



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

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WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!



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 un-

mask 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 situation, "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

Comrade Writes from Syria **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 naïve 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

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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 isolation. 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

See COMMUNIST RELATIONSHIPS, page 3

OBUHLOBO NOBUDLELWANE KWAMA KOMANISI

“Ndiyawuthanda lo mbono wokuphila ehlabathini ngaphandle kwemali” utshilo omnye umsebenzi osemntsha omnyama. “Andinayo imali kungoku ndithetha”

Ilizwe lobukomanisi ngaphandle kwemali lingasabenza njani? Ngamanye amaxesha abantu baye bacinge sithetha ihlabathi apho kungekho imali ezinkozo apho khona abantu bethenga izinto ngetyala. Abanye baye bacinge sithetha ngokusebenzisa ezinye intlobo zemali ezingalawulwa yimithetho ka rhulumente ezifana no Bitcoin kunye nezinye intlobo zemali ezingekho phantsi kuka rhulumente okanye sizo kusebenzisa ola hlobo lakudala lokutshintshisana (apho undinika ubisi ndikunike umngqusho).

Kanti akunjalo sithetha ngelizwe apho kungekho khona into ethengiswayo nethengwayo okanye ekutshintshiselwanayo ngayo.

Kweli Lizwe lobu Komanisi sililwelayo wonke umsebenzi sizaku wenza sonke sohlulelane ngawo. Sizakahlulelana ngezinto esizenzileyo ngamandla ethu singaba sebenzi. Kuzonikwa abantu izinto ngokwe ndinga zabo, sizokucela samkele njengesipho izinto kunye noncedo esiludingayo. Ulunzi lwethu luyiqhelile into yokohlulelana siyiqhelele emakhayeni ethu esihlala kuwo, siyiqhelile into yokohlulelana nakubahlobo bethu. Le yimvisiswano nobuhlobo obusithwalayo kumaxesha amnandi nakumaxesha wobunzima. Ukwakha nokulondoloza obu buhlobo nalemvisiswano ngumsebenzi. Ngamanye amaxesha kuthiwa “ngumsebenzi wenkathalo” kwaye akekho lula kwaphela.

Njengoba setshilo amaqabane komnye wemihlangano esithe sanayo lo ngumsebenzi othi siwulindlele wenziwe ngomama ixesha elininzi, Bathi bawenze ngaphezul kwalo bawenzayo emisebenzini yabo baphinde futhi benze lomsebenzi “wenkathalo” ongabhatelelwayo. Enye yezinto yokulelwa ubuKomanisi kukuthi sikhuthaze ukuba wonke umntu nokuba usesiphi isini ayilwele lento yokwakha obu buhlobo nokwenza lomsebenzi “wenkathalo”, nokulwa ukunyashwa nokugqilazwa kwesini sobukhomokazi ekuhlaleni.

Ingaba lento ibandakanyeka njani nokulwela ubuKomanisi?. Ilizwe eligxile entweni yokwabelana lifuna kwaye lidinga ukukhulisa nokwandisa ubuhlobo nemvisiswano eninzi phakathi kwabantu jikelele kwaye lonto iqala ngoku kwelithuba sikulo. Ukusuka kwingqondo ka “hlohla esam” ukuya kweka “hlohla esethu” ithetha ukuba ngabomi wandisa ubudlelwane bobuKomanisi kwaye nobuhlobo.

Omnye wamaqabane ophangela kwi, industry uyathetha malunga nobudlelwane athe wanabo nomnye wabasebenzi asebenza naye emsebenzini, lomsebenzi uncedo lwakhe ekukhuliseni uMbutho okanye iParty liyalikhula. Babonana kakhulu nangamaxesha angaphandle komsebenzi ngamanye amaxesha bayakwazi ukubonana nokuba abathuba bancinci wokuba badibane.

Lento ithetha ukuba maninzi amathuba wokuba bathethe ngobu Komanisi nokuba lomsebenzi wokulelwa ubuKomanisi ungakhula njani, kodwa ikwathetha enye into- bubudlelwane

nobuhlobo obunje obenza sikwazi ukukhula nokuqhubeka.

Abafundi bephepha-ndaba lethu iRed Flag ukuquka namaqabe wombutho kwihlabathi jikelele bayafunda kakhulu kumaqabane ase Mzantsi Afrika malunga nokukhulisa ubambano embuthweni. Obu budlelwane bobuKomanisi bubonisa ukuzimisela nokwethembana phakathi kwamaqabane. Luyanceda ekuloleni umlo wethu wokukhulisa umbutho, sandise umsebenzi womntu nganye kunye no womntu wonke kubumbano eMbuthweni.

