



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Manila, Philippine Islands, July 2018— Women protest sexist, fascist government of Rodrigo Duterte, see page 8.

ICWP IN INDIA ORGANIZES FOR COMMUNISM

INDIA — A small group of members and friends of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) met here recently to denounce violent xenophobic attacks. We urgently spread the necessity of communist revolution in response to the capitalist crisis that is causing ultra-racism and xenophobia around the world.

These attacks were organized by the fascist ruling party (BJP) and their militia against people from Kashmir. India, Pakistan and China have fought over this region since 1947. The attacks were in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier in the week, a terrorist group had attacked the Indian army in Kashmir, killing over 60 soldiers. This occurred less than 200 km (120 mi) from Pakistan.

The Chinese capitalists are building a \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. This will connect China with the Middle East on a land route. It will bypass the contentious South China sea lane. Indian capitalists see this development as an economic threat. They are increasingly relying on US imperialists to restrict the China-Pakistan alliance.

The US bosses' attempt to isolate Iran from the oil market has also increased the possibility of war. Iran and Saudi Arabia are fighting for domination in the region. A foreign trip by the Saudi Prince to Pakistan and India had to be

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Boeing Workers Debate "National Emergency"

COMMUNISM WILL END CRISIS OF RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA

SEATTLE (US), February 15— "It's all about racism!" was how a Boeing friend viewed the "national emergency."

Trump had just declared a national emergency supposedly to get money to build a wall on the southern US border. But this Boeing worker wasn't fooled. He responded immediately to this crisis of racism and xenophobia.

As soon as he arrived at work, he went straight to a worker who has spouted xenophobic lies in the past.

"First they came for Blacks like me," he began. "Then the Chinese." He went through a list of local racist and xenophobic exploitation and oppression.

"Now they are going after Hispanics. Then they are going to come for you," he ended. The racist didn't say a word the rest of the day.

As mad as he was with this racist worker, our friend was even madder at the Democratic politicians. "You don't make compromises with racists and anti-immigrant bigots," he shouted so that many in his crew could hear. He was referring to the border-security agreement the Democratic Party had pushed.

Then he encouraged a comrade to step up the fight. "You have to be both profane and profound," he said.

He told a story to illustrate how serious he

thought the situation was. He had been at a demonstration some years ago where some racist had chanted against blacks using the "N" word. This racist's son stared at his father. Eventually, the kid started the same chant.

"When you allow these racist and xenophobic rallies to go on, you embed this sh_t in society," he said.

"Let's discuss why this happens and how we can end racism and xenophobia," said a comrade.

"I'll tell you why it happens," interrupted our friend. "Because it makes money!"

"Then we have to get rid of money," our comrade answered.

The friend agreed and he knew the way to do this was with communism. He was clear this would require a revolution.

He didn't agree to join the party on the spot. But he vowed to distribute our upcoming pamphlet, "Fight for the Day When No Worker Will Be Called Foreigner." We made detailed plans together to distribute large numbers at work, among friends and family outside of work and among students.

Learning from Our Friends

It was time to go back to work. We decided to continue our debate about the potential for revolution. The question of whether or not we have this revolutionary potential seems to be a big

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Communist Revolution, Not Elections, Will End Sexist Exploitation

CELEBRATE MARCH 8: INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY

One hundred ten years ago, the Socialist Party of America organized the first Women's Day. An International Socialist Women's Conference the next year proposed an international holiday.

The "foremost purpose" was the right to vote. However, these women were mainly workers. They insisted that "this demand must be handled in conjunction with the entire women's question according to Socialist precepts."

In 1911, over a million people marked the first International Women's Day. In Vienna, women carried banners honoring the working-class heroes of the 1871 Paris Commune.

An International Women's Day march of female textile workers in Petrograd sparked the February Revolution in Russia in 1917.

Liberal feminists today try to erase the radical roots of International Women's Day. They focus only on women's suffrage and participation in electoral politics.

