



# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

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

**July 17**—Mass protests continue to rock Iraq after US-backed Iraqi militias killed over a dozen workers. Striking oil workers blockaded the oil port of Basra in the populous southern regions. Others tried to block oilfields and refineries. Workers and youth suffer degrading poverty and mass unemployment even though they produce most of the Iraqi bosses' wealth. As we go to press, a general strike is possible. The upsurge of the Iraqi masses, led by industrial workers, must raise the goal of communist workers' power—the only way forward. Is this possible? 300,000 people marched with

the Iraqi Communist Party on May Day in 1959, including Shias, Sunnis, Christians and Jews. The task today is to spread *Red Flag* everywhere.



## FACTORY WORKERS WELCOME BOLD COMMUNIST RESPONSE TO BOSSES' ATTACKS

EL SALVADOR—It is 4:00 pm somewhere in the outskirts of San Salvador. Thousands of men and women are leaving work, exhausted after leaving their strength and life in the maquila shops. Outside a group of communists are distributing our literature. Hundreds take it and even help distribute it. With these small actions we are starting to build a different world.

Since the increase in the minimum wage, the bosses have intensified their exploitation, controlling by the hour the production in the maquilas. They also take advantage of these conditions, with the complicity of some trade unions, to harass the men and women communist organizers of ICWP and try to make them feel desperate.

Faced with this situation, the industrial club of ICWP decided on a communist way to respond to the bosses' attacks. Denouncing the abuses by the bosses gave us a big opportunity to spread communist ideas and call for workers to organize in the ICWP.

The leaflet explained, briefly and concretely, that the humiliations and degradations are part of the exploitation that capitalism needs to survive. We encourage the workers to be part of the discussion of communist ideas in the ICWP clubs to strengthen our political program.

"Ah, it's *Red Flag*, it's their paper" (referring to our comrades who organize inside the factory). Immediately the workers recognized the newspaper and related the leaflet with the political work that the

See [EL SALVADOR SWEATSHOPS](#), page 3

## COMMUNISM WILL UNIFY THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS INTO ONE GLOBAL FAMILY

LOS ANGELES, USA, June 30—Five comrades from our garment club and four other comrades went to the march against Trump's policy of "zero tolerance," that is the separation of immigrant families.

The center of the city was overflowing with people and families of all ages and colors. Our signs called for unifying our global family with communism. Our signs attracted a lot of attention. Many took pictures of them.

Many other people carried their signs with slogans about the humanity of having families together. Others had slogans against borders and supporting immigrant workers.

We had very good political discussions about socialism and communism. One youth asked if we are Maoists (he says he is reading a book by Mao). We answered that no, that we fight directly for communism. Then he asked, "How will you deal with problems of social behavior in communism?"

We explained that there will not be jails, nor police. Instead the masses themselves will take control of the neighborhoods and in the same way the big cities. He asked a lot more questions about communism. At the end, he took *Red Flag* and said he would read it to see more about what we advocate

as communism.

A latina worker took five copies of *Red Flag* and with much confidence and boldness she passed them out to her friends in her group.

A young white guy who was pro-capitalist told us that socialism had destroyed the lives of many. We answered that it was capitalism that was the cause of hundreds of millions of deaths world wide. The discussion continued and the tone got sharper on both sides.

A latino youth, who was behind him, supported us with hand signals every time we said something about communism. Then another white youth approached us and began saying that he agreed with us.

The pro-capitalist youth got angry with the other white youth and tried to attack him verbally, but he did not succeed and he left. Both the other youths took *Red Flag*. They both said that they would look for more information about us on the ICWP website.

We distributed the 625 *Red Flags* that we had brought. Self critically, we didn't mobilize enough comrades and enough communist literature, since when we finished distributing what we had, there were people still coming to the protest.

We were encouraged by the response of

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## Trade Wars, Capitalist Crises of Overproduction:

# WE HAVE A COMMUNIST WORLD TO WIN

July 12, 2018 – The trade war is on: US vs China, US vs Europe, US vs Canada and Mexico.... US vs. almost every other capitalist class except Russia. “A shooting war could be next,” warned a Fox News commentator. “In the worst-case scenario, this could result in massive casualties on both sides that could even lead to nuclear war.”

This trade war suggests that all the post-World War II US-led capitalist-imperialist trade and economic institutions are no longer effective. That includes GATT, WTO, NAFTA and more. US president Trump is doing his best to weaken the corresponding diplomatic-military institutions (NATO and the United Nations).

In contrast, the Chinese-led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is growing in membership and influence.

We may be at the start of a period similar to the trade wars that triggered World War II. That period saw the rise of fascism in Italy, Germany, Japan and elsewhere.

Today fascist political leaders – and with them, fascist mass movements – are emerging from Modi’s India to Duterte’s Philippines, Trump’s USA, Erdogan’s Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Italy, England and elsewhere.

As *Red Flag* explained last issue, inter-imperialist rivalry is the main mover of events (“contradiction”) in this period. Each day that contradiction sharpens. Our working-class family suffers more.

The masses have the grave responsibility of changing the main contradiction in the world from inter-imperialist rivalry to class war for communism. Our Party must use current events to show, clearly and massively, the necessity for communist revolution.

We must inspire masses with a realistic vision of communist society. A world based not on profit but on the collectivity and love for each other encapsulated in the slogan: *From each according to commitment and ability, to each according to need.*

.....  
**OUR MISTAKE:**  
 • In the previous issue,  
 • due to an editing error,  
 • we left out the words  
 • “men and youth” when  
 • reporting on police  
 • murders in the US. The  
 • sentence should have  
 • read: “Antwon Rose  
 • was one of at least six  
 • black men and youth  
 • murdered by US cops  
 • in June alone.”  
 • We went to press on  
 • June 27. Further inves-  
 • tigation shows that the  
 • total for June was at  
 • least 17 black men and  
 • youth and at least one  
 • black woman.  
 • .....