Kumaxa amaninzi siye singayiphoseli ngqalelo into yokwenza lomsebenzi wenkathalo sigxile kakhulu kwezopolitiko singayihoyi imiphumela yalo msebenzi yokwakha ubudlelwane bobuKomanisi phakathi kwethu. Obu budlelwane okanye ubuhlobo abuzizeli kungakumbi kwili lizwe lobuKapitali, kungako nje singenoma ngetham-sanqa okanye inceba zikamdali.

Kwelixa sikulo ngoku lovutho-ndaba kwelilizwe lobuKapitali ngamabomi kwaye kwangobumi babo ubuKapitali buyayikhuthaza iyantlukwano bakathi kwabasenzi, iyazilola izinto ezithi abasebenzi bohlukane ngazo. Ujelo lokuzonwabisa kunye nomabona kude buphuhlisa kanye leyantlukwano kungakumbi kubasenzi nakulutsha. Ubuhlanga, unyhasho lwamanina, kunye nokucalucalula ngokwebala buyingxenyeyaleyantlukwano.

Sidinga ukuchitha ixesha elininzi nabafundi, amasebenzi kunye nabahlali jikelele asifuna babe yingxenyey okanye bangene ekwakheni loMbutho wobuKomanisi waBasebenzi beHlabathi (International Communist Workers Party-ICWP), asikwazi ukuphila impilo yasemsebenzini kunye nempilo yangasese, sidinga ukwakha nokuqinisa ubuhlobo nobudlelwane bobuKomanisi jikelele.

Sixhomekeka kubudlelwane nobuhlobo obuthi sibakhe kwihlabathi ngokubanzi ukuze sithathe amathuba wobuKomanisi ubufumanekayo phakathi kwethu sonke namhlanje. Obu buhlobo bumqoka ekwakheni nokufumana amalungu amatsha afuna ukuba yingxenyey yoMbutho. Sixhomekeka koku khula kobu dlelwane ukuze sikwazi ukuthatha amathuba ukuze sikwazi ukuwafumana amathuba wokubhukuqa xa evela.

Kodwa okunye okubalulekile ukukhula kobudlelwane bobuKomanisi kuthi kubangele ekwakheni lwelizwe lobuKomanisi

Ukuveza okanye ukwakha izinto ezidingekayo ehlabathini izinto ezifana nokutya imigaqo nezinye, kohlala kungumsebenzi wabantu abayimbumba akwenziwa yindoda enye. Kuthatha ukwazana kwabantu kunye nokuncedisana kwabo. Eyonanto esemqoka kwelilizwe lobu Kapitali yimali obuhlobo okanye ubudlelwane obukhoya bonke bugxile emalini. Ubudlelwane bobu Komanisi bohlukile bona eyonanto esemqoka lulingwano nobuntu apho khona abasebenzi behlulelana khona ngezivezo kunye neziqhamo zomsebenzi wabo. Sizokophila ngeyona ndlela ekunzima nokuyicinga namhlanje – iza kwiqela elizimiseleyo ekupheliseni LamaKapitali nohlohle esabo.



**MOBILIZE THE
MASSES FOR
COMMUNISM**

International Communist Workers' Party

www.icwpredflag.org



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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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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 revo-

lutionary 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 prop-

erty. 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.

Mobilizing Workers for Communism in South Africa:

MINERS TELL COMRADES: "YOU MUST COME BACK!"

April 21 — What happens when four comrades travel over 1400 km (870 miles) – 14 hours each way — to organize miners in South Africa? We talk and struggle about the need for communism. We read *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and *Red Flag*.

One comrade is new, another is shy, and a third thinks long and hard about imperialist wars and how we can build communism. Everybody participates. Everybody learns. Everyone arrives at the Marikana mines feeling more confident about how communism will work.

On the first day, a few taxi drivers and a worker we have known for a few months gave us specific ideas to reach out to the miners.

We went to the mine shafts where workers go underground. We located ourselves to talk to as many miners as possible as they came out of the mines. This led us to the hostels. Thousands of

miners who speak different languages live with each other. We gave them *Red Flags*, they opened their hearts.

They repeated many times, “you must come back”. They are thrilled about a society without the bosses. They want *Red Flag* in different languages. One miner could not believe that we had driven thousands of kilometers to build our party. He said, “People travel like this to make money. I want to join such organization,” as he understood money will play no role in communist society. Many miners eagerly gave their contacts for future meetings.

