here together helping each other get on and off to get where we need to go."

Communism will develop a massive multi-faceted system with lots of different kinds of transportation to meet people's different needs.

Operators of mass transit will be able to show the care, love and appreciation of their passengers that they would like to, but that capitalism prevents them from doing. We will develop better ways to transport everyone—especially people using wheel chairs.

With no wage slavery or money to dictate how we live and die or how we relate to each other, we will be able to fully develop the communist social relationships that will allow us to treat each other with respect, dignity and love. Like our ancestors did for tens of thousands of years in pre-class communism - on a higher level.

## South Africa:

### MOBILIZING STUDENTS FOR COMMUNISM

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA – Since the May Day, I have realised that being part of the collective is key. It was a great experience for me being able to participate in the May Day celebration even though it was held miles away from where I am right now. The struggles we had as comrades where we looked deep into our weaknesses and obstacles has helped to intensify my work here in Cape Town particularly in mobilizing students for communism. As a result, there are three students at my campus who read *Red Flag*.

With someone particularly interested in knowing more about the party, certainly the way the masses are won to communist ideas is not the same nor uniform. This is the case with this one student who is my housemate. Putting communist ideas and spreading them through *Red Flag* is how we try to recruit the working class and build a mass party. The experience we get from this work helps us to advance our organizing and helps us to understand our line better.

Sometimes it takes more than that. It takes more than just distributing *Red Flag*, it takes talking about communism in every conversation one gets into. This is not always the case. (Well, it was not always the case with me. Usually I would talk about communism when we mobilize or distribute *Red Flag* or in a meeting).

I saw this in the conversation I had with my roommate. I was watching a movie. The movie starts with a quote in lines of "it's better to be chained than to be free." I commented, "That's crap."

He asked, "What's crap?"

I read the quote to him. He asked, "Who said it?"

I said, "It's some philosopher I don't know."

He said, "I hope it's not Karl Marx. I was in the library today. A whole aisle was filled with books—Karl Marx this, Karl Marx that—who is Karl Marx?"

I just said, "His work is par with the Bible in terms how it is read, but he was a communist like me."

That is when he opened up and told me about the things he didn't believe about communism because I had given him the pamphlet *Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC)* and *Red Flags*, but he always found an excuse not read to them and avoid us talking about it in length.

First, he said he believes communism is a good thing, but he doesn't believe he will ever live to see it happen.

I told him that we don't know when communist revolution will happen, but it won't just happen. It's up to the exploited class to make it happen. It's up to us to organize the society we want—a communist society. It will happen when me and you join the movement committed to making this communist society.

He said, "Yes but peo-

ple are greedy, my man. It's their nature."

"No. People are not greedy. It's not their nature to be greedy. Look, for example, in your family. In your family do you want to eat or take everyone's food at a dinner table? No, you don't. You take your share and your siblings get their share according to their need. This is the society we want but it's impossible to achieve this society without getting rid of capitalism—the system that encourages greed where one man is for himself at the expense of the masses. It will forever feel like greed is natural because greed in capitalism is institutionalized."

He agreed that communism is the only way people will ever live freely like one big family. He said he is going to give more attention to the paper and *MMC* and I asked him to accompany me when we go to the farm to distribute *Red Flag* to wine workers. He agreed provided that he is not busy.



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## Boeing Weaponizes Attendance Policy

### AEROSPACE WORKERS DEBATE COMMUNIST SOLUTION

PUGET SOUND, WA (USA) — “When you are out on the weekend, you should be looking forward to coming to work Monday morning,” said the Boeing bigshot. Disdainful laughter erupted.

Who could blame us? The company—in collusion with the union—had just weaponized the attendance policy. The hundreds herded into a theatre to hear his pitch knew this all too well. Many will lose their jobs under these rules.

Only communism can end punitive attendance policies, once and for all.

The boss had just described how he toiled around on his boat and traveled the world with his wife. “Yeah, he wants us to come to the factory to make profits so he can continue to live his pampered lifestyle,” a worker remarked.