### Capitalism’s Global Crisis of Overproduction

On 6 July the US imposed a 25% tariff (import tax) on a variety of Chinese goods including, for example, X-ray machines. China retaliated with tariffs on some US goods, including soybeans. This conflict continues to escalate.

Sharpening crises of overproduction often spark trade wars. The world’s factories and farms produce more goods than can be sold profitably—no matter how badly the masses need them.

This in turn sharpens competition as capitalists fight for market share. Governments help domestic capitalists by imposing tariffs on goods produced by international competitors.

This can lead to a downward spiral of price increases, shuttered factories and shrinking world trade. A Chinese newspaper warned, “The resulting slowdown in global trade and investment ... could even lead to a contraction in the world economy as a whole.”

At other times, however, overproduction leads to capitalist growth. More efficient enterprises grow stronger by driving out less efficient ones. “Efficiency” means “attacking workers harder.”

#### When it comes to trade wars, much bigger forces are at work.

For example, Chinese demand for soybeans is growing. China planned to increase soybean production while also increasing imports, largely from the US. So why would it impose tariffs on US soybeans?

Perhaps to increase purchases from Brazil, strengthening its position in South America, or from Russia. Perhaps to turn US farmers against Trump. These are political reasons.

The present trade war marks a global political crisis—a “a seismic shift in international affairs”—not simply an economic one.

A commentator noted that “the past five hundred years have seen sixteen cases in which a rising power threatened to topple a ruling power from its position of predominance. Twelve ended

in war.” For US capitalism, he warned, “the dangers are greater than the opportunities.”

For the international working class, the opportunities are greater than the dangers. Our class is bigger and more globally integrated than ever. This is our chance to end deadly capitalism-imperialism permanently, by mobilizing for communism.

#### Class Struggle for Communist Power Will Transform Global Exchange

We can’t predict where it will start. But the external conditions for revolution exist in many situations. Somewhere the masses, mobilized for communism, will seize and defend power. They will inspire many more. There will be outpourings of solidarity.

The world’s capitalists will redirect their fury, desperately striving to destroy these communist seedlings. They will provoke many of their own soldiers to turn their guns around and join the revolution.

Meanwhile, however, imperialists will make it hard to get basic necessities to the liberated zones. They will have to become as self-sufficient as possible in their first efforts to organize, build and sustain communist society.

This period of global revolutionary communist class struggle could last a long time. It will have ups and downs. But we are confident – and you should be, too! – that the masses will win.

There will be no more nations or borders in our communist world. There will be no money or buying or selling or trade as we know it.

Instead, we will share. The International Communist Workers’ Party might organize workers in one region to send soybeans or X-ray machines to workers elsewhere who need them.

But regional self-sufficiency – especially in basics like water, food, clothing, shelter, health care – will likely become the norm. Instead of using energy resources to ferry goods across thousands of miles, we’ll probably want to transport ourselves to visit and learn from our global family.

**Truly we have a world to win!**



CHICAGO, USA, July 18—Mass protests continue against the July 14 racist police murder of Harith “Snoop” Augustus, a black barber who was well known and liked in his Southside neighborhood.

**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS’ PARTY**  
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**MOBILIZE THE  
 MASSES FOR  
 COMMUNISM**

International Communist Workers’ Party

www.icwpredflag.org

## From the Factories to the Streets:

# COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT SOCIALISM, IS THE SOLUTION

SEATAC, USA, June 3 —Ten thousand rallied in front of the federal prison in this city south of Seattle. Some 300 immigrant parents are incarcerated here, forcibly separated from their children at the Texas-Mexico border.

The protestors kept streaming in. King County sheriffs tried to hem in the crowd but thousands of pissed-off demonstrators surrounded the dozen or so cop SUVs meant to be a barrier. The cops soon retreated.

We distributed hundreds of *Red Flag* newspapers, all that we had. We talked about “building a communist world to end borders and nations.”

Some protestors were particularly excited to hear about the plantwide debate at Boeing about how communism would make this possible, reported in the *Red Flag* issue we were distributing. Many were inspired by the idea that blue-collar workers, whom the media paint as xenophobic Trump supporters, would seriously consider such an alternative.

After a long discussion with two comrades about this debate, one new reader at the demonstration concluded, “Of course! That [communism] is the only thing that will work!”

### The Nightmare That Is Capitalism

A Boeing friend knew he would be required to work overtime during the Saturday rally. So, the week before, he and his wife went down to the protest campground set up outside the prison to show support.

The prisoners’ relatives camped there asked them why the U.S. government was picking on immigrants.

“They did this to us [black slaves],” the Boeing worker responded. Then he listed all the groups of workers the capitalists have separated and attacked.

“They [the capitalists] will be coming for all workers. You are not alone and that’s why we’re here,” he said (SEE BOX).

### Ruling Class Willing to Accept Socialist Candidates as Bulwark Against Communism

One protestor got excited when she heard us talking about a communist world. “Yes, finally!” she shouted, taking a bunch of papers to give to friends who accompanied her.

In contrast, a young Democratic Party organizer tried to get a *Red Flag* distributor to sign up to vote.

“Voting won’t stop the attacks on workers,” our comrade began. “The working class must change the system from the bottom up.”

“But what about the socialist who won the primary in New York City?” the liberal organizer countered.

A new poll shows that 61% of U.S. millennials (aged 18-34) favor socialism. Our experiences at recent protests have shown that young people are ready to go further than the pollsters cared to ask. The interest in communist revolution and communist society has exploded in the last decade, particularly among young workers.

Given this development, larger sections of the U.S. capitalist ruling class have seen the value of accepting socialist candidates. The bosses are betting these socialists will do the dirty work necessary to build the anti-communist campaign they must wage. Historically, socialist politicians have been some of the most vicious anti-communists, often paving the way for fascism.

