

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



SOLIDARITY WITH MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WORKERS:
(Left) Los Angeles, USA—see page 2
(Below) Berlin, GERMANY—see page 5



Boeing Workers Battle Racism, Xenophobia: COMMUNIST STRUGGLE PREPARES GROUPS TO CONFRONT “LITTLE HITLERS” AND EXPAND THE FIGHT

SEATTLE (USA), October 27— The Boeing factory buzzed with heated arguments last Friday over what we should do about the refugee caravan headed for the U.S. from Central America.

Trump’s fascist, anti-immigrant rants emboldened a few racists in the plant. Where the ICWP had built a base grounded in previous advocacy of communist solutions, groups of workers shut them up. The conflict became personal, making the racists’ day a living hell.

For example, a class traitor in one area was nicknamed “little Hitler.” A party friend reported that he, and those he had been discussing the communist ideas with, had “calmed the right-winger down.” They isolated him.

Among some crews, a “live and let live” attitude has been challenged by principled struggle. These collective battles set the tone for the next week.

The next Monday’s discussion began when an immigrant machinist lamented, “This stuff [fascist attacks

on immigrants] never ends.” Under capitalism this is true. Even an organizer who has a long history of trying to get Democratic Party officials elected agreed. “The Democrats also try to pit native-born workers against immigrants and refugees. They’re running from this issue.”

We circulated the party’s Los Angeles rally leaflet (see page 2). Co-workers were immediately drawn to the paragraph about the solidarity of the working class. “People wait for them [in the caravan] on the road with water, food, clothes money, even music and applause.”

Millions around the world have greeted refugee caravans like this, defying their own capitalist governments. There is a deep-seated desire among millions more to support and aid their fellow workers. This desire can only be fulfilled under communism.

Borders and nations pit workers against each other. In fact, we have more in common with the workers fleeing Central America than the

See BOEING, page 3

Seventy-two hours in the USA and in the world

BUILD A NEW RED ARMY TO DEFEAT FASCISM WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

October 25-27— Daniel Stein, 71; Joyce Feinberg, 75; Richard Gottfried, 65; Rose Mallinger, 97; Jerry Rabinowitz, 66; brothers Cecil Rosenthal, 59, and David Rosenthal 54; husband and wife Bernice Simon, 84 and Sylvan Simon, 86; Melvin Wax, 88; and Irving Younger, 69— murdered in a Pittsburgh synagogue by a gunman who yelled “All Jews must die!” This Nazi was particularly outraged at Jewish support for the Central American refugee caravan.

Maurice Stallard, 69, and Vickie Jones, 67— gunned down in a Kentucky supermarket parking lot by a racist killer after he couldn’t enter a black church with his weapons.

Meanwhile, a rabid Trump supporter in Florida sent at least 14 pipe bombs to prominent Trump critics.

These are not just “hate crimes” committed by bigoted individuals. They are fascist attacks incited by Trump, the self-proclaimed “nationalist” in the White House who thinks of law enforce-

ment as his personal militia.

But it’s not just Trump and it’s not just in the USA.

During the same seventy-two hours:

Muhammad Khaled ‘Abd al-Nabi, 27; Ahmed Said Abu Libdah, 22; Aish Sha’ath, 23; Naser Abu Thayem, 22; Mujahed Ziyad ‘Akel, 23; and Yahya Badr al-Hasnat, 37, were shot by Israeli soldiers while protesting the deadly conditions in the open-air prison that is Gaza.

Rural activists Angeliffa Arsenal, 47; Rommel Bantigue, 41; Paterno Baroy, 48; Marcelina Dumaguit; Rene Laurencio Sr.; Morena Mendoza, 48; Eglicerio Villegas, 36; Marchtel Sumicad, 17 and Joemarie Ughayon Jr., 16 were found to have been massacred by a private militia associated with Duterte’s Armed Forces of the Philippines.

At least 19 Yemeni civilians died in a Saudi airstrike on a vegetable market in Hodeidah, while 8 million are at risk of dying of starvation.

In Brazil, backers of the openly
See FASCIST ATTACKS, page 4

**COMMUNISTS IN CLASS STRUGGLE AT UC HOSPITAL
PAGE 3**

**WE NEED COMMUNIST EDUCATION, NOT CAPITALIST LIES
PAGE 3**

**WORKING CLASS MUST FIGHT ALL GENDER-BASED ATTACKS
PAGES 4 & 6**

**CLIMATE CRISIS: REVOLUTION OR EXTINCTION
PAGE 8**

Immigrant Caravan Shows:**NEED TO FIGHT FOR AND ORGANIZE
A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS**

“I have a mix of feelings: solidarity, anger and desire to fight against this murderous capitalist system and organize for a new communist society without borders,” said an ex-garment worker.

Thousands of young people, adults and children have already walked thousands of miles looking for a way out of their situation of poverty, unemployment and violence created by the governments, bosses and their profit system. People from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and the Caribbean have mixed as one mass defying borders and police repression.

The images of parents holding or pulling their children have touched millions. They need to make the qualitative change from anger at the atrocities of capitalism to fighting for a new communist system.

The majority in the caravan are Hondurans. Honduras is the poorest country in Central America with over 50% unemployment, and one of the highest rates of homicides in the world. Forty percent of the population lives on ONE DOLLAR a day.

This crushing poverty is the product of the century-old super-exploitation of the Honduran workers and the plundering of their raw materials by the U.S. and European imperialists, along with the national capitalists. This oppression has been imposed with blood and bullets by the genocidal governments financed and armed by the imperialists. The U.S. maintains one of its largest Latin American military bases in Honduras.