But the "entire women's question" can only be resolved by ending the material basis of sexism: class society itself.

To eliminate sexism and racism we need communist revolution. We need to build a society based on social relations of comradeship and collectivity, not profits or money. That is the struggle of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP).

Today this struggle is more urgent than ever. Capitalism's attacks on workers intensify amidst a worldwide crisis of overproduction that's leading to the next World War. Sexism is one of their weapons of choice. Our working-class sisters are a special target of their super-exploitation.

Fearing workers' potential revolutionary unity in response to these attacks, the rulers use sexism and racism to divide us. They hope to keep us from seeing each other as comrades. But they will not succeed!

Racist and Sexist Super-Exploitation in Memphis, USA

The scene: an XPO Logistics warehouse in Memphis, Tennessee. Linda Neal, a black worker, told her supervisor she didn't feel well and needed to go home. The supervisor answered, "I'm not going to authorize that."

Minutes later, Neal collapsed. Co-workers rushed to give her CPR. Management ordered them away, screaming "get the work out." Neal died of a heart attack on the warehouse floor.

Tasha Morel, black mother of two, worked at the same warehouse. Shifts are often 14 hours of heavy lifting in stifling hot temperatures.



Petrograd, 1917

When Morel found that she was pregnant, her doctor said she could not lift more than 5 pounds. Management told her, "you don't need any more kids. Go have an abortion." Morel wanted her child but she suffered a miscarriage.

Within months, four of her co-workers also had miscarriages. The company denied them even the slightest reprieve from the heavy work. Morel calls XPO "modern day slavery."

XPO is a \$12 billion company with warehouses in dozens of countries. It handles shipping, packing and logistics for Nike, Disney, Verizon and, until recently, for Amazon. These companies are in a fiercely competitive race, driving workers to the bottom to increase profitability.

Morel is right. This is wage-slavery. Communism is the only way to end it.

Communist Women Lead Struggle in El Salvador

Globally, over 122 million women have to migrate to find work. Many find jobs in garment and footwear factories in Taiwan, Thailand and Malaysia, where they are forced to take regular pregnancy tests. A migrant working in a Malaysian factory found to be pregnant is immediately deported at her own expense.

In sweatshops in El Salvador, too, women may be fired if they get pregnant. Others are forced to work around chemicals that jeopardize their fetuses. Cruelly, if this results in a miscarriage the woman may be jailed under harsh anti-abortion laws.

Women workers, along with men, are fighting this wage slavery around the world. Some organize with unions or NGOs to try to win reforms. But these are at best temporary. Capitalist competition means that companies that treat workers the worst get ahead. The only way to end this vicious system of sexist, racist exploitation is with communist revolution.



Our small party in India has made attempts to contact comrades in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bangladesh with *Red Flag*.

Our message of a communist world without borders is warmly received by many who are victims of the borders that are killing the working class. It is our utmost desire to take this opportunity to spread communist ideas and build

In El Salvador, women maquila workers are giving leadership to growing ICWP collectives that are mobilizing in the factories for exactly this solution.

Communism: Collective Social Relations

In capitalism, many women have to produce commodities for a wage and also reproduce the labor power of the future. Exploitation creates a terrible contradiction between their economic survival and physical health.

Communism will end this dilemma. The masses will organize everything for the health and safety of workers and our children. Collectives will produce and distribute what's needed. No more heavy, dangerous work for bosses' profits! No more Amazon or XPO! No money! No wage slavery!

No individual will be forced into the impossible choice of working to feed their family or being able to have and care for a baby, between producing things and reproducing labor power. No one will be pressured to have an abortion or prevented from it.

Production centers will include on-site child care so that working mothers can nurse their babies and parents can see the children throughout the day. Caring for children — like all work — will be a collective labor of love.