To be sure, some leading Democratic Party politicians are not yet on board. For example, Democratic U.S. House leader Nancy Pelosi tried to dismiss the victory of the New York City socialist. She blamed it on the large number of Hispanic and black voters in that district. The soon-to-be congresswoman is the daughter of a Puerto Rico-born mother and a father born in New York. The emergence of socialist candidates threatens Pelosi’s career.

### Opportunity Knocks

All this interest in communism and socialism provides a great opportunity to build the Interna-

### WORKER CALLS FOR COLLECTIVITY AND UNITY OF OUR CLASS

*A Boeing friend wrote this after visiting the protest camp in front of where immigrants separated from their children were shipped.*

To the relatives of incarcerated immigrants camped out at the SeaTac federal detention center and my fellow workers:

When we the people, in the U.S. and around the world—whose values are to do what’s right, to say your prayers, and dream the dream—come face to face with today’s reality, we see a nightmare. Uncertainty fills the air with division at all levels, pitting one against the other and some refusing to see the facts. It calls into question that which is our core as human beings.

These divisions create mass community separation, jobs scaled down, less hope and less organization to prosper as a people.

We need organizations that have a message: from unity to prosperity. Collectively we can all prosper with devotion and unity.

tional Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). We usually come out ahead when we contrast how a communist society will work to how socialism works.

Socialism—whether it results from elections or revolution—maintains capitalism’s essence. Money, wages, nations and borders continue. Communism eliminates all that.

Without the fetters of capitalism, we can struggle and win a world based on communist relations among all workers. Nations, borders and immigration laws all pit one group of workers against another to intensify exploitation. Communism will relegate all of them to the garbage can of history.

Communism is what millions are seeking around the world. Let’s not allow the capitalists to hoodwink us with programs like socialism that perpetuate their dog-eat-dog system. Join the ICWP to build an international party capable of winning a communist world.



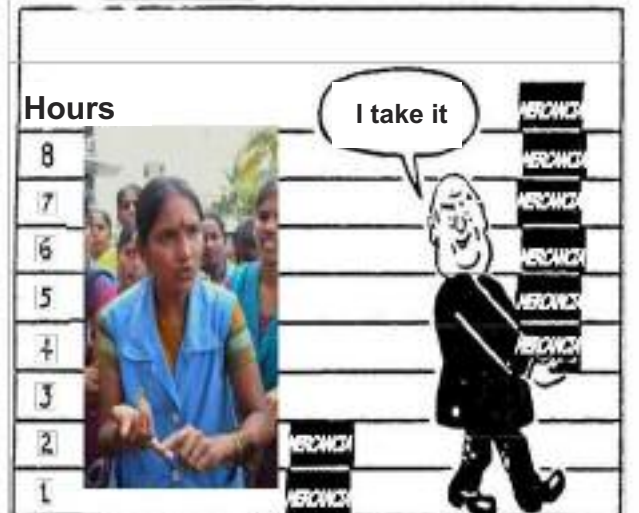
## EL SALVADOR SWEATSHOPS from page 1

communists carry out day after day in the maquilas. Five hundred leaflets and two hundred *Red Flags* were distributed.

“They are doing something good. No union dares to do what those in *Red Flag* denounce,” said a young worker the next morning inside the factory. Our bold response to the bosses’ attacks generates confidence in our Party and our ideas. The commitment with ICWP is also the commitment of making these kinds of actions constant. Let’s find the main obstacle that prevents us from doing that.

There will be no attack without a response. This must become clear in the mind of the boss, but above all to the men and women workers. But to put an end to the origin of exploitation we have to eliminate the whole material base of capital-

### MORE CAPITALIST REPRESSION = MORE COMMUNIST STRUGGLE!



ism. Eliminate wage slavery, organize production and the society to meet the essential needs for all.

There are no final answers or magic solutions. We need more people to join our clubs to discuss

and strengthen the line that we have developed so far to fight for a communist society. There is much work to be done!

## Men and women must fight sexism everyday

### THE FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM REQUIRES WORKING-CLASS UNITY

I am a comrade from Mexico. I work on environmental questions.

This work allows me to spend my time with about five male colleagues, in rural communities, for almost 14 days in a row. I am the coordinator of the group and I also take shifts driving.

For our “professional” training, the conditions are almost ideal. That is, they coexist with environmental ideas and through the use of less technology living in “natural” environments is better.

The dynamic at work has not allowed me to analyze the issues of sexism at work. For example:

**Once when we ate**, we passed around the jug and could not correctly put the lid on to serve the water. A colleague said, “That’s why you haven’t gotten married. You’re not a woman because you don’t know how to serve water.” The others laughed.

When the meal ended, I said that we should wash the dishes. A colleague said, “We don’t do that.”

I asked why. He said, “That is what the woman who made us the food is for.”

**In a small cafe**, the service is provided by men. The colleagues criticized the workers, saying things like:

“I don’t want a straw.”

“I want a glass cup not a plastic one.”

”Why don’t they change the plastic bags for paper ones?”

“The food isn’t tasty.”

Later we went to another place where the people who served us were women. They went out

of their way to serve the clients. When we left this place, the men said that in this place they give very good service. So I responded, “Now I understand. You like servility.”

They got upset.

**In the decision making I consult them.** If I don’t agree, I explain why, and the conversation becomes a discussion. One of them says that I am a “wild filly” because I do not accede to what they say.

They do not take the initiative to clean the house. On purpose, I left a few days without cleaning to see whether anyone took the initiative. They did not. Afterwards, we talked and agreed on who would clean what.

Another time we needed to fix a network of thick wire to collect insects. None of them did it. When I tried to do it, one of them said, “I’ll do it.”