Company-speak like this never works. Workers see that it’s only a cover for how the company uses punishment to insure we are exploited on the job. This 187-page attendance policy puts the threat of firing front and center.

“I hate it when things get this complicated,” said one worker, reflecting the general sentiment. “Somebody up there wants to screw you when it gets this complicated.”

Most workers understand this. Even the shop steward at a crew meeting dedicated to explaining the new policy agreed. Later we discussed the communist alternative: no attendance policy!

#### Motivating Communist Work

Our comrade started this discussion by stating that the real problem is having attendance rules at all. If we were producing for the needs of our class, we wouldn’t require them.

The shop steward agreed that we could collectively figure out how many people it would take to produce what we need. Now people come to work because they must earn a wage. There is no incentive to give an extra effort if it goes to the company’s profits.

“But how do you deal with someone who doesn’t want to come to work?” asked the shop steward. Many people ask us that.

In communism, the incentive is social respon-

sibility. We could work that out, too.

“That’s right,” she agreed.

You can’t work it out if production is for profits. Then the bosses need laws: weaponized policies to punish people who won’t submit. She really agreed with this.

#### Work, Not Jobs

In communism, everyone will work, but nobody will have a job. A job means some boss must be able to exploit you. And communism won’t have any profit-driven bosses.

We’ll no longer be wage slaves. Workers will produce collectively to provide for our needs.

Without exploitation work will become a labor of love. Unlike company-speak this scenario is real, not a con.

The working class will become masters of production and all of society. We will decide what we need to produce and how many hands we need to produce it. We will eliminate the division between those who decide what is needed and those who do the work.

Boeing workers had dozens of discussions like this. Comrades and friends tried to introduce early on the idea that communism will allow us to eliminate attendance rules altogether. We’re meeting with a few friends to write letters to *Red Flag* about the reactions they got when they raised this.

Laughter at the absurdity of company-speak and anger at the attacks developed into consideration of real communist solutions. Communism became a little more mass.

*Red Flag* distribution increased modestly. Three more workers took papers to give to co-workers and friends. Old friends showed more enthusiasm about distribution in the plant and to others in the community. This activity helps pave the way to recruiting more members to ICWP.

Our modest communist response contrasted sharply with that of the union. The International Association of Machinists (IAM) ran a front-page article and posted flyers about how they mitigated the attacks. This, too, provoked

### Union Contract Okays Pay Cut for Alaska Airlines Workers

WASHINGTON STATE, USA — As Boeing workers debated the new attendance policy, another IAM local worked out a deal with Alaska Airlines to cut wages.

The city of SeaTac, WA (USA), home of an international airport, recently passed a \$15/hour minimum-wage law. Before that, Alaska had outsourced baggage handling and other support staff jobs. The airline was forced to up the pay of these workers to the minimum.

In exchange for insourcing these jobs, the IAM agreed that these workers would get paid a little over \$10/hour. All the workers would now be IAM members. Union agreements supersede the minimum wage requirements.

“All they care about is dues-paying members,” said a disgusted Boeing worker. He used to be active in the union, but no more.

Union officials tried to spin this treachery as “bargaining.” Workers aren’t having it! Unions and laws are no match for capitalism’s insatiable drive for profits. Joining the ICWP to build for communist revolution is the only answer.

In communism, money and wages will become relics of the past. There will be no need to bargain over minimum wages. There will be no need for wages at all. We’ll work collectively to provide for our collective needs.

laughter.

The union tried to spin their collaboration as “bargaining.” This only exposed the futility of trade-union politics. Capitalism attacks workers relentlessly. It’s can’t be reined in by unions.

Only communism can end wage slavery and open the door to new social relationships. Attendance policies, profit-driven factories and bosses, and useless unions will become relics of the past. Comradely, collective communist relationships are the future!

Capitalist attacks on the children of the working class reveal its inhumanity. The desperate condition of workers’ families has forced children into horrific conditions since the beginning of capitalism. The industrial revolution of the 19th century forced European peasant families off their land—and many of their children were forced to work in the new capitalist factories and mines.