In Soviet Russia and in revolutionary China, childcare centers nurtured collectivity. Children used big building-blocks to learn to work together and to share "our toys." Unfortunately, the socialist system — which kept wages and money — reversed these early lessons that everything is held in common. That's why ICWP fights directly for communism today.

Let's dedicate this International Women's Day — and every day — to use *Red Flag* and our pamphlet *The Communist Fight Against Sexism* (available at icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf) to fight for the communist world we need!



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postponed due to the terrorist attack in Kashmir.

The working class in India, Pakistan and everywhere in the world has nothing to gain from imperialists' attempts to capture markets. Sooner or later this rivalry among imperialists will lead to world war.

ICWP. This is the only alternative to endless wars and terror for profit.

We are confident that our party represents the dreams and aspirations of the international working class. We have the potential to grow and build a massive party that will end the rule of the capitalist profit system forever.



JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 913-9704
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM
TWITTER @RedFlagBandera
BLOG: ICWPWEB.WORDPRESS.COM/
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362
3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90007, USA

STUDENTS DISCUSS REVOLUTIONARY THEORY & PRACTICE

MEXICO CITY, February 14—In our latest ICWP study group we had decided to read "The State and the Revolution" by Lenin.

The majority of the young people study at the Metropolitan Autonomous University. We started by discussing the strike of workers there who are demanding a pay increase.

"We are the only ones who support the strike in our class," commented Sol. Students commented on the pro- and anti-working-class Facebook comments about the strike.

"Then you must convince more fellow students to support the workers," answered Comrade Armando, a teacher and member of the Party for many years.

Armando said that he participated in a demonstration a few days ago with his fellow teachers at the institution where he works. "Everyone gave very militant speeches, but nobody talked about revolution. I said that the workers should re-take up the revolutionary perspective, that we should aspire to much more."

Nadia asked how wages would be paid in communism. Atilio, a young member of the Party, answered that the elimination of wage slavery meant that we will all have our basic needs met without having to be forced to sell our labor power. He said that we would work understanding that our labor is needed for the society, and not for a wage.

"What makes our line different from the rest of the communist parties, is that we fight for the immediate elimination of wage slavery," added Ar-

mando.

Talking about the strike, Nadia said that capitalist education is a business, that only those who have enough money can afford a career.

We decided to discuss the ICWP Communist Education pamphlet next. Self-critically, we could have mentioned the work of our comrades in the recent teachers' strike in Los Angeles.

Next we talked about the main ideas of "The State and the Revolution," which we had all read as agreed. We mentioned that the existence of the State is a sign of the irreconcilable character of the contradictions between the classes. This has not always existed and at some moment, when there are no longer classes, it should disappear.

Nadia asked if there was any way to make the revolution peacefully.

Sol replied, "No. We do not want to enter into wars, but no ruling class has peacefully given up the power they have."

Armando added that the working class must forcefully impose the new way of life; that we will have to defend what the revolution has achieved.

This meeting showed an advance in the understanding of communist ideas by the whole group. But the most important thing is the development of

communist social relations in the collective. The confidence and friendship that young students have forged is the main engine of the group. They talk about the study group in daily conversations and are enthusiastic about meeting. They are thinking of integrating another friend into the meetings. One of them could not attend because of health problems, but she sent a text the next day asking if someone could meet with her so she could catch up on what was discussed.

"I haven't told my friends that I am in this study group, but I ask them what they think about Communism. Some have a negative opinion, but that is because they don't know what it really is. Being in this group has motivated me to continue learning more about what Communism is," said Nadia, concluding the meeting.



Strike at Metropolitan Autonomous University in Mexico City. "We demand budget transparency in the public university. No more abuses!"

Boeing Snow Policy: Productivity Before Safety

COMMUNIST WORK COLLECTIVES PUT SAFETY OF OUR CLASS FIRST

PUGET SOUND (US)— "Don't you dare!" warned a long-time Boeing employee. He was talking to a new Boeing worker whose car had flipped over coming down a hill during a recent snowstorm. "You stay home."