As the caravan proceeds, the solidarity of the working class is evident. People wait for them on the road with water, food, clothes, money, even music and applause. They voice the feelings of millions, “Keep going,” “Welcome.” “Good luck.”

This is a worldwide phenomenon. In the last decade migration has multiplied due to the capitalist crisis and the sharpening fight between the great imperialist powers - US, China, Russia, Europe - over the world’s markets and natural resources. This has forced millions to flee wars and hunger, abandoning their homes and often their families.

We do not have to live this way! Our ancestors lived in pre-class communism without borders, without nations and without exploitation. Re-establishing the communist social relations they enjoyed - where everyone treated each other with respect and dignity and cared for each other - demands the destruction of capitalism-imperialism with a communist revolution. For this, we need to build the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) into a mass party of millions of workers, soldiers, students and youth worldwide to fight for a world without money, wage slavery, and all the barriers and walls that divide us.

The destruction of poisonous capitalist ideas— individualism,

racism, sexism, xenophobia and anti-communism—will require an ideological struggle to the end. It will demand a mass communist education that includes scientific thinking and communist social relations that will allow us all—free of these capitalist venoms—to develop to our full human potential.

In communism, workers will be welcome everywhere in the liberated areas to help produce to meet our class’ needs. As human beings liberated from capitalism’s clutches, they will also help liberate other areas.

We should not see the members of these international caravans only as passive victims of the ravages of imperialism-capitalism, but instead as potential fighters for communism. The proletarian masses of Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, and Central America—where many of these mass exoduses originate—have a long and heroic history of struggles, including armed struggles, led by the old international communist movement that produced the Russian and Chinese Revolutions.

From 1927 to 1933, the masses in Nicaragua led by Sandino fought the invading U.S. troops. The Communist International of the time supported that struggle with money, weapons, and fighters from Latin America, Vietnam, China, and Russia. In 1933, U.S. troops were defeated. But the Sandino-led national liberation movement did not aim to end capitalism. Sandino was assassinated and the U.S. imposed the bloody Somoza dynasty.

In 1932, the Salvadoran masses, led by the newly founded Salvadoran Communist Party, rose up in arms against capitalist-imperialist oppression. This failed uprising was drowned in the blood of tens of thousands of people.

However, in the 1960s, these masses once again rebelled against the vile exploitation of the U.S. imperialists and local capitalists. The U.S. supported the rulers. The Russian and European imperialists, seeking to seize control of the region from the U.S., armed and financed the rebels. The



**“Working-class family in the caravans”
“Let’s fight for a communist world without borders”
ICWP Red Flag
Los Angeles, USA, October 27, 2018**

Central American working class paid dearly for this mistake of allying with imperialist capitalists: more than 500,000 were massacred, mainly by the U.S.

These latest massive heroic struggles were betrayed by leaders who sought not to destroy the capitalist-imperialists with the communist revolution, but to share power with the national capitalists.

The terror of U.S.-created death squads—like previous bloodbaths—never broke the militant spirit of the masses, most of them young. The U.S. has deported hundreds of U.S. gang members to Central America. The purpose was to corrupt many young people in order to destroy the revolutionary spirit of youth. Many have become mass terrorists, forcing thousands to flee.

But this will not destroy the spirit of struggle of the Central American masses either. Proof of this is that the ICWP is growing in Central America, organizing workers and youth for the communist revolution that will put an end to this murderous system. This time, on the ashes of capitalism-imperialism, we will build a communist world where collectively we will meet the needs of all.

**Join us to Mobilize the Masses for
Communism.**



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UC HOSPITAL STRIKE SHOWS THE POTENTIAL TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER

Thousands of patient care technical employees across the University of California system went on a 3-day strike. This was the workers' response to the UC Administration's proposal to take away their benefits.

The workers held spirited picket lines in front of the UC hospitals and campuses. Comrades from ICWP went to distribute *Red Flag* to the strikers at the UC in Los Angeles. Workers were very receptive to our communist message. We quickly distributed all the *Red Flags* we took (about 100). People really liked it.

This mobilization shows the power of the working class. It has the potential of developing into communist workers' power. Instead of striking for a living wage, or medical coverage, or retirement, we should be striking to put forward the need to overthrow this inhuman capitalist system with a communist revolution.

Anything short of this are futile attempts to reform capitalism, to try to twist its already twisted carcass into something that is a little less wretched, hoping to survive. We fight for their pennies, their chicken scratch. Money is significant to us in this capitalist system but the bosses just give us enough to keep alive to keep slaving for them.

Why then don't we use our power as the work-

ing class to completely disrupt the capitalists' system by having a political strike against capitalism and for communism. This would show the way forward and inspire millions of our class brothers and sisters nationally and internationally.

In such a strike, we would put forward how we would create our own communist way of being. In communism we won't need or use money. We won't have banks or jobs that turn us into the capitalists' wage slaves. We will contribute what we can and receive what we need.

We would bring alive the communist slogan popularized by Karl Marx: "From each according to their ability, to each according to their needs." This principle refers to free access and distribution of goods and services. We the workers create everything. So we, the workers should have and control everything. With armed struggle for communism we will take back what is rightfully ours.

All workers are potential communists. Let's remember humanity's history of tens of thousands of years of collectivity. Talk about what it means



to strike, what it means to have power, what it means to be a leader. We can all be leaders. *Red Flag* is the communist newspaper produced by the members of ICWP and contributed to by workers worldwide. Anyone can contribute to it.