Simple Questions Lead to Profound Discussions about Communism

A comrade asked, “What happens when somebody is sick in a communist society?” When we tried to answer, the first question was “What causes a person to get sick?”

In capitalist society, bosses’ need for profit creates a toxic environment, unhealthy food and stressful work conditions. These compound to make hundreds of millions get sick, hungry and susceptible to wars, dangerous migration and preventable diseases. By eliminating the profit system, we will create housing, work, education, cul-

ture and healthcare for the needs of the masses.

We talked about the “barefoot doctors” in China and how we can do better in communism. In communism illness will have a collective resolution unlike in capitalism where insurance companies, doctors and hospitals try to make profit from the miseries of the workers.

We can give many such examples where workers asked us simple questions about day-to-day problems of living in the capitalist system. Each led to deeper understanding of how only communism can end exploitation and advance humanity.

Four Days, Four Comrades: Things Change Quickly

In spite of the fatigue of long travel, communism is what we breathed and discussed late into the night, only to get ready in the morning with *Red Flag*.

Things did change very quickly. Each comrade has written for *Red Flag* in a more collective way. A new comrade passionately spoke about how the unions always defend the bosses and how he joined ICWP. He played a leadership role because he also speaks the common language spoken around Marikana. Each one of us is more committed about building the party.

This experience gives us a clear vision of how to advance. The work of four comrades can and must multiply to tens, hundreds and millions. We are sowing the seeds of communist revolution deep. We can withstand any and all obstacles the bosses have in their arsenal.

We have a world to win.



India:

ICWP REJECTS REFORMISM: BRINGS COMMUNIST IDEAS TO MAY DAY

May Day greetings to all of you comrades! ICWP in India celebrated May Day this year by making a bold appeal for the workers to join ICWP to organize for communist revolution. This was a hugely successful day for us as we were able to coordinate three different collectives in different cities of India. About two dozen comrades participated in different May Day marches armed with a special flyer about the need to join ICWP. This flyer was translated into five different languages. At the end of the day we had distributed one thousand flyers and 200 copies of *Red Flag*.

Not a day passes in India without mass demon-

strations against the horrors of capitalism. There are many organizations that lead and organize such events. But ICWP is the only group that calls for destroying capitalism and replacing it with communism as a way to solve the problems of unemployment, horrific sexism, the murderous caste system and wage slavery in general.

When we break the chains of wage slavery and the money that binds it, we will be able to create a communist society where each and every one will contribute to building an egalitarian future for all. This society without the bosses and money will, for the first time in history, be able to smash racism and the barbaric oppression

faced by Dalits and others.

Our May Day success has given us a sense of more responsibility. The response from the masses, our friends and coworkers is overwhelming. The discussion of communist society brings us closer to understanding the necessity of organizing hundreds of millions around fighting for communism now. Bosses have promised good days for the workers, but capitalism only brings more misery. Any attempt to reform this system misleads the masses. We reject any and all attempts to reform capitalism which does not deserve to exist.

A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS from page 1

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

the highest bidder.

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

kidnapped and sold to

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

As a young women 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 mobilized 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 women 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* throughout 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.

May Day Mobilizations in South Africa:**BUILDING A MASS COMMUNIST PARTY****Preparing Now for Revolutionary Situations**

The international working class celebrated May Day amidst a deepening capitalist crisis and a growing threat of imperialist war. Increasingly, workers can't live in the old way. Capitalists can't rule in the old way. Revolutionary situations are developing – perhaps sooner than we think.

This paper, *Red Flag*, tries to show how communism can enable workers to end capitalism's attacks on our class. Communist revolution will empower us to abolish private property, profit and the wage system. Instead we'll collectively organize and carry out production and distribution directly to meet the masses' needs.

On this communist basis we'll be able to tear down the walls and erase the borders that divide us. We will learn to see ourselves and each other as comrades – whatever our age or gender, birthplace or language, color or abilities. Together we'll create collective, fulfilling and sustainable ways of living. We'll fully realize our creative and social human potential.

This is not a dream. It's a plan.

Every day, the need for a mass communist party grows more urgent. Everywhere there are possibilities for building ICWP and expanding its communist base.

This report from the South Africa comrades is an excellent start to a broader discussion of how to prepare for, recognize and take advantage of revolutionary situations.



SOUTH AFRICA, May 14 — Several dozen comrades and friends of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) intensified our organizing efforts for May Day. Before, during and after May Day we distributed about 1400 copies of *Red Flag* (RF) and thousands of flyers asking the working class to join ICWP.