The young worker had hurt his back in the crash. About ten years ago, a friend of ours had died in a similar crash. He was also trying to get to work.

The new worker's supervisor was pressuring him to come to work. "That damn job will still be there with or without you," concluded the veteran employee.

This wasn't just a case of a single rotten supervisor. In 2017, Boeing changed its attendance policy. Now the goal is to "make sure our (i.e., the bosses') business is fully productive" even during bad weather.

In the past, we could take snow days when roads were unsafe. You wouldn't get paid, but your absence wouldn't get you fired or otherwise punished.

The new Boeing culture has "change[d] from absence forgiveness to personal preparedness," according to the new policy. This includes "starting your commute at least an hour earlier." That means many of us on day shift will have to get up

around 3 AM or earlier.

Even if the schools are closed and you have to take care of your children, that still is no excuse. If you don't have vacation days left, disciplinary action will follow.

Communism Will Be Different

Since communist production will not be driven by profit, such a policy would be unthinkable. Communist production is organized around cooperative social relations. We produce for our collective need.

This goal will put workers' safety upfront. It will also prioritize safety of the communities where we live. If most of the 80,000 Boeing workers couldn't make it to the plants, they would organize to help those in need throughout the Puget Sound area.

At least half dozen died because of the snowstorms. Most were homeless. Nobody will be living on the streets in communism. There will be no rent or mortgages. Everybody will have the shelter we need. Aerospace workers can help with that, too.

A comrade argued for this communist solution in his carpool as it spent hours on the road. For example, Microsoft had a recent publicity event to brag about its \$500 million contribution to "af-

fordable housing." In truth, they are making loans to developers. These developers will build housing that only well-paid Microsoft employees can afford. Building housing for need, not profit, is the only way to solve the housing crisis.

After the snow melted, the company changed course. Workers could get excused (though unpaid) absences for seven days of the most intense snow. On some of these days, almost 75% of the workforce didn't show up anyway.

Workers were still angry. "What good does that do now?" asked one machinist before a crew meeting. "They [Boeing Management] have already forced us to risk our lives over a damn part."

But that wasn't the end of it. Some supervisors demanded that workers fill out a long form justifying their absence. We understood that this was just another coordinated attempt to intimidate us. Whole crews refused to fill it out. Their intimidation campaign has failed for now.

Eighty thousand Boeing workers could do a lot of good, especially in these emergency situations. Instead, we are forced to spend our time fighting just to survive. Communism will unleash a powerful collective force that can literally save lives.



demonize immigrants.

The bosses haven't let up with their xenophobic misinformation. Self-critically, our party and friends haven't been working every day to counter this fascist propaganda with communist ideas. This opens the door to confusion.

We were able to make up for this lapse. Other friends and comrades had long conversations exposing racist and xenophobic lies yet again.

For example, some insisted that citizens' taxes

were being used to support immigrants. We pointed out that the biggest company in Seattle, Amazon, paid zero taxes on \$11 billion in profits last year. The solution was to end the tyranny of corporations with communist revolution, not to blame other workers.

We learned a valuable lesson: the fight to bring communist solutions upfront must be consistent and timely.

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stumbling block to recruiting more Party members.

Our comrade took the friend's encouragement to heart. He expanded the discussion in his area of the plant.

Many workers were confused about the idea of a crisis at the border. Some of these workers had been in discussions before about how the bosses

Changing the Debate Around Community College Reform:

WE NEED COMMUNIST EDUCATION FOR CLASSLESS SOCIETY

CALIFORNIA, USA —“The college president sees students only in terms of how much money they might bring in,” a counselor accused. “He doesn’t even think about how to use the money to help them succeed.”

Everything in capitalism is about “money.” But we don’t think enough about how different education can and should be.

For example: under a new “funding formula,” California community colleges will get state money based (in part) on how many students get degrees. What are “degrees” really? Why must students take a seemingly random bunch of classes to get one?