This is not a thing of the past. Pakistani children make soccer balls for the World Cup. Millions of girls are sold into marriage to pay off their families’ debts. 132 million children under 15 around the world work in agriculture. Children as young as 8 years old fight in Africa’s wars. Thousands of children are separated from their mothers and grandmothers in the US by the criminal injustice system and the war on drugs. Tragically, this list could go on.

Anyone who cares about the wellbeing of the children of the world must fight to put an end to this murderous system with communist revolution.

In communism, we will combine learning and age-appropriate practical work from an early age in nurturing, healthy collectives. Work will be fun and inspire confidence and collectivity.



Breaker Boys—Pennsylvania Coal Company’s mine in South Pittston 1910

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itself. We can only do that by building a communist party that can mobilize the masses for communist revolution.

As a young woman discussing this system concluded, “We have to make a decision to change all the inequalities we live in today and focus on a better world for all.”

Join ICWP! Fight for a communist world without borders.

This inhumane capitalist system cannot be allowed to continue. This mass anger must be mo-

bilized for communist revolution, where we wipe out the bosses, their cops and border patrols, their borders, their system of exploitation and money itself. We can only do that by building a communist party that can mobilize the masses for communist revolution.

As a young woman discussing this system concluded, “We have to make a decision to change all the inequalities we live in today and focus on a better world for all.” Join ICWP! Fight for a communist world without borders!



## COMMUNIST UNITY CAN END CAPITALISM-IMPERIALISM'S MIDDLE-EAST BLOODBATH

June 2—In an outpouring of mass anger, thousands of Palestinians marched in the funeral procession of Razan al-Najjar, a 21-year-old nurse murdered by an Israeli army sniper. She was approaching the Gaza border fence to aid a wounded Palestinian man. She was wearing her white medic jacket and vest and holding her arms in the air to show she was unarmed.

The Israeli army has killed 121 Palestinians at the border fence and injured over 13,000 since protests escalated on March 30. Outrage at these killings has spread among Palestinians and throughout the world.

This passionate solidarity should motivate us to mobilize masses worldwide for communism.

Only communism can end this slaughter and all the other horrors capitalism-imperialism imposes daily on the world's workers.

Only communism can end the towering inferno that the imperialists and other capitalists have created in the Middle East in their quest to control the oil which is crucial to their world domination.

These mass murderers pit workers in Israel/Palestine against each other – Jews, Christians, Muslims. Their goal is to divert their anger away from their real enemies: Israeli and Arab capitalists and all the imperialists.

They speak of an “Israeli-Palestinian problem”



when the real problem is capitalism-imperialism.

They propose a “two state solution” or a “one state solution” in which Israeli/Palestinian workers would still be divided by racism, borders, nationalist flags and religion. They would still be exploited, oppressed and slaughtered by their respective capitalists and their imperialist allies.

The only real solution is communist revolution. By destroying wage slavery, money, private property and the market, we can create a world without racism or borders or nations - without xenophobia, nationalism and patriotism. Only then will the Israeli and Palestinian masses be able to embrace each other as members of one family.

Can we forge the working-class unity necessary to make communist revolution possible in the region? The capitalists and their media say no. That their conflict is from “time immemorial.” History disproves this lie.

In 1919, the Palestinian Communist Party was founded mainly by Jewish Communists from Europe. Many Arab Communists joined. Jewish and Arab comrades fought together against both the Zionists and the British imperialists. They organized joint strikes and rebellions against attacks on the Arab masses.

Zionist leaders and the British imperialists on the one hand, and Arab bosses on the other, responded by stepping up their efforts to divide Jewish and Arab workers with racism and nationalism. Over the last century they have turned the region into a mass grave—all to control the workers and the oil-rich Middle East.

All workers have the same interests: we need to free ourselves from wage slavery and the racism and nationalism that are always part of capitalism.