I answered, “I can do it.”

He answered, “Ok then do it, but you’ll do it wrong.”

I got upset and answered, “My Dad taught me and I’ll do it.”

**Once there was a comment** about why I wasn’t married. They indicated that if I don’t marry, I will end up alone and “dressng saints.” They mentioned that in their communities a woman at the age of fifteen is already married.

**I can give more examples but I want to be self-critical.** I was rude and violent in responding to my friends. I had not analyzed the situation, until I understood it in an international meeting

of ICWP.

I know that cultural roots bring an infinity of sexist conducts in women as well as in men. If we don’t analyze these dialectically they cause conflicts among co-workers. I know that they won’t be understood or changed spontaneously if we don’t make observations about them.

Some co-workers know that I am a communist. I know that sometimes I would like to demand non-sexist behaviors by my co-workers and not have them myself. But the rhythm of the work makes us alienated, allowing incorrect actions to happen, when the main thing should be the political development of each person.

As communists, men or women, we must be attentive to these kinds of behaviors that are sometimes almost imperceptible. Only in this way can we sharpen the struggle and expose capitalism.

There have been many collective practices in decision-making and actions. It has been a good exercise to live in a collective and know that only in the collectives are personal and group advances possible. They are not communists, but I treat them like communists and the demand is double, that is to say, in theory and practice. I should mention that with one of them we have begun study groups.

In our fight against sexism, the collectivity and dialectical analysis of it will allow us to understand and change behaviors and ideas in order to make our Communist society possible. Join ICWP.

## IS TRUMP A TRAITOR?

Not to the working class. He has always been our enemy, like every other capitalist politician. You can betray your friends but not your enemies.

To the US capitalists? Certainly to some of them. That’s what it sounded like when he trumpeted his greater trust in Russia’s Putin than in the official organs of US imperialist state power. That’s when even staunch Republican congressional leaders felt they had to speak out and criticize his remarks. And why Trump had to make a lame effort to walk it back.

But Trump’s critics are doing those same US capitalists a big ideological favor.

They call Trump “unpatriotic” as if patriotism were a virtue. We communists stand on the principle that “the working class has no nation.” We organize internationally, across the bosses’ borders, so that one day a communist world will smash those borders and nations

They say Trump should act like “the leader of

the free world” as if US imperialism hasn’t for centuries enslaved, oppressed and exploited the world’s masses. They built the US on stolen land with slave labor. The working class can only free itself from all imperialists and capitalists by mobilizing for communist revolution.

They refer to Putin as a “communist” as if Russia hadn’t turned its back on communism many decades ago. Soviet socialism contained within itself the seeds of the unfettered wild-west capitalism that flourishes in Russia today – and which many US oligarchs would like to restore in North America.

We communists have learned from the heroic struggles and tragic defeats of mass communist movements of the past – especially in Russia and China. We now see that the communism, desperately needed everywhere, cannot be won by fighting for anything less. Not for socialism, not for democracy, not for national liberation or eco-

nomie justice – we must fight directly for communism.

Patriotism is the ideology of the rulers to get us to fight for their nations and empires. Workers shouldn’t side with any imperialist or capitalist—whether from the US, Russia, China or any country. They are all parasites living off our exploitation eager to spill our working class family’s blood to defend their profits and empires. We need to fight for communism to put an end to their wage slavery and deadly competition that leads to wars, including world wars.

When a ruling class is divided and in disarray – as US imperialism is today – we must take advantage of their strategic weakness by stepping up the fight to destroy their deadly racist system. Our loyalty must be to the masses – the international working class – and to the final victory of communism.



Militant mass protests erupted in Haiti on July 6 after the government, spurred by the IMF, tried to raise fuel prices by 38% to 51%. They continued—and escalated to a general strike — even after the prime minister suspended the price hikes. This continuing rebellion shows that the anger of the Haitian masses goes beyond simple reform demands. It will not be calmed even by the July 17th resignation of Haiti’s president. We urge readers with friends in Haiti to spread *Red Flag’s* message of communist revolution. We would like to hear from anyone who can help translate this message into Haitian Creole or other languages.

## LOS ANGELES PRO-IMMIGRANT MARCH from page 1

those who enthusiastically took *Red Flag*, by the atmosphere of anger against anti-immigrant racism and by the discussions that were openly about communism. This made us think about how to make the most of these kinds of opportunities. These are opportunities for other comrades and friends to have the experience of putting communism forward in the struggle in the streets.

Taking these experiences to our work places will give us more confidence that the masses are open to communism and confidence to struggle with them to mobilize together with us in the fight for a communist world.

## REPORTS

### ICWP Grows in South African Mining District

#### LEARNING ABOUT COMMUNISM BY MOBILIZING FOR IT

SOUTH AFRICA, July 14—A group of comrades here travelled to Rustenburg, the heart of the mining district, the world's largest producer of platinum and other minerals. Marikana, in this area, saw a historic 2012 strike of over 100,000 miners, during which the ANC-led government's police killed 34 striking miners. This led masses to lose confidence in the ANC capitalist government.

Soon after, a group of workers organized ICWP in South Africa to fight for a communist world free of exploitation. Comrades recently spent two weeks talking to mine workers about ICWP. This is their report.

Our trip to Rustenburg was successful. Workers directly involved in production will take our ideas to the miners. There is a collective of four comrades. Two others are willing to join and help organize.

On the bus, we met a worker who works at a large platinum mine. He was really interested in our fight to eradicate capitalism. If you aren't a cynical person, you will see that communism is the best alternative to what we have now.

Some of us met with a comrade we knew before. This worker knew about ICWP and its ideas. He agreed with some and disagreed with others. Now there is a deeper understanding between us.

The main discussion was about the role of unions. He thought unions are useful. We saw them as another tool of the bosses, as detrimental to the working class. We showed him that the unions can literally betray the working class.