Go online and read it. We all can contribute a little of our hard-earned chicken scratch to its production. Join in. Write, send money, read, discuss, build a base of communist comrades to create a better world by mobilizing the masses for communist revolution.

DESTROY RACIST LEGACY OF COLUMBUS WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES, OCT 19—The parents and teachers of students at a charter school emphasizing Mexican indigenous culture had an activity to celebrate *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead).

Some comrades went with *Red Flag* and a communist leaflet about the contribution of indigenous people world wide to humanity and the need to fight for mass communist education and a communist society today. We distributed 100 *Red Flag* to parents, some students and others,



who gladly took both the paper and the leaflet.

The most important thing to know about Columbus – the "discoverer" of America – is that he brought capitalism to the Americas. Capitalism at this stage needed capital to pay for Europe's industrialization so the European capitalists could conquer the world.

We need a communist revolution to put an end to capitalism. In a communist world we will work collectively and share the products of our labor according to need. No one will be the boss of

anyone. There won't be any privileges for any one and everyone will do mental and manual work. Communism on a world wide basis will eliminate the need for wars and eventually weapons because we will share the world's resources – taking only what we need while taking good care of the rest to leave for future generations.

This is the way most indigeneous people in

the world lived before capitalism's exploitation and poisonous ideologies invaded them. This is the heritage we should celebrate and be proud of. This is the heritage we should fight to preserve and spread worldwide.

Our ancestors everywhere lived in pre-class communism. Restoring the communist social relations they enjoyed – where everyone was treated with respect and dignity and was cared for – demands the destruction of capitalism-imperialism with a communist revolution.

Communist education must start now. It won't happen in the capitalists' schools and universities, which must be destroyed. It will be done through the massive distribution of our communist literature, through reading and writing for our newspaper, *Red Flag*. It will happen in the study groups of the Party collectives we are building to organize the armed insurrection to put an end to capitalism's horrors. It will be done in a completely different educational system we will organize in communism.

Humanity's next stage is scientific communism: rebuilding our ancestors' communist relations at a higher stage, while using science and technology to create a better world for the masses world wide. Join us in Mobilizing the Masses for Communism!

BOEING from page 1

CEO of Boeing.

Only communism can eliminate borders. Communist production will be collective: from each according to their ability and commitment, to each according to their need. Communist collective production eliminates profits, wages, and borders and competition for jobs.

Immediately after we liberate any area from the capitalist yoke, we will welcome any workers fleeing from horrors inflicted by the bosses. These workers will be quickly integrated into productive collectives. We'll welcome the helping hands.

These collectives will not only produce material necessities, but communists as well. The few

saboteurs the capitalists might try to infiltrate will soon be exposed by these collectives. Most liberated immigrants will likely opt to spread communism worldwide.

"Collectivity! That's my favorite word!" exclaimed another machinist during this discussion, seeing the way forward.

Communist revolution will eliminate the material basis for borders and nations and how they divide the working class. We will be free to carry on the ideological and practical struggle to build a communist world where every worker will be welcomed everywhere.

Weeks like these help prepare comrades and friends to put communism upfront no matter what starts the struggle. In the last few months alone, everything from the lack of water during the dog-

days of August to the separation of families at the border featured debates about our communist future.

This time some groups went on the offensive against fascist elements. In addition, party members and close friends became bolder, expanding the struggle to workers we hadn't discussed these issues with before.

The next steps revolve around how we can take this struggle to the schools, collective social events and rallies. The best way to back the brave workers in the caravan is to mobilize for communism where we work or go to school. No matter what the tactics, developing and recruiting communist organizers must be our priority.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All

FIGHT AGAINST ALL ATTACKS ON LGBTQ MEMBERS OF OUR WORKING-CLASS FAMILY

*In South Africa, dozens of lesbians are raped every month, justified by the claim that this will “cure” them.

*While comrades were distributing *Red Flag* in an auto factory in South Africa, a gay worker wanted to know our position on same sex relationships—will they be legal or will they be banned like in other countries now. (See letter this page.)

*A comrade in Mexico wrote to *Red Flag* that a fellow worker said that there were no homosexuals where he comes from, and if there were any, the people would kill them.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons are our relatives, our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers. An attack against one member of our working-class family is an attack against us all.

Mobilizing the masses for communism involves taking on all the ways that the ruling class has divided us, weakened our unity as a class, kept us from respecting and trusting each other, and kept us fighting amongst ourselves.

Attacks on members of our class family based on their sexual orientation are the result of an ideology of sexism/machismo which is closely tied to gang rape. Groups of men rape vulnerable girls (and sometimes boys) in a group demonstration of their “masculinity.”

Transgender men and women also suffer violent attack. In the US, 29 transgender people were killed in 2017 alone, disproportionately transgender women of color. The cumulative impacts of racism, sexism, and prejudice conspire to deprive them of employment, housing, healthcare and other necessities, making them especially vulnerable.

No more traditions chains shall bind us

Class society controls women’s sexuality to control private property. This enforces strict adherence to male and female gender roles and discriminates against behavior that does not conform to those gender roles. All of us are held back from developing our full humanity by strict gender role definitions.

The Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—have historically condemned both male homosexuality and lesbianism as threats to the traditional view of women’s subservience in monogamous families.

Communist society will allow us to have more collective responsibility for each other. Housing and child care arrangements will be more collective. They won’t be tied to the question of “who can have sex with whom.” This is more like the way most people lived in pre-class societies, before the rise of “the family, private property, and the state.”