The way to start is by spreading *Red Flag* through-

### Communism Will Prevail

Dear Comrade, thanks for contacting me. It was wonderful to talk to you about *Red Flag* and communist revolution. In the war zone here in Syria where we live, the internet connection is not very reliable but whenever possible, I try to read *Red Flag* although my English is limited.

Different capitalist bosses and their puppets are fighting a fierce battle to dominate not only the Syrian working class but the working class in general, globally. Only an extremely naive person can see any hope in supporting one of the blood thirsty butchers. We need communist revolution NOW.

I want to tell the world that in the midst of the fire and fury of deadly weapons and unimaginable suffering and devastation, the working class has not given up. Numerous small groups are springing up discussing how to change the world. Tattered copies of Marx, Lenin and others are shared along with the ideas of ICWP. As I told you many months ago, it would be wonderful if we could get an Arabic translation of the ICWP document MMC. It is my dream to meet you some day. This might not be possible as war creates uncertainties about life.

But there is one certainty – the international working class will triumph. Life will conquer death and the communist way of life will prevail. On behalf of the comrades here, accept our comradely embrace. We are one in this struggle. Long live communism.

--Comrade in Syria

out the Middle East. Help translate it into many languages so that we can build ICWP massively there and everywhere.

Yes, we CAN unite to build the communist world that we need and deserve! And, yes, we will!

### Not One Capitalist State – Not Two Capitalist States!

## ONLY COMMUNISM CAN END RACISM, NATIONALISM AND BORDERS

The fascist Israeli government has been expanding Israel's borders since its establishment in 1948 with the support of British and US imperialism and the backing of the Soviet Union.

In 1967 Israel started the “Six-Day War” against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. It ended up with Israeli military control over the Gaza Strip, Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, Jordan's West Bank, and Syria's Golan Heights.

Israel later negotiated the return of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in exchange for diplomatic recognition. It retained indirect military control over the Gaza Strip. This is a tiny area that is home to nearly 2,000,000 Palestinians. Most of them are descendants of Palestinians expelled from Israel in 1947-48.

Israel annexed the Golan Heights and the eastern part of Jerusalem. It retains military control of the rest of the West Bank. This was the area intended by the United Nations for a future Palestinian state. Jordan's rulers collaborated by renouncing any authority over the West Bank.

Since 1967, Israel has built many apartment blocks and entire cities in West Bank areas formerly controlled by Jordan. Some 600,000 Israeli Jews now live there, subject to Israeli civil law. Palestinians in the same areas, though, are subject to direct and indirect military occupation.

The result is a de facto apartheid state.

Some Israeli liberals and some Palestinian political parties pretended that this apartheid state was a transitional phase to a negotiated “two-state solution.” Supposedly an independent Palestinian state would be carved out of the West Bank.

Now there have been 50 years of United Nations resolutions and rounds of negotiations. But the apartheid state is stronger than ever. No Palestinian state is in sight. Military occupation is permanent. This is largely because of enormous military and diplomatic support from the United States, under all administrations.

Now many local “peace activists” have concluded that the two-state solution is dead. It is nothing more than a cover for apartheid.

Small groups of Israelis, Palestinians, and joint Israeli-Palestinian organizations have turned to a full range of political solutions called a one state solution. These proposals call for a confederation, a bi-national state, or a secular state in which all citizens are politically equal. Their model is South Africa—where all citizens are NOT equal!

**All of the “one-state solutions,” like the imaginary “two state solution,” have three fatal flaws.**

First, they all perpetuate a highly unequal capitalist society. Israeli and Palestinian nationalism

are used to perpetuate a myth: Despite vast differences in wealth, income, political power, if you are Palestinian or Jewish, your alleged national identity binds you together.

Second, the Middle East, including the areas where Israelis and Palestinians live, is hotly contested by major imperialist powers; the United States, Russia, China, and the European Union. While their alliances ebb and flow, all would viciously oppose the emergence of local communist forces that attack nationalism and capitalism.

Third, no political-social organization that serves workers' interests can base itself on support from outside imperialists. That includes Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia linked to the United States, or Syria and Iran cozying up to Russia and China. Likewise, no solution can be based on perpetuating permanent inequality through capitalism.