A little history lesson...

In medieval Europe, degrees were steps for young men who were training as clergy. As priests, they would spread the ideology that helped the landowning nobility maintain its brutally exploitative social order (feudalism). The church was central to that ruling class.

The rising capitalist class mobilized masses to overthrow feudalism. Then it adapted the academic system to meet its own needs. After the French Revolution of 1789, the new government took control of the Université de France away from the Catholic church. Now it would spread bourgeois ideology – still to keep the masses oppressed.

The French capitalists also extended scientific and technical training for civilian and military engineers. Those with degrees served the new capitalist state – or helped capitalists profit.

In the 19th century US, most colleges trained young men as ministers. They spread religious ideology to support the capitalist social order – including slavery. A few elite colleges granted “degrees” to sons of the ruling class to identify

them as future rulers.

After the Civil War, US industrial capitalism grew rapidly. It established government-run “land-grant” colleges on land stolen from indigenous people. These trained the agricultural scientists and industrial engineers it needed to rise as a world power.

The number of college degrees skyrocketed. Some certified technical competence. Many were tickets to government jobs in teaching, law enforcement, social work and other professions that help the rulers control the masses. College degrees served to divide the working class by assigning some a social status higher than the rest.

...And some thoughts for the future

Will communist society offer degrees? No. Our classless society will not use schooling to create social distinctions. We will all participate in making and carrying out decisions, so nobody will be anointed as a “ruler.”

Much communist education will revolve around productive work. Everyone will be able to develop technical skills in one or many fields. “Professions” like science, medicine, engineering and teaching will be absorbed into workers’ collectives. Communism won’t need lawyers – or clergy – or degrees.

Communist education will also deepen our collective understanding of history, philosophy and other aspects of culture. This will help develop communist social relations. No degrees needed!

“The first universities were collections of student-run residential colleges,” commented a friend. “I wonder if there is a connection between student-run versus state-run institutions and how that might impact capitalist pursuits.”

In communism, everyone will work and learn

throughout their lives. Each of us will be a worker, a student, and a teacher. Together we will figure out forms for all social institutions – and end all capitalist pursuits. No money involved in education or anything else!

Restructured Community Colleges: Reform, Reaction or Revolution

Community colleges are closely tied to the job market. They absorb the “reserve army of the unemployed” during recessions. (“Don’t rebel, get a degree.”)

One way they help the capitalists’ bottom-line is by having students and/or workers’ taxes pay for job training. (Capitalists used to pay workers to learn “on the job.”) Increasingly, community college programs like “Guided Pathways” steer students directly into employers’ arms.

Some teachers like this: “We want students to get degrees quickly that will lead to a job.” Others are appalled at a wave of new corporate-driven policies imposed by the California State Legislature (controlled by Democrats). They don’t want students treated as commodities processed on an assembly line.

It’s not easy to move the discussion away from this reformist debate. When teachers and students don’t see the working class as a potentially revolutionary force, communist politics may seem interesting but not especially relevant.

Increasing the circulation of *Red Flag* will help to show that’s wrong. This paper describes the class struggle raging worldwide. It shows that the masses in motion are responding to communist ideas. Communist revolution is the only way to begin to create the education – and everything else – that the working class needs.



West Virginia, USA

TEACHERS ON STRIKE

Los Angeles, CA, USA



Denver, CO, USA

Feb. 20, USA—As we go to press, teachers in Oakland, CA are preparing to go on strike in the morning. They are demanding more nurses and support staff and higher pay to keep experienced teachers. They are fighting school closures and privatization. These demands reflect the crisis in the public schools after two decades of “school reform.”

Teachers in Denver, CO, just ended a three-day strike. Their key demand was an end to test-based “merit pay”—an item on the “school reform” agenda.

Teachers in West Virginia struck this week against charter schools and tax-supported tuition vouchers for private schools.

Teachers in Los Angeles, CA struck