He saw what the National Union of Miners did to the working class. But he viewed them as individuals instead of organizations that represent the ruling class, that have their ideas. We explained that individuals are representatives of the organizations. For example, you can't divorce Mandela from the African National Congress.

Other comrades distributed *Red Flag* at one of the hostels where thousands of workers live. They encountered some challenges because many

workers couldn't read either English or Xhosa. They speak a different language.

So, the comrades explained to the workers what is communism, why they should join ICWP, what is the difference between ICWP and the SACP (South African Communist Party), why we think it is suicidal to side with the SACP. These were the main questions the workers asked.

#### Communism Will Realize Workers' Potential

One older man, who is illiterate, genuinely wanted to know more about us. He asked a comrade to read an article in *Red Flag* to him that would explain what we are trying to do. The comrade read the editorial (in Xhosa) about communist relations.

He smiled and listened, envious that the comrade could read. His situation will never change in capitalism. The bosses could educate all the workers but they don't because once the workers are empowered they will be dangerous for them. So, they are trying to isolate and suffocate the workers.

Historically, before the Chinese revolution, most people couldn't read. Afterwards they could read. We can have classes at work for reading. This will only happen in communism where production is for need, not profit.

Later we met with the comrade from the bus. He asked how he could help us and said he wants to join us. We told him we are trying to distribute *Red Flag* inside the shafts. He is there and we are not. He told us there are strict rules regarding distributing of literature there but still there are other ways he can distribute. So, we left him 20 copies of *Red Flag* and the pamphlet.

That day we learned about a strike in a mine where a security guard shot a striker with rubber bullets. It was in a nearby area which became a focus for the next week. One comrade lives there. They were also on strike.

We met regularly with him and met two of his friends. He had a small pride (bar-b-que) for us and these two friends. They agreed to join and to

organize. Every time the paper is published, we will send 200 copies to them to distribute to miners.

We also visited a comrade we had met before who wasn't paid for his work in the mines. He is now a farm worker. He joined us and will distribute *Red Flag* to his co-workers.

#### New Party Members Will Learn, Practice and Develop Our Line

These workers are still new to the organization. They haven't fully grasped our line, but there is the desire to know more, to want to do more. This is key because we do not mainly learn from books but through practice to actually mobilize instead of just reading about mobilizing. That's what will develop them into communist leaders.

We, too, are still learning and struggling about a lot of things, about how communism will work. We can't do that without experiments and struggle. We have to try things to see what will work and what will not.

We must be consistent in bringing our ideas directly to the workers. When we do, the results will show.

ALUTA CONTINUA!



### TAKING RED FLAG TO A UNION CONVENTION

Recently I attended a statewide union meeting as a shop steward. Our contract expires this fall. Union officials say that this year we will win the best contract ever—if we demonstrate to management our unity and commitment towards our specific goals.

I went to this meeting because it is important to be with the masses and to distribute *Red Flag*.

I distributed about 50 *Red Flags* (out of about 200 attendees). A comrade had encouraged me to take more copies but I did not want to feel obligated to continue distributing until I had no more. However, once I got started, I was disappointed that I had not brought more.

Starting is always more difficult for me than stopping. I am initially fearful of rejection, but when I get started, this goes away.

Only one person made a snide remark. Everyone else either politely declined, said they supported the cause, or enthusiastically took the paper.

Some said things like: "Communism? Yeah, let me take a look at that."

"You're communist? That's cool, sure I'll read your paper."

One man said he was a socialist and wanted to talk later. I mistakenly did not make time to go talk to him after the all-day meeting. I should have asked for his contact information.

I am not good at getting contacts. I had a long talk with my roommate and her car pool buddy/co-worker at the conference. Her car pool buddy asked for my contact information saying, "I really admire what you are doing and what you stand for. I'm going to call you after I read your paper." I said great! But did not in return get his contact information. It's now been three weeks and I have not heard from him. I need to change this.

I'm not shy, far from it. When union officials talked about asking members to donate more for the union's political organizing, I got the microphone and announced that it is very difficult for me to ask for contributions for this purpose. I declared that capitalism was not designed to work for the working class and that it cannot be reformed. Doing political organizing/campaigning

or asking members to contribute to this is too big of a contradiction for me.

I said I would rather spend my time organizing towards getting rid of capitalism so my children or grandchildren can one day live in a system designed for everyone's well-being. So they no longer work for money, but according to their love, commitment, and ability. We will produce abundance and not allow a few to hoard or waste it, but instead all will share what is produce. We will live in true unity, as one.

Afterward, a few people thanked me for my comments.

So why am I not getting the contacts? I'll allow my collective to struggle more with me about this.

—Red Diaper Comrade

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## REPORTS

### “You Are Not Alone”

The Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown Los Angeles (USA) loomed large in the searing afternoon heat. Nearly a thousand members of our international family are inside, captives of the federal government. On June 30, another thousand were outside chanting “let them go!”

We had marched, with some 70,000 others, from City Hall. We were young and old, a diverse crowd (ethnically and politically) that included many families. Many, including most of our ICWP comrades, had left earlier—hot, thirsty, and worn out by too many speeches. In three hours, we had distributed every copy of *Red Flag* we had with us—over 600—and thousands had seen our signs.

I followed a group up to a plaza behind the main build-

ing. Many had signs: “No Such Thing as Other People’s Children.” “No Human is Illegal.” At least there was some shade. We looked up at the tiers of “rooms” – the authorities don’t like to call them cells. We started chanting.

Our family inside heard us. A few shone lights out their windows. We chanted louder: “You are not alone!” in English and Spanish. Then loud

rhythmic banging noises came from inside. When they stopped, we who were outside began clapping the same rhythm. Chanting, singing, banging, clapping, shining created a powerful demonstration of solidarity that lasted close to an hour.