This is why the only real solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be communism. Communism is the real alternative to proposals based on nationalism – whether one-state or two-state. Workers have to rely on building a mass ICWP to get rid of all the capitalists and imperialists and the borders they have created.

## Brazil Truckdriver Strike

### INTER-IMPERIALIST CRISIS AND CONFLICT CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

A breakfast of eggs, potatoes and sometimes beef move millions of Brazilians every morning from their homes to factories, schools and army barracks. For over a week eggs and potatoes along with thousands of other items, have disappeared from daily life. A massive strike by truck drivers has brought Brazil to a standstill. Supermarket shelves are empty; there is no fuel at the gas stations and the garbage piles up uncollected. “Normal life” has ceased to exist.

There is talk of revolution. “Neither Lula nor the military can offer a solution. We need to expand the strike, everybody wants to join except Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT) or Workers Party,” said an aerospace worker who is a friend of ICWP. The government and capitalist bosses—in panic—try to blame the truckers for chaos. Mass sentiment is that the strike did not create chaos, chaos created the strike. Despite the hardships, 86% of the Brazilians support the strike.

At the heart of the strike is skyrocketing fuel prices. The fluctuations in fuel prices are a direct result of growing inter-imperialist crisis involving the US, Russia, China and others. Petrobras, the largest state-owned oil company in Brazil, is suffering massive losses. The bosses are trying to privatize Petrobras, which will further destabilize oil prices.

Emboldened by the truck drivers’ strike,



Petrobras workers are walking out too. Other key industries like aerospace, transport, mining have the potential to mobilize political strikes for communist power. Millions of workers in Brazil won to ending wage slavery could trigger a world wide uprising leading to communist revolution.

Deepening inter-imperialist conflict is creating opportunities for the working class to build a massive ICWP to fight for communism. Bosses’ crisis is creating many such opportunities in every corner of the world. Our urgent task is to deepen our roots among industrial workers, soldiers and students.

## It's not just Ortega, it's the whole capitalist system!

### THE MASSES' SECURITY WILL BE THE BASIS OF COMMUNIST SOCIETY

June 5, 2018—Since April 18, the government of Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua has been dealing with a mass uprising of men and women workers and students. They are angry about the decree of Changes to Social Security (pensions). This would have lowered the monthly payment that pensioners receive and would have increased the percentage that is deducted from the already miserable wages of those who work. The government had to retract the decree, but the demonstrations continue.

At times like these, when the capitalists are grabbing each other by the neck, we workers can and must take our own path of struggle, the struggle for communism. We must crush both bands of murdering thieves and exploiters.

Our alternative must be to create a new communist society, without bosses or exploitation. The solution is not to take out one executioner and put in another, but instead to destroy capitalism and build a new way of life. In communism, there won't be Social Security programs because production will be to meet the needs of life. This will be the basis of society.

We know very well that these austerity measures are dictated by the imperialists who control

the International Monetary Fund and the banks who loan money to governments. The policy is to force governments to reduce spending to pay the interest on the loans. On May 8 of this year, when the new President of Costa Rica took office, he was already expecting a strike by public workers against similar attacks against the working class' pensions. The worldwide capitalist economic crisis is sharpening. These are only two examples.

Nicaragua is one more point in the inter-imperialist struggle in which China and Russia are on one side and the US is on the other. After the revolution of 1979, the US lost part of its political control of Nicaragua as its indisputable lackey. The Chinese imperialists have tried to enter the Nicaraguan arena with the now-paralyzed plan of building a canal and maquilas. The Russian imperialists have sent aid through Cuba, which sent hundreds of doctors, and through Venezuela, which sent cheaper gasoline.

Some workers see the small changes that the government of Nicaragua has made as signs of reform to the unbridled capitalism of the ex-dictator Somoza. They only see two alternatives: the Sandinistas or the capitalist opposition. And

they think it's better to support the “lesser evil.”