We will consciously fight the gendered division of labor and the sexist ideas connected to it. Almost all the psychological and social differences we see (or think we see) between men and women come from how capitalism treats us differently and from the sexist ways that capitalism teaches us to see and treat ourselves and other workers.

Once communism destroys the material basis of sexism by putting an end to class society and private property, we’ll be able to win the fight to end all discrimination and divisions based on gender or perceived gender. Communist society will value each person as a comrade within a huge interconnected social network.

Starting now we must fight against the reactionary ideas that we have inherited from class society about gender roles and sexual orientation. This will be more difficult in some places than in others. But lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer members of our class are just



Autoworker Asks About Homosexuality in Communist Society

I’m Lwazi from Motherwell. I’m an autoworker at Isuzu. A few days ago my comrades and I were distributing the *Red Flag* inside the factory. As we distribute, we met a guy at the painting department. We gave him the *Red Flag* and we explained to him why we think it is necessary for the working class to unite regardless of colour and sex.

The guy told us he was gay and wanted to find out whether in this Communist society we want to establish they will have a space to openly choose how they want to love without the fear of being rejected by the society. He wants also to pledge to establish, what is the policy of the movement on this issue. Will same-sex relationships be legal or will it be banned like other countries now?

—A Comrade in South Africa

that—members of our class. We must not let the bosses’ ideology divide us, nor allow the chains of tradition to keep us from defending our working-class family. We need to mobilize the masses—including the LGBTQ masses—for communism. United we will win!

FASCIST ATTACKS from page 1

fascist Jain Bolsonaro (now president-elect) attacked dozens of his opponents in city neighborhoods and in rural areas, mainly targeting black and indigenous activists.

We extend solidarity to these and all other victims of fascist violence everywhere – and to the members of our working-class family who

are fighting back. We echo the words of the legendary US labor activist Joe Hill: “Don’t mourn – organize!”

Organize... but not for voting or peace vigils. Organize for communism. The spread of fascism worldwide – from India to Brazil, from Hungary to the USA, from Saudi Arabia to the Philippines – is the political expression of the global crisis of capitalism.

Ruling classes everywhere need extreme racism, sexism and religious sectarianism to divide and distract the impoverished masses. They need intensified nationalism to win us to fight in the bloody wars of the imperialists and all capitalists.

In the US, Democratic as well as Republican politicians have loosed the racist police to terrorize black neighborhoods. Democrats as well as Republicans have stepped up border control and deportations. Democrats as well as Republicans have sold arms and financed arm sales to Israel, Saudi Arabia and more.

We can’t rely on any of these capitalist politicians, their law-enforcement or their army to protect us from the Nazis, KKK, Proud Boys or any other murderous racist scum.

We can’t rely on pacifism or prayers.

We need to build a new Red Army, led by communist industrial workers, soldiers and youth. We need to build the International Communist Workers’ Party to mobilize for communist revolution – the only way to defeat fascism and imperialist war.



Pittsburgh, USA, October 30, 2019

DEFEAT FASCISM WITH MASS MOBILIZATION FOR COMMUNISM

On October 13 an estimated quarter of a million people marched in Berlin, Germany against fascism, racism and xenophobia. There have been marches like this before in Frankfurt, Munich, Chemnitz and other cities, but none on this scale. The earlier marches had ‘merely’ tens of thousands of participants.

The Berlin march was in part in response to demonstrations by thousands of fascists from the ultra-right AfD party and the xenophobic Pegida movement. One of these demonstrations, in Chemnitz, escalated into a pogrom with fascists chasing down anyone who looked like an immigrant.

The Berlin march’s hashtag was #unteilbar (in-divisible) and its slogan was “For an Open and Free Society: Solidarity, not Exclusion!” The slogan on the poster on page 1 of this issue says “Against Ideas from 1933” referring to the ideology of Nazi Germany.

It was a united front including “queer-feminist and antiracist movements, migrant organizations, trade unions, associations, NGO’s, religious communities, societies and neighbourhoods” (from their leaflet). This united front was so broad it got support from Heiko Maas, Germany’s interior minister. Only Angela Merkel (Germany’s chan-

cellor) was missing!

Communists have had long and painful experiences with united fronts. They are inevitably defensive, and call for a to return to bourgeois democracy and the welfare state. As the #unteilbar leaflet says, “We will not allow the welfare state to be played off against asylum and migration. We will stand in resistance when fundamental rights and freedoms are in danger of being further restricted.”

The problem is that democracy and the welfare state have already failed workers. Democracy produces governments by corporate- and bank-backed politicians. They impose austerity and starve the welfare state and those relying on it. We can’t go back – we must go forward, to communism.



Nazis out!

The hard-earned lesson is this: forward to communism, not backward to bourgeois democracy. It’s inspiring to see a quarter of a million people marching against fascism, but smashing fascism needs communism and communism needs communists, namely, members of ICWP. If only a tiny fraction of those who marched in Berlin joined us, we’d be a long way towards winning communism and ending fascism forever.

HOW WILL COMMUNIST WORKERS USE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

The comrades who wrote this article have opened up an important debate about the role of technology in communist society. We invite all readers to discuss this and write more about it.

– **RF Editorial Collective**

Artificial intelligence (AI) and its sub-fields, machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) are buzzwords popular in corporate circles. There are promises of greater profits for shareholders. There is talk of even more leisure and disposable income for CEOs and Boards of Directors, freed of their “bondage” to the “nuisance” of underpaid, undertrained labor.