This May Day gave us a unique opportunity to bring the message of joining ICWP to the masses. The ruling class of South Africa had organized May Day to mislead the masses. Some of our comrades went to this mobilization. They distributed over 400 RFs and made many contacts.

We were not able to coordinate better between our participation in the bosses' event and our own event. However, we mobilized around one hundred people for the day. At the end of the day we also got the news that our new Marikana comrades had distributed RF and talked about ICWP in the mining area.

Red Flag: Workers' Weapon

At the forefront of our organizing was collective reading, writing and distribution of RF. "*Red Flag* is the most powerful weapon in the hands of the working class and we must use it," said a comrade.

In capitalist society we are taught to do our own things for survival and entertainment. This culture makes it very difficult for many to read and write. With struggle, we are making it a routine habit of reading and writing as a collective process.

This collective reading and writing for RF has fundamentally changed how comrades see the paper. What was once a demanding thing to do has become an activity where everybody participates. Simple questions about a *Red Flag* article provoke deep discussions about communism.

In our meetings each comrade gives a summary of an article or a letter followed by lively discussion. Comrades who are shy and reluctant to talk show keen interest and participate. It changes everybody. We are all gaining more confidence in ICWP.

Collective reading directly changes how we write and what we write. Everyone is inspired to write, and we make this a collective effort. Sixteen comrades were involved in writing our recent articles for *Red Flag*. One industrial comrade was so inspired that he spent many hours writing a letter about his experience of organizing the miners in Marikana.

Our collective reading improves what we write for *Red Flag*. This directly changes how we distribute *Red Flag*. The distribution is no longer just passing a paper. Now it is deep engagement with the masses. We make contacts, follow them up regularly, ever expanding our base.

**Collective Struggle Makes Us Better Organizers**

A week after May Day, over 20 comrades met all day to discuss how we can be better organizers. Our day started with struggle with a key comrade who did not show up for May Day and had been away for few days. He explained that his father had a medical emergency and the family was facing a financial crisis.

A young comrade said that being communist means we are here for each other, especially in times of crisis. We don't have the state power yet to change the healthcare, but all our personal problems are related to capitalism and we must trust each other so we can replace capitalism with communism. We must remain in a collective all the time. The comrade accepted criticism with humility and resolve to be better. This honest discussion guided us to look at our key weakness as a collective.

We identified that many times when we make contacts and agree on plans, we don't follow up with the consistency required to make a breakthrough. This is a form of liberalism we must struggle against. We are determined to overcome this weakness.

May Day organizing has seen many comrades developing as mass leaders with confidence and dedication. We are committed to carrying out plans to intensify our work in three cities among miners, auto and other industrial workers, soldiers and students.



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..

Write to: PMB 362
3006 S. Vermont Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90007, USA



May Day in El Salvador:

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS MARCH FOR COMMUNISM

With red flags and communist slogans, men and women workers of the maquilas, students and state workers marched and encouraged the ICWP contingent. The work of spreading our ideas was carried out so that more than 1,000 **Red Flag** newspapers were distributed among the people who attended the march. The lessons and the encouragement continue to this day.

“For many, it was their first time in a march. They were very excited. We believe that they can

take the next step and join the Party.” These were the words of a comrade inside the factory when evaluating the reactions to the activity.

“The unions can have 100 members, but they don’t move 30 people. We did. Moving 30 people from the same factory is not easy. Maybe that’s why the unions get upset,” he concluded. The number of people in the contingent remained the same as last year, but this year the great majority were workers from the maquilas and their families.

“I identified with the chant when they shouted ‘Workers and Students, United and Moving Forward!’ I felt that they made us part of something,” commented a young university student, the son of a

worker leader. The march reflected the work with the base that has been built in the last year, and it reaffirmed our commitment with the project of ICWP.

Everyone who marched under the flags of ICWP was mobilized with communist ideas. Communism and its theory can be understood, learned and criticized by the masses while at the same time they can be mobilized to fight for this new society.

Some ICWP comrades and ex-combatants of the FMLN in the east of the country, due to various circumstances, found it impossible to participate in the march. The meetings held with them before May Day made clear the need to give more attention to the work in their areas.

Now there are new challenges and obstacles that we will have to overcome to ensure our advance. We must continue the process of teaching-learning about communist ideas, formalize our structures each time more and think more each time about what is communist practice, as opposed to reformism. When the march ends, our work begins.