But capitalism under the Sandinista Front, the FMLN in El Salvador, Chavism in Venezuela, or the African National Congress in South Africa is as harmful as any other capitalism. These governments are the product of the struggles for national liberation, mainly led by the policy of the old communist/socialist movement which sought to reform capitalism instead of fighting directly for communism.

But communism continues to be the only real alternative. It is the only system where the life of the workers is primary, and where exploitation and the bosses' profits will be things of the past.

This struggle in Nicaragua creates a great opportunity to discuss communist politics with our co-workers, friends and relatives as the alternative to the ravages created by capitalism. The friends who read *Red Flag* in Nicaragua must take the initiative to join the International Communist Workers' Party and begin to build it massively. The masses of workers and students can see that there are no “lesser evil” bosses, and that our struggle must be for communism.

The ICWP manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* is available in English and Spanish. Order your copies today. Please send donations for the printing and shipping costs. Please let us know if you can translate it into any other language—especially Arabic.

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## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

**Let us be one, comrades!**

I joined ICWP two years ago. When I joined I was aware of communist ideas as I grew up with people who were fighting the government. But I had lost interest in the fight.

When I joined I knew exactly what I was getting myself into. On the other hand I was living a capitalist life. I was selfish, only looked out for me and those who were close to me. I used to use alcohol to forget my problems. If I had food, clothing, and other important basic needs in my house, I would use the rest of the money for alcohol, and cigarettes for my husband.

But as I read the *Red Flag* and other reading material, I realized that I can get drunk and be happy for that moment but in the morning, my problems were still bigger as I would have a hangover and I would not have the money that I needed for my basic needs anymore.

And as I engaged in struggle with other comrades, I slowly got rid of the habit. And with the criticism from the collective, I admitted that I had a problem and I started criticizing myself. And I am happy to say that I feel like a new person. My comrades have more faith in me now and I am able to do more work for the party and I feel good. I know I'm where I am



supposed to be. I am fighting for what is right and what I believe in.

I have also learned to be a team player and to delegate, as I used to want to do everything by myself. I am also able to rely on my fellow comrades for help and for support. I am now in a good space. I am much calmer. My interacting skills have improved as I have been struggling with the masses.

We are not perfect. We all make mistakes. But we need to learn from them and it starts with accepting criticism from fellow comrades and showing remorse for any wrong doing so we can move on.

We have a lot of work ahead of us. Mobilizing the masses all over the world for communism is not a small thing. We need each other and everyone to be alert always. As ICWP soldiers we must carry our weapon, the *Red Flag*, at all times. Let us be one, comrades, in order to fulfill our dream of a communist society. Aluta.

—Comrade in South Africa

**Organizing for May Day in South Africa 2017**

**Comrade, Study History!**

*The following is part of an ongoing struggle that a comrade is having with his friend:*

Comrade, I do understand your point but what I would advise you is that you must study history so that you can see that we can live without money. We don't need money to survive. Our black ancestors before 1652, a few centuries ago, lived without money. And even during the 18th century, 2 centuries ago, in this area I believe we were living without money.

So we don't really need money. We need to distribute what we produce among the people for everyone's use.

I think, my brother, that you should study history. I know that you have studied engineering, but it doesn't teach you how to think for yourself. It teaches you how to work for big business.

We workers have many skills. So if we can take the means of production from the bosses, then we can use our skills to produce the products and then distribute them so that all the people can get what we need.

—Another Comrade in South Africa

**Thoughts of a Student**

I am writing from Mexico. I am a student. One of the things I like to do is read because I consider that knowledge is a powerful weapon. I have been reading some history books about how the peoples in Latin America were abused and exploited.

I have only known about the communist movement for a short time and its objectives interest me. Yes I still have many doubts about how the new system will develop. What I am clear about is that we must continue investigating and looking for solutions to fight oppression of the unprotected and exploited classes.

We must continue advancing as a society and as people, carrying out actions and forming strong bonds of cooperation to destroy the capitalist system that has us subjugated.