ML has been used in the last couple of years in everything from self-driving cars to frivolous shopping and music recommendation engines, from voice recognition to tumor recognition in medical imaging. ML means that algorithms can be taught a computing task based on training data. This allows the algorithm to “learn” from massive datasets and become better at the task.

As expected with capitalism, the motivation to use these technologies is not the benefits to humanity. It’s falling computer hardware prices. It’s the expectation of higher profits by eliminating labor and selling more, unnecessary, stuff to unsuspecting consumers.

A communist society will use AI techniques (and the enormous amounts of computing and electrical power necessary to run them) for the benefit of all living beings. They won’t be used for warmongering and profits for the few.

AI will be used for repetitive, tedious and dangerous tasks that can indeed benefit from computing. These could include tumor detection and finding optimal mixes of bacteria in soil to grow plants suited for particular climates and geography. Robots will be used to aid differently-abled people or perform dangerous work.

The mathematical techniques for ML and DL have been around for decades. But their use was not profitable because they are computationally expensive. Hardware like multi-core chips, parallel processing cards and FPGA were not cheap enough. As hardware has become cheaper, capitalists are finding ways to make these techniques

profitable.

ML techniques are statistical. They need to be combined with heuristics (“rules of thumb”). So, they are notoriously susceptible to the social biases of designers and the profit motives of investors. This is especially dangerous when ML is used to make bail, sentencing and parole decisions in courts. It can be deadly when routing algorithms send overworked truckers with heavy loads on dangerous “fastest” routes for the sake of profits.

AI in general relies on massive datasets from which to learn and make recommendations. This has spawned an entire industry of rogues dedicated to mining data and selling it to anyone that will buy it. When an eager consumer signs up for free email service or free social media or a free credit report, they are signing away access to every aspect of their lives.

Private companies like the notorious Palantir, mine and sell all this data to the capitalist security and corporate establishments from Washington DC to London to Riyadh. This is the well-oiled axis of war-mongering capitalism. Amazon just signed a \$10B contract with the US Department of Defense to provide cloud computing power. This will enable the US military, among other things, to send autonomous drones to identify ‘enemies’ and make the decision to kill them.

Under communism economic planners will use AI to help allocate resources equitably. AI will help optimize production of the things needed to make life comfortable and sustainable.

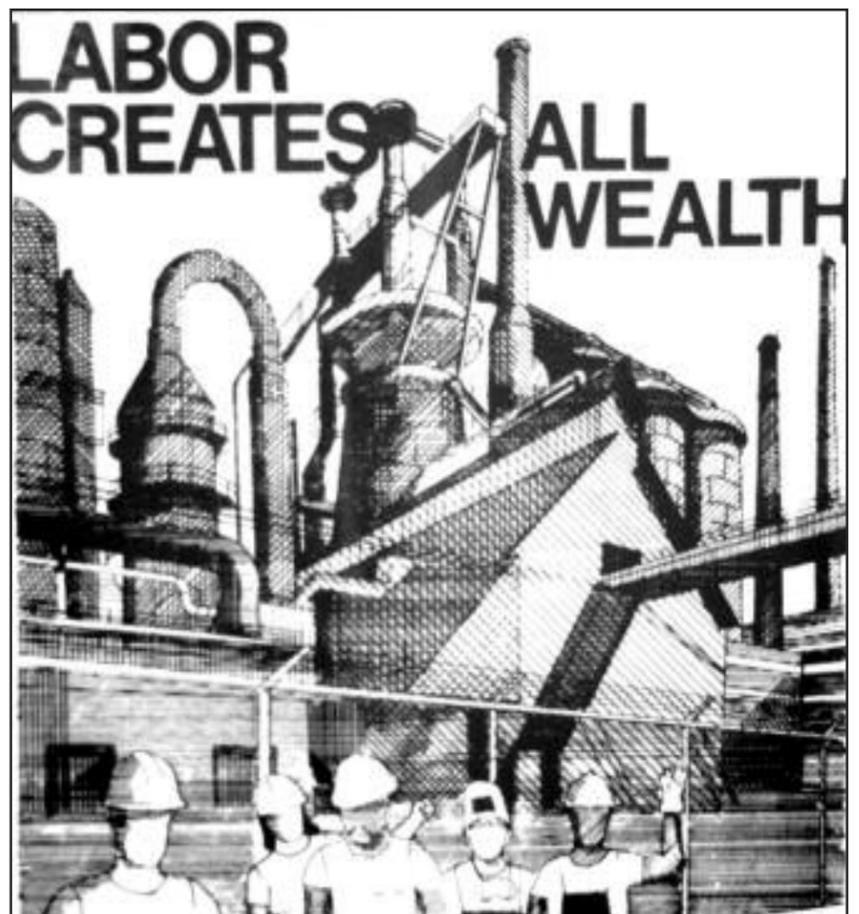
Public transportation systems will benefit greatly from ML. Environmentally-friendly, optimized modes of

free and safe, autonomous public transportation will ply the streets, and perhaps the oceans and the skies.

Data will be controlled and mined by rigorously and ethically trained workers. They will use and improve AI techniques to find better diagnostics and therapeutics for diseases, optimize environmentally friendly supply chains and make manufacturing and agriculture more sustainable.

A communist society using and improving AI techniques will modulate the inevitable, extreme effects of global warming and help more living beings survive.

Above all, a communist society aided by ethical AI and robotics, freed from the fatal burden of capitalist profits, will finally give everyone the leisure to relate to each other outside of crass, capitalist commodity consumption. It will allow everyone’s needs to be met and allow all living beings to lead dignified, sustainable and fulfilling lives.



LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Do We Need a Communist Feminism?

Three young comrades had the following discussion in a chat group after reading a draft of an article for our new pamphlet, *The Communist Fight Against Sexism*, entitled “Communism, not Feminism, Will End the Oppression of Women.”

C: I disagree with the title. That communism will put an end to sexism and many other problems is not a new idea. I think that we repeat this kind of title too often in *Red Flag*. In this historical moment a title like this will bring us more problems than opportunities.

The article describes the development of the feminist movement and it seems that the only thing we say is that only by mobilizing for communism can we win. This is only half of the truth. I think that feminism is necessary inside the party to combat the sexist attitudes of our members.

Communism is a long and painful process that will depend on the way the internal contradictions of the movement are dealt with. If there aren't efforts that claim the struggle of the minorities, the opinion of the historically privileged groups will be easily imposed on the rest. (We can even see this today in the party.)

N: I disagree. Inside the party we don't need to have a feminist struggle, but instead to struggle against sexism. Neither feminism nor sexism—we must fight against sexism and it's clear we can only win that struggle by fighting for communism.

C: Feminism is not the opposite of machismo. Is the term sexism still valid? Is oppression mainly over something biological?

There is a great diversity of feminisms as the article mentions. If our line is an example of the development of communist theory, we could construct a new category, our own feminism.

It seems to me very dangerous not to recognize the importance of the claims of the oppressed sectors beyond the category of class.

Yes, post-modern feminism is subjective because its activists normally don't suffer class oppression. But it seems to me to be an error not to emphasize how all oppressions working together keep capitalism functioning. Today the proletariat that the system depends on is op-



Los Angeles, January 20, 2017

pressed by class, race and gender.

A: I disagree. In fact, communism will put an end to sexism and many other problems. If it's not communism with our political line, what will it be? Socialism, a pseudo-left party, reformist or progressive groups, etc.?

No. We need communism, the communism that we present to the working class, which we analyze, which we sharpen, which we practice. This is the new news that we present to our class brothers and sisters.

On the question about why feminism won't put an end to sexism, I don't consider that a problem. I know feminists and some of them are activists, and when we talk, I clearly say that I'm not a feminist even though I'm a woman. My friends don't get upset, however, because of the serious differences in our political positions the discussions are limited.

However, when I have discussions with men about feminism, they make interesting points from their practice and analysis. Again, I don't think this will be a problem.

I don't think we should be feminists inside the party. If there are sexist attitudes among our members, we have to have a political struggle with them, like any other attitude. This will cause some friction, but that's where self-criticism comes in.

I don't think that communism is a long and painful process. On the contrary, communism gives us sustenance so that we can make this communist society possible. Sure we have internal contradictions, and they vary. Sometimes they cause us to retreat. Sometimes they help us advance. But this is our struggle. It's understanding and it's practice.

Our class is suffering because of all the evils of capitalism. We know that many times over, so let's do the most we can as communists. We must know that only communism with its members around the world and their contradictions are capable of looking much farther than any other political line.

C: Rejecting the theory and practice of the current feminist movement is not a dialectical response to the social movements that have arisen since the fall of the socialist bloc. We should think in a dialectical negation of feminism and all the identity movements, taking the best aspects of what has developed in the last few years and applying them in a better way to communist organizing. Instead of thinking about how correct our

position is we should think more about what we can learn.

Super-Exploitation: the Material Base of Sexism

The recent editorial (page 2 article) on sexism was excellent but has a serious weakness that readers may have overlooked: it downplays the super-exploitation of women.

It says that sexism has always existed in class societies (true) and that capitalism has intensified it (also true). But why has capitalism intensified it?

We need a materialist analysis, to explain how capitalism generates sexism, and to know how to end it under communism – by ripping up its roots, its material base.

The article says the material basis is private property in general (which existed before capitalism). Although super exploitation is mentioned, it's to say that it drags down the wages of men.

So let me make it clear: I believe that the material basis of capitalist sexism is the super exploitation of women workers. This includes their underpaid labor in production and their unpaid labor in the home, in terms of childcare and husbandcare.

Communism will definitely end all this. It will abolish the wage system and with it the whole notion of “cheap” labor. And by collectivizing housework and childcare, it will liberate women from ‘kitchen slavery.’

I read a report by some bank that estimated that the average woman worker has a 100-hour work week (if you include housework and child care). This sounds about right – two regular jobs. I made some crude estimates as to how much the US bosses save by underpaying for production and not paying for work in the home. It comes out to several trillion dollars per year!

That's a lot of money. The entire bloated US defence budget is not even a trillion. Add to that the profit from women exploited overseas (where wages are even lower) and the depressing effect on men's wages and the trillions pile up.

However the bosses can't extract trillions of dollars from millions of women workers without some infrastructure. That infrastructure is sexism.

This letter has a blog supplement (icwp-web.wordpress.com) in which I make the case that super exploitation explains almost every aspect of capitalist sexism.

—Comrade in North America



LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



Solidarity: Mexican women workers feeding Central American migrants in the caravan

Our Duty is to Crush Capitalism and Its Borders

Human beings have been migrants since their ancestral origins in Africa, before borders and countries were invented.

We met with two young people from El Salvador about the caravan of Central American migrants to the United States. They commented that people flee from the conditions of poverty and violence imposed by gangs and that it is capitalism that creates poverty and human misery that encourages flight.