**Mobilize the Masses for Communism
ICWP: International Communist Workers’ Party**

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Advancing with Small Steps

“The May Day dinner went pretty well,” a comrade reported at a recent club meeting. “When it was time for discussion, I saw a table without anyone to lead. So, I went and sat with the workers there. I shared with them what I knew about the Paris Commune. It was the first time that workers held power. I talked about the role of women and the ideal of gender equality.

“The people who were new to the Party had the usual questions about communism, Russia, China. I explained that those countries had socialism, not communism. I told them about the difference.”

Then the club discussion turned to the front page of the May Day issue of the paper. We all read the article that outlined the general line of the Party and explained why more readers need to join. Everyone liked it.

A more experienced comrade mentioned that a question had been raised about whether the article was the right thing to feature for May Day marchers who might be seeing the paper for the first time. We all reread it.

“I don’t see why not,” said a friend who often meets with us. “It is to the point. It explains everything very clearly. It doesn’t make any promises.”

“You mean, promises for reforms like unions and politicians make?”

“Yes,” she replied.

That sparked a lively exchange about why unions aren’t the way for workers to solve our problems.

“That was a trick question,” said the comrade who’d asked about the page-one article. “If you think it’s good for first-time readers, then who do you know that you can show it to?”

She talked about the need for more comrades and friends to start building groups of people (like our group) to read, discuss and act on communist ideas. We talked about plans for the summer and who we could invite to activities.

“The one thing that sticks in my craw,” said our friend, “is the part about armed revolution. I am just not a violent person.”

“That cop who killed black activist Sandra

Bland,” burst in a comrade. “I think I could kill him.”

Did the friend mean that she objected to armed revolution in principle, asked another? That there might be another way to get to the communist society we all want? Or just that she couldn’t see herself with a gun? More discussion. Probably the last reason.

It was time to go. Everyone (including the friend) took extra papers to distribute.

Not everyone in our group made it to the dinner and only a few made it to the May Day march. But overall, we seem to be moving forward.

—A collective in California, USA

“Joining ICWP Opened My Mind”

I am an autoworker and a new member of ICWP. Joining the party has made a huge difference in me personally and mentally, it has changed the way I used to think and do things.

As we know, ignorance is the most dangerous thing that people are unaware of. People tend to take things lightly and not bother themselves about what’s happening around the world. The poor think poverty is normal and that’s how they are destined to live. I too used to think like that.

But joining the ICWP, reading the *Red Flags* and attending Communist school meetings opened my mind. Now I watch news and read newspapers and I’m updated with most things that are happening in the world. Even the way I interact with people is very different now because I know that the most important race of all these races is the Human Race. And I do, however, have a clear vision of how people are supposed to live LIFE, not this thing we are living of which I am scared to even call it LIFE! We will never live a normal LIFE or see the value of LIFE under this Capitalist Society. The only way that we will live LIFE is through a Communist Society where everyone is equal, valued, appreciated with their different skills, where there will be no class and where everyone will see life as a GIFT.

All I’m saying is that there is a lot of change in me ever since I joined ICWP, because now I know how things change and where all good ideas come from. Even when I speak to peo-

ple, they all have interest in listening because I speak about things that make sense and things that are hidden from them.

—Comrade in South Africa

Capitalism is Cruel—Mobilize for Communism!

My experiences and things I discover when I’m mobilizing show that you get more understanding of the line this way. Some people ask, “Is it possible to live without money?” Yes, we can really abolish the current system. To my understanding of the line, you will be given according to the need, not want, comrades.

The current system is what we are changing—slowly because it won’t happen overnight. The way people are so indoctrinated; they even have excuses to promote capitalism while they are being exploited, while they are being taken advantage of by the current system.

As an example, when I was mobilizing I met this other comrade. He fell from the top of the truck straight down to the concrete break. He fell on his head and collapsed. The bosses never called an ambulance, comrades. Imagine!

They just did first aid on him and he was taken to the hospital and there at the hospital they were told to take this comrade to IOD (Injury on Duty—like workers’ comp) to be treated and compensated. Instead they took him to Livingstone (a local city hospital known for horrific services) and dumped him there. The system, it is so cruel, comrades.

When I was in Rustenburg, some other workers there work very hard. They never get paid. Immigrants are working hard. They are being paid peanuts because they don’t have proper identification.

There was this woman here in my location. There is a place there where she was supposed to be given that KFC franchise. But comrades, the way the system played her! She was ended, shot and killed.

So comrades, we need to mobilize the masses for communism.

ALUTA, comrades.

—Another Comrade in South Africa

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 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



Detroit Rebellion, 1967

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

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