If a few more comrades had been there, we could have led communist chants. If the march



organizers hadn’t dragged out the rally, there could have been tens of thousands surrounding the federal prison. Clearly those organizers – working hand in glove with the Democratic Party – had no intention of letting that happen.

One day our Red Army will mobilize masses to tear these prisons down.

#### LETTERS

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#### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

#### More on Organizing Communist Class Struggle

The letter “Communists Must Organize Resistance to Wage Slavery” (*Red Flag* v. 9 #8) states that we are doing unprecedented communist work by “introducing serious debate about communism among industrial workers at the point of production. We take up day to day issues and discuss how they would be handled in a future communist society.”

The author then criticizes us for just concluding that “only communism can end the wage system, while aiming to increase the circulation of the paper.” Thus, the author states, “one of our main jobs as revolutionaries – promoting the ideas of communism – ends up being our only job.”

The comrade raises the question: *How do we organize communist class struggle?* It is the burning question of the day. It is a question that has dogged the communist movement from its very inception. It needs to be answered not only in theory but in practice.

A comrade from South Africa, in a recent letter, raised the question in a slightly different way: How do we participate in the class struggle without becoming reformists?

In “Mobilize the Masses for Communism” ICWP states that the masses must be mobilized for communism and nothing else. However, we have limited this communist mobilization, as our comrade correctly points out, to denouncing capitalism and painting a vision of communism where things would be different.

We also put forward communist slogans. We call for a world without borders or nations, for abolishing wage slavery, or for political strikes against capitalism and for communism, etc. But, we don’t usually address the question of how to mobilize workers at the point of production to respond in a communist way to all capitalist attacks on our class.

The author of the letter suggested slogans like: “Smash the Dictatorship of Capital! Fight for Wheel chair lifts that work! Fight as Communists!” This is definitely not the answer. Fighting for “wheel chair lifts that work!” is a reformist demand.

Communist class struggle must refuse to

raise any kind of material or political demands on the capitalist rulers. No matter how politically advanced or revolutionary these demands may sound, they are reformist and lead only to reformist class struggle.

Communist class struggle has never been practiced, certainly not consistently. The sharpest expressions of our class’ mass revolutionary activities, the Russian and Chinese Revolutions, had very little of communist class struggle. The masses were won to fight for reforms – the biggest reform being socialism – not for communism.

We won’t make the same mistake. Marx wrote, “Theory also becomes a material force as soon as it has gripped the masses.” This is more appropriate for where we are at the present.

We need to develop further the theory of mobilizing the masses for communism in relation to organizing communist class struggle and massifying it. Only then will theory become a force capable of “altering the existing order of things” by destroying it and replacing it with worldwide communism.

—A Comrade

#### How Do We Practice Communist Principles Today?

I have been having this question.

First, the communist revolution will require us to be very Disciplined Communists who always keep and practice communism and communist principles. But as I understand this, communist practice will not come automatically after the revolution. It will be a development of the practices that were there even before our revolution.

Now at present time, to practice communist principles or communism is always hindered by the Capitalist system we live under. With this in place, how do we then forge or build a foundation of communist practices that we will expand on during and after the revolution? How do we find solidarity with workers around the world and build these communist relationships and practices with them without looking like we want to reform capitalism?

How can we build collectivism and share-

and-share kind of relationships amongst workers and the masses generally on a practical level, not just on a political level, which obviously we can expand on during and after the revolution?

—Comrade in South Africa

#### Visiting Miners in Marikana

We arrived on Monday at mid-day after an 18-hour bus trip. Then on the following day we were on a mission to mobilize the masses in the Marikana mines. I was so excited, confident and looking forward to meet the miners for the first time.

On our arrival there were few mine workers outside the premises and I was told by my fellow comrades that we are not allowed to enter the premises of the mines. As we were standing outside the mine premises, we decided to go to the miners’ hostels (dormitories).

It sounded like a bad idea to me because I was now invading their private life. But I was wrong, it was a master plan. As we were heading towards the hostels there were buses parked outside. Mine workers were coming from work and others were still going to work. And that made it easy for us to mobilize.

As we were about to reach the buses we decided to go and see if there were workers inside but unfortunately, they were empty. There were only bus drivers inside. We ended up mobilizing the bus drivers. We had a fruitful conversation with them although it was difficult to get their contacts because they were bit skeptical.

As we approached the gate we saw mine workers who were off duty sitting in groups and playing popular games. We walked inside, split in groups and mobilized individuals. I met a group of old guys and I explained the purpose of my visit, but it was difficult to explain clearly because of the language barrier.

The next day when we visited it became easier because of the experience of the previous day. Thanks to my comrades for helping me overcome those obstacles. There is a lot to be done and I will take everything I learned in Marikana.

—Comrade in South Africa

## Soccer World Cup: Patriotism, Nationalism and Racism

### COMMUNISM WILL DEVELOP SPORTS BASED ON HUMAN NEEDS

A tweet went viral last week critiquing France, England, and Belgium, three of the finalists in this year's World Cup. "Good morning everyone except people in France, Belgium & England who don't like immigrants when they move into your neighborhood but love them when they're scoring goals for you at the World Cup."

I reposted this and shared this with allies and friends because it's true. Most countries including the U.S. hyper-exploit immigrants and black people in the sports industry as well as other industries in countries who oppress these people otherwise.

The presence of immigrants is a contentious issue in France, England and Belgium but when you look at the team rosters for their football teams most of their star players are Moroccans and African immigrants or children of immigrants and this goes for the rest of the world to some variation or another.

In this capitalist society it's like President John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." It would seem the only time immigrants have value under capitalism is when they are helping make more money for the bosses, whether it's hyper-exploitation of cheap labor or running a ball for a country which helps building nationalism and keeping workers separated.

As neo-fascists build their anti-immigrant

movements, communists in ICWP are building the unity of citizen and immigrant workers. As a united working class we'll fight for a world without borders, racism and exploitation. A communist world.

—a comrade

Soccer, recognized as the King of Sports, holds a World Cup every four years. Different countries compete to be chosen by the FIFA association to be the venue for.

This desire involves great economic and political interests that an event of this magnitude in the host country, generates for FIFA as well as for the capitalists. This time it opened the doors to Russia through the 2018 World Cup.

Soccer, like all sports under the capitalist system, is only one of many tools of social inequality for the working class. It promotes patriotism, racism, nationalism, and above all it is used to keep people entertained within a circle of passivity.

The celebration of soccer produces a high dose of adrenaline among its hard-core fans, the most passionate. It is also the most nationalistic sport on our planet.

The millionaire salaries of the athletes who play in the big leagues of the world represent an insult to humanity, particularly to the working class. For example, recently the huge sale of a player to an Italian soccer club has been completed. He will get more than 35 million

Euros a year (about US\$40.8 million), apart from other royalties and perks.

The workers of Fiat, the Italian auto maker, have protested against this hiring since they are exploited to the maximum by these same bosses who sponsor this soccer club and who pay the workers poverty wages and cut their benefits.

These Fiat workers understand the reality that we live in under a system that represents oppression and social inequality. Let's applaud with workers' solidarity these workers who angrily denounce this, showing their disagreement with the capitalist system!

A popular phrase says that soccer unites peoples, but unites them to separate them. As a result of this phenomenon, nationalism plays a fundamental role. Fans and players listening to "their" national anthems feel great emotion and demonstrate their patriotism with pride before their rivals.

On the other hand, African soccer players who play in Europe and other continents are victims of racist acts by the hooligans and other groups promoted by fascism world wide.

In essence, sports in a true communist system will always be part of physical activity to develop healthy minds and bodies without the need to compete or buy any human being as superior to another.

—a fan of communism

#### Accounting in Communism: For Need, not Profit

If we do away with money, what will those people who have done accounting at school do? How will they contribute in a society without money? Will they have to learn some new skill(s)?

What we learn and how we learn it are tied up with how society organizes production. Capitalist schools prepare the children of the rich to be bosses and most children of the workers to be workers and soldiers.

Communism will do away with money, classes and private ownership of the means of production. Production will not be for profit and everyone will contribute as they can. Accounting is the skill of managing money in the current system (Capitalism). What does accounting under communism mean?

In a communist society, factories will exist. Therefore, production for the needs of the collective will exist. To produce we will need to know how many to produce. We will also need to know what is required to make such products, the quantity of each material required to

produce certain products, and the labour hours required.

But unlike in the capitalist system this information will not be used to reduce cost of production. It will be used to produce quality products that meet the needs of the masses.

There will need to be records of the products completed to make sure that the targeted production to meet the needs of the collective has been met. Unlike in the current system we won't need this information to know that targeted profit will be extracted in the market.

We will also need a record of what is required on a daily basis where production takes place, such as cleaning materials in order for the workers to work in a clean environment which is not a health hazard and also a record of the quantity of stationery required.

Corruption and special privilege will not exist because there will be accurate records of what the masses need and what should be produced by individuals who are part of a collective.

The machinery, vehicles, plant and equipment that will be used will depreciate. There-

fore calculations of their depreciation will need to be recorded so that we can know when they've reached the end of their useful life for them to be replaced by new ones. This we can easily learn when we mix mental labour with manual labour. Education will not be done in classrooms and it won't require many years. Education will be done in factories where production takes place: "unite theory with practice"- Soviet educator. This will only be achieved if we mobilize the masses, recruit them to join ICWP and turn the arms against the bosses and fight directly for communism.

—Comrade in South Africa

**LOS ANGELES, USA, July 14 — Forty-five workers and youth enjoyed food, friendship and politics at the annual ICWP picnic. Plans were made to bring communist ideas to upcoming pro-immigrant protests and to increase distribution of Red Flag to workers at their jobs.**



## DEMOCRACY from page 8

trade. Every brick, they used to say, in its magnificent municipal buildings was cemented with the blood of slaves. Modern capitalism was built on the super-profits of the slave trade, slavery and democracy. Why call it the "Glorious Revolution" when the first thing it did was democratize the profits of slavery?

Democracy let all the English merchants and bankers chase their share of 400% profits per

voyage, condemned the English crew to deadly wage labor (1 in 5 died each voyage) and the captured African to the hell of life under a whip and chain. Once again, democracy and slavery grew hand in hand. With the re-birth of democracy, the oppression and exploitation of the masses grew.

But it was not just budding capitalists in England who profited. Their cousins in New England, Rhode Island and Massachusetts did as well. This region became the greatest slave trading community in America. They built and out-

fitted the ships, recruited the crews, bankrolled the voyages and enjoyed the dirty profits of the most lucrative trade of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It not only made the Colonies financially viable but strong enough to be politically independent of England.

The next article in this series will look at the US Constitution and the genocide of Native Americans.

## OBRADOR WON'T, BUT WORKERS WILL, END EXPLOITATION & CORRUPTION

MEXICO—In a recent discussion, a doctor friend enthusiastically recounted anecdotes of the Presidential election. His wife wisely said, “Hadn’t we already concluded that AMLO (Obrador) was just like the others: a defender of capitalism?”

“Yes, of course,” he answered, “maybe even more harmful because he made millions of workers believe that he was their salvation. And taking away that idea will take time. The mass media preach that this was a triumph of democracy. But democracy since its emergence in Greece excluded the slaves.”

She said that López Obrador (AMLO) not only accepted candidates supported by the “narcos” but also made a pact with the financial oligarchy and businessmen linked to drug trafficking. Someone else said that a part of the international bourgeoisie through the UN commission on drugs advocated decriminalizing all drugs. But the current governments in each country opposed this because then they would lose their profitable business.

*What the class of modern wage workers, the proletariat, needs is not supposedly less-corrupt politicians but to take power by overthrowing the bourgeoisie to abolish wage labor and all commercial, money, relations as a way of life. We will produce for our needs for the interest of our class. Nothing will be bought or sold. So we will not need money ever again. The government of the working class will defend these achievements. With this advance, the prehistory of humanity will end. The struggle will continue, shoulder to shoulder against the vestiges of capitalism.*

The victory of López Obrador and his party MoReNa is not, as the politicians say, a “transcendent conquest by the people.” The State was strengthened. The massive participation of the electorate (more than 60% of the registered voters) quickly turned into a victory for the institutions of capitalism.

The concession speech by Meade, the official

candidate of the PRI, on the night of the election, wished L. Obrador good luck. The sequence of events that concluded with a message from Peña Nieto (the current President) and the conciliatory speech of Lopez Obrador, suggest that there will be no punishment for the crimes of the outgoing government against humanity. Nor will there be criminal proceedings over the looting of the treasury and the evident complicity of the three levels of government with organized crime. There was a conciliation.

In his first speech as president-elect, López Obrador reassured the capitalist corporations that he will not take radical measures, that contracts will be respected, that there will be no expropriations. He reiterated the guiding idea of his campaign: that corruption is the cause of all the evils in the country. Thus he denies that this is inherent in capitalism, whose cornerstone is expropriating the labor of the working class and plundering natural resources for the corporations’ profit.

Labor not paid to workers, the value of production that exceeds wages (surplus value) is *greater* than the wealth accumulated by corruption, which is also paid with that same stolen surplus value. The idea that corruption is the cause of workers’ problems covers up this exploitation: the use of the labor power of others for profit. It conceals the class struggle, with its slogan, “For the good of all, first the poor.” This was complimented with the slogan, “A country for all: businessmen, workers...”

They try to fool whoever they can. The special economic zones will continue as before—without raising wages. Airports, roads, refineries, railroads, and “poncho” Romero, the star businessman, coordinator of AMLópez Obrador’s cabinet has been clear: it will depend on private initiative since the government will be in austerity, with no



ICWP Mexico City May Day 2018

money to meet workers’ needs.

Capitalism, especially in crisis, has only exploitation, corruption, poverty and war for the working class. Masses of workers want and need a different world. This is an opportunity to show that only communism will meet the needs of the masses! In communism, we will plan and produce collectively only to meet workers’ needs.

It is not about “taking the country toward a real change.” It’s about the working class worldwide. It’s not about resisting the capitalist corporations and their governments but instead removing them from the face of the earth. It’s not about demanding Obrador move to the left. That won’t happen because he supports the capitalist system. “Representative democracy” limits the participation of the workers to voting, to one single day, while public matters remain in the hands of the capitalist politicians who ignore our needs.

We workers need to participate every day to emancipate ourselves from the capitalists through revolution and build the communist society we deserve—free of exploitation and corruption. This is only possible by building our international party, the ICWP! Join us! Help mobilize the masses to fight for and build a communist world!

### Democracy and chattel slavery went hand in hand

## WORKERS NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS—PART II

History is propaganda. At least, the history fed us in our text-books, films and mass media. Wherever you look democracy is presented in glowing terms. It’s linked with respect for human kind, a tolerant society, a champion of equality.. In the US, India, China, Austria and elsewhere millions are being called on to oppose rising fascism in the name of democracy.

We cannot let this happen. Democracy is, and has always been, a lie. It promises equality but delivers inequality. It serves the needs of capitalist production not the needs of the masses.

### Ancient Democracy: Chattel Slavery in Athens

That was certainly true in the ancient Greek city-state of Athens. Historians label it “the cradle of Western Civilization and the birthplace of democracy.” The most significant advances came from a ruler named Solon who represented the merchants against the landed aristocrats. Because of increasing commodity production (production for private profits not social need), Athens in the 6th century was in crisis. Impoverished free peasants were homeless in the fields they once held. They were on the verge of insurrection, threatening to ally with the slaves in the silver mines at Laurion. These mines were the basic source of

the merchants’ and aristocracy’s wealth.

Solon revived the popular assembly from tribal (ie primitive communist) times but introduced a Council of 400 where real political power rested. He outlawed slavery for citizens (not for immigrants or foreigners), and forbade the export of corn, lowering the price of food. From then on production and slavery grew. Slaves in Greece not only mined the silver, they quarried the marble, helped build the Acropolis and were used extensively in the manufacture of knives, pots, weapons, lamps, statues and so on. You could say the male Greek peasant got the democratic vote (but no power) while the foreign slave got the democratic whip and an early death. Democracy, slavery and commodity production grew hand in hand – fitting comment about the “cradle of Western Civilization!”

### Modern Democracy: Chattel Slavery and Racism

A similar story is repeated hundreds of years later with the development of industrial capital. Modern democracy first took hold in England. Merchants, bankers and industrialists finally got the “freedom” they had been fighting for when, what the historians call the “Glorious Revolution,” triumphed in 1688. It shifted the balance



Greek slaves in the silver mines

of power from the King to Parliament. Commodity production – the ability to profit from exploiting labor – was no longer the privilege of the King’s favorites. A company like the Royal African Company (the King’s Company), which made a 400% profit on the voyage of each slave ship, saw its monopoly broken.

The immediate fruits of the world’s first parliamentary democracy was an explosion in the slave trade. In 1699, the port of Liverpool, England, employed only one ship in the slave trade. By 1792, there were 132! For years Mayors and Councilors in the city wallowed in the filthy

See [DEMOCRACY](#), page 7