I think that there is still a lot to do, but we can't get discouraged. Let's continue with firm steps. We must keep in mind that to win the struggle, we have to know the capitalist system and we have to know the communist system, to

have a clear idea of the actions that we must carry out.

—Greetings from Mexico



**Red Flag in the mountains in the south of Mexico**

**Mutual Aid**

I think that the ICWP needs to take the question of mutual aid more seriously. Mutual aid (as opposed to competition) is a basic principle of communism and we don't wait for when we have communism to practice it. But I think the ICWP could do a better, more organized, job.

Recently two comrades got into a jam – one suffered a sudden serious illness and her husband was confronted with caring for his partner while working and carrying out party activities. Luckily family and friends (including political friends and comrades) pitched in and the situation was difficult but manageable.

However the comrade husband was critical and self-critical about the way the party responded to this situation and others like it in the past. Other comrades agreed that we can learn from this situation. But how?

I suggest the ICWP organize something formal. I'm not sure what form it should take – a help line, a rescue squad, or a mutual aid 'officer'. We'll have to experiment. But everyone in

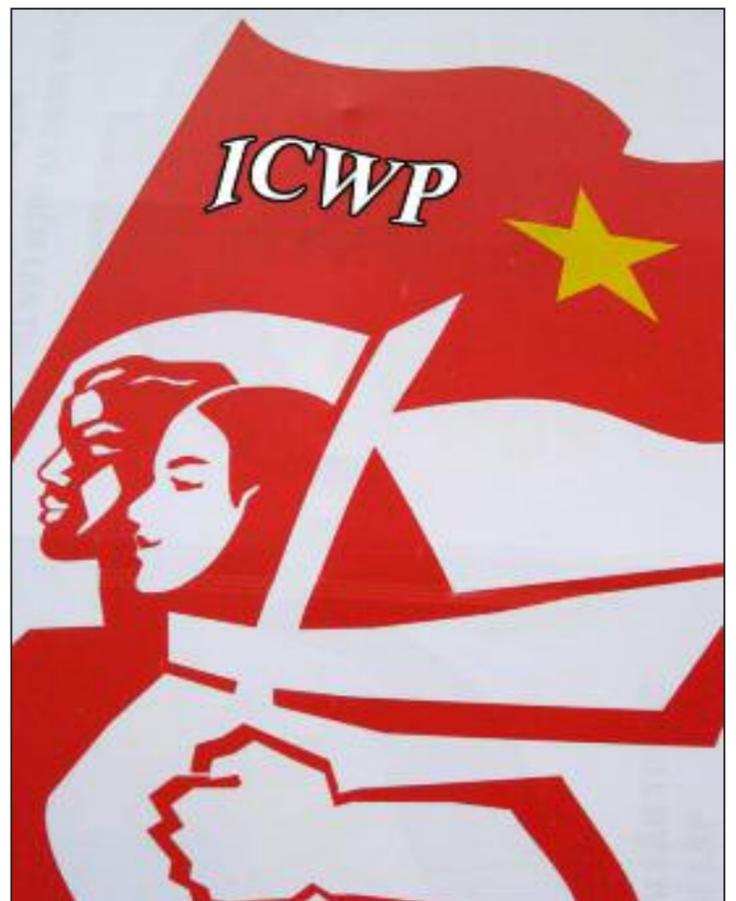
and around the ICWP should know that our party is ready to organize people to help in whatever way they can. We could even advertise this 'service' in *Red Flag*.

Workers like to help each other. I'll bet that there are a lot of friends who don't usually come to meetings and other events but would be eager to help out fellow workers in trouble. We should organize them in the name of the ICWP and let everyone know that we are practicing communist mutual aid. For example, when we go to someone's house we should bring *Red Flags* and pamphlets.

Obviously, we won't help only ICWP members. We should help friends (political and/or social) family, even workers who don't know us very well. Helping or being helped is a good way to get to know us.

Of course we should always make it clear that mutual aid under capitalism is no substitute for communism. But we don't have to wait to practice what we preach.

—Comrade in Canada



# Revolutionary Situations Are More Common Than You Might Think

## SPREAD ICWP TO FOCUS ON FIGHTING DIRECTLY FOR COMMUNISM

SEATTLE, USA — “When the revolution comes. That’s what we used to say in Detroit in the 60s and 70s,” said a Boeing worker who distributes *Red Flag* and promotes communism.

This was not idle talk. Everyone he knew, including most of his family, worked in the auto factories. These plants seethed with talk of revolution. In August 1973, Mack Avenue Chrysler autoworkers electrified masses when they followed communists to stage the first sit-in since the 30s.

This worker saw the Detroit rebellion break out when he was 13. At 14, he was arrested for the first time. His brother was shot multiple times by viciously racist Detroit cops during a demonstration. His uncle was assassinated when he ran for president of a Detroit autoworkers union.

Today, this worker is inspired by the millions in the streets fighting racism, sexism, and xenophobia. At the same time, he worries that they won’t have the staying power necessary to make a revolution. Meanwhile, union bigshots and national Democratic party operatives are trying to pull him back into useless reform. So far, they’ve failed.

He usually makes a sharp turn toward communism when the multi-racial group of students he works with gets active. Some distribute *Red Flag* to friends in three South End high schools, the most multi-racial in Seattle.

He longs for a revolutionary situation akin to his experiences in Detroit. And he believes it will come in a relatively short time.

Unlike many, he expects revolution in the US as well as in other countries. At the same time, he draws strength from the millions who have rebelled worldwide, particularly since the global crisis of overproduction hit in 2008.

### Vietnam War Era: Massive Rebellions of US Troops

This worker asked me, his friend, what I was doing during the early 1970s. I was in the U.S. Army organizing for socialism, not for communism as I do now. We built a lot of mass struggles mainly against racism, but also against the Vietnam war. Thousands rebelled. I thought I was



**Detroit Rebellion, 1967**

doing pretty good work.

I later learned that I was nothing special. In that period, close to half of US troops were involved in resistance or (more often) outright rebellion. GI leaders told the New York Times that “organized servicemen [in Germany] had moved to a revolutionary...stand because of continued racism in the armed forces.” The US Army chief of staff pleaded with President Nixon to pull the troops out of Vietnam. “We’re going to lose the Army!” he warned.

This exciting discussion took place last month, when this paper ran an article on Paris ’68. Virtually every French industrial worker went on strike. Many took over their factories. Despite the bosses’ attempts to hide the fact, talk of revolution was widespread like in Detroit. So revolutionary situations were not alien to industrialized imperialist countries.

We talked about why we didn’t have a revolution with all this going on with soldiers and industrial workers. Winning students and the mass

of workers are important to making any revolution, but winning soldiers and industrial workers are key to a communist one.

The decisive weakness was that we and the parties we belonged to were focused on militant anti-capitalist struggle rather than recruiting directly for communist revolution. We failed to make communism a topic of mass discussion.

### What might a revolutionary situation look like today?

My friend and I see revolutionary situations as periods where there is a near-term potential for communist revolution. This can happen in different ways, but the crucial factor that turns potential into reality is always the preparation of the party.

Lenin, a leader of the 1917 Russian revolution, listed conditions that he thought defined a revolutionary situation: The ruling class can’t rule in the old way. The petty bourgeois vacillates and may come over to the side of the working class. The working class can’t live in the old way. The party is embedded in the working class and able and willing to lead a revolution.

We added to this list that the masses are fighting back on a massive scale.

But what is key? Everything on the list is beyond our control except the preparation of the party. Noting the other, external, factors only emphasizes the urgency of party building.

Spreading the reach of the ICWP is the vital link in the chain. We must grasp it and never release our grip. We need masses to join. Everyone can contribute. This time the party must focus on fighting directly for communism and nothing less.

Revolutionary situations are more common than many of us realize, everywhere around the world. Future articles will describe more revolutionary situations from the past, and the lessons they hold for us.

The main lesson is: Communist revolution is possible. When the revolution comes, it will be because we have prepared to make it happen.



**Rebellious US Soldiers in Vietnam**