But misery that is worse than receiving too few goods from social production in order to survive is the misery that in order to live we have to work for someone else (the capitalist). We need to put an end to the system of wage labour, to put an end to the bosses.

Mike Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of State, quickly traveled to Mexico and met with Foreign Minister Videgaray demanding that the caravan be stopped. Immediately, President Peña Nieto declared emphatically that he would not allow the illegal and violent entry of the migrants as this would violate the sovereignty of the country.

The rulers of Mexico and Central America are instruments of repression against the working class. While they declare themselves defenders of migrants in the United States, the rulers of Mexico deport the same number of Central American migrants, and the rulers of each Central American country reject the workers who emigrate from the surrounding countries. Only by overthrowing them will the class of modern wage earners, the proletariat, be able to establish brotherhood/sisterhood, without borders, without bosses, without racism or sexism.

The press and television do not speak of the failure of democracy and of the “free market” as causes of the workers’ flight.

It is not easy for us to come into contact with these migrants to personally bring them our solidarity and above all our ideas of emancipation of the working class from the capitalists. However from *Red Flag* we send our ideas and solidarity to them. In our workplaces we will promote liberation for them and all other exploited and oppressed people of the world.

The search for survival is not enough, the search for self-interest. The duty is to our whole class, the rest of the workers, who cannot flee from the hell of their region and from where they are will have to achieve their emancipation. Workers of the world LET’S UNITE, let us crush capitalism and its borders.

—Comrade in Mexico

solidarity in the face of the desperation of not having the means of subsistence, groups of neighbors have come together in different sectors of the country and, with great difficulties, have formed different caravans, mainly of young men and women, as well as children and seniors. Since October 13, they have headed for the southern border of the U.S. empire. An estimated 6,000 people make up this first caravan.

In response, the head of the empire is threatening the puppet president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, and intimidating these migrant groups whom he treats as criminals. He will send his army to bring order to the borders. But these immigrants no longer care and are determined to confront the system that has put them in a life-and-death situation.

There is no doubt that this massive mobilization has repercussions in US politics. It is seen as a symptom of weakness on the part of President Donald Trump, in the face of the November elections (for the Senate and House of Representatives) because he is unable to stop the advance of these caravans of migrants, mainly from Honduras.

These massive social mobilizations have already overwhelmed people, organizations, and political parties. The lesson that can be drawn is that society can no longer put up with the exploiting, corrupt, discriminatory, and oppressive capitalist system.

The government is now trying to deactivate the organization of many other caravans and has made free bus transportation home available in Guatemala and Mexico. It promises to give work to people who leave the caravans and wish to return to Honduras. But what is happening is that every day new groups of people are being formed who will be following the same route as the first in new caravans.

This shows the need for the masses to fight for a more just society in favor of the oppressed, and for this to be prepared politically to put an end to this system and to build a more just system that serves the interests of society. That is the communist system that will put an end to private property and provide its inhabitants with all the means of collective production to meet the needs of society as a whole.

—Comrades in Honduras

“So many people in South Africa are open to communist ideas”

I joined ICWP 3 years ago at one of the international conferences held here in South Africa. I was invited to a meeting by comrade M, about whom I didn’t know much, apart from the fact we are from the same street and we support the same soccer team.

We Can No Longer Put Up With Capitalism

In the face of the extreme poverty that threatens the lives of the majority of Hondurans, large caravans have been formed to go to the empire’s southern border.

Honduras is the poorest country in the region. Forty percent (40%) of the population lives on ONE DOLLAR per day. (See Page 2) Spontaneously and as an act of

I was introduced to the *Red Flag*. I read it without much understanding. It was at the meeting after I was given *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* that I got the sense of what ICWP was and what communism really was. What most of us knew about communism is what the Soviet Union was, but as the comrades clarified what they were fighting for, I was inspired and I agreed with what they were saying.

Not all of it, especially “the world without money.” It was so foreign to me that I didn’t even think it was a possibility. But with deeper understanding of the material basis of capitalism as I continued with attending other meetings, I realized this communist world comrades mobilize is achievable.

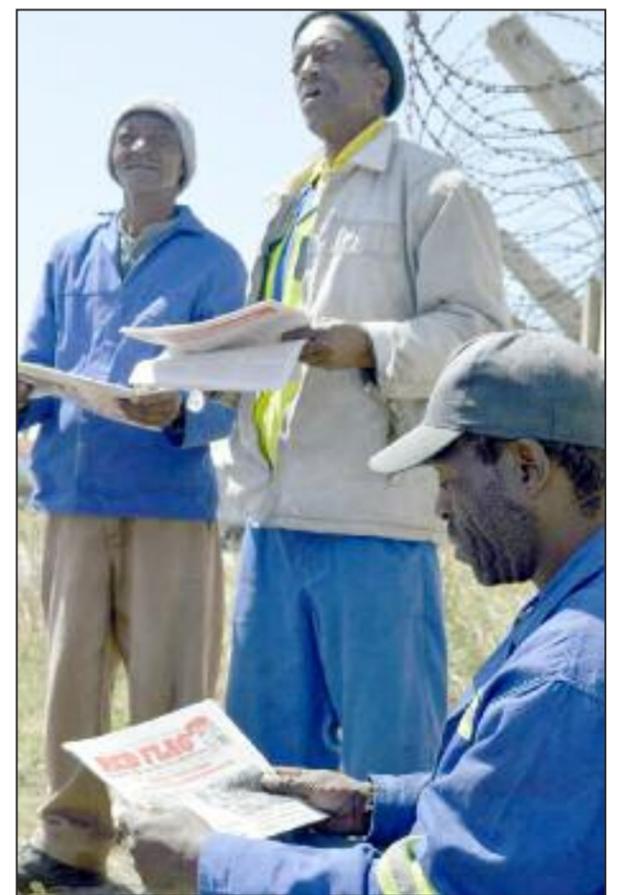
Ever since then I have been part of the collective and struggle to mobilize the masses in South Africa. We have had success, failures, but most importantly we continue to learn from both of these experiences. We have grown to have three collectives in Port Elizabeth: the youth collective, workers’ collective and the Zwide collective. We have been able to make contacts with mine workers in Marikana who continue to receive the *Red Flag*.

We have established contacts in a university in Cape Town, though the work here has been relatively slower than we would’ve liked.

Nonetheless, we have made contacts with 3 students. One of them, from Lesotho, is definitely keen on joining the party. Last time he went home, he went with 50 *Red Flags*. He said he would distribute and he is on ICWP members’ group on Whatsapp. We have also established contacts with students in a University (Port Elizabeth).

We have challenges or weaknesses. We have made contacts with so many people in South Africa who are open to communist ideas. Our weakness is we have not been able to make follow up and consolidate those contacts we have made. This remains one of the pressing issues we are struggling with and trying to improve upon. Ever since the May Day we have made progress on it though it remains a challenge because we know we can do more.

—Comrade in South Africa



South Africa—industrial workers reading Red Flag

UN Climate Report: Capitalism Can't Solve Environmental Crisis

JOIN ICWP TO CREATE A COMMUNIST SOLUTION

October 27— Super-typhoon Yutu smashed into the mid-Pacific Northern Mariana Islands this week. We don't know how many of our working-class family died, but the damage was tremendous. It may have been the deadliest event there since the bloody battles of World War II.

Yutu intensified from a tropical storm to a dangerous monster in just two days. It is tied as the fifth-strongest storm on record to make landfall anywhere in the world. Scientists think that in our warming world, storms will more often make this transformation due to higher sea temperatures.

But people in the Marianas, like many other island-dwellers, have more to fear from global climate change than storms. Most live practically at sea level. A global average temperature rise of 2° (the goal of the 2016 Paris Climate Accord) would submerge them along with Tuvalu, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands.

That's why the Marshall Islands' representative called the 2° goal "genocide." And that was just a "goal" to avoid the predicted increase of 4° by 2100.

Last month's report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change studied how much worse 2° of warming would be than 1.5°. Its research isn't new. What's new is its insistence on drastic action within the next ten years. If trends continue, the world would reach the 1.5° level within a few decades. At that critical point, most of us will be at serious risk, wherever we live. Things will get qualitatively worse, fast.



This report underlines the urgency of mobilizing masses for communism now. Communist revolutions can and must start breaking out within the next ten years!

Let's be clear: The scientific argument is about what quantitative increase in temperature will lead to a qualitative change in the conditions for human life on earth.

The political argument is about what qualitative social and economic changes can prevent catastrophe.

Trump in the US and Bolsonaro in Brazil are among the capitalist politicians who deny that there's a problem. They serve the interests of capitalist-imperialists who make huge profits from extractive industries like oil, coal and logging. They reflect the ideology of "neoliberal" free-market capitalism that puts short-term profits ahead of everything.

Following the UN report, the *New York Times* (mouthpiece for



US imperialism) devoted an entire Sunday magazine to the climate crisis. It blamed "human nature" for the short-term thinking that refused to act when the need was identified in 1988.

To many others it is obvious that free-market capitalism is the problem.

"We Cannot Fight Climate Change with Capitalism, Says Report," announced one headline. "Scientists Warn the UN of Capitalism's Imminent Demise," concluded another.

Some argue for a steep carbon tax – recognizing that it's too little, too late.

Others talk of a "post-capitalist" world – without a plan. One author of the UN report says that it's "harmful to think that we either have capitalism or something totally different." Evidently he doesn't want us to think about anything totally different, like communism.

Liberal darling Naomi Klein calls for "a new form of democratic eco-socialism." But the only action she proposes is backing candidates like Alex Ocasio-Cortez to work within the existing political system.

Given the urgency of the crisis, we cannot afford to waste time finding out what a century of struggle has already

proved: Capitalism cannot be reformed to meet our needs or legislated out of existence. Your vote is not your voice.

You can make a difference – but only by contributing to the work of mobilizing masses for communist revolution. That's the personal choice that matters more than what you eat or how you get around.

The system has to change – and fast.

That's what the UN report says. But it has no solution: "It can be safely said that no widely applicable economic models have been developed specifically for the upcoming era."

We disagree. While no model communist society has yet existed, a truly communist society has the potential to mobilize masses on an unprecedented scale to meet the climate crisis.

All economic models are political. They assume certain relations of power. Communism puts the masses in power to make the decisions that affect our common life. With no money or profit motive, human needs are front and center.

When an area becomes uninhabitable, we will be able to help our working-class family members there move elsewhere without destroying the social relationships that form the web of their community.

Communism will unleash the creative power of the masses to devise and improve the technology we need, rather than leaving that work to a few scientists and engineers.

Without a money economy, the "cost" of technical solutions will be socially necessary human labor. Mobilizing that labor to work for what we all desperately need will be primarily a political task.

It is up to the masses themselves – ourselves! – to develop the communist "economic model" in the process of organizing a revolutionary armed struggle for power.

This process starts today. It starts with people like you. It starts when you join the International Communist Workers' Party.

And it can't wait much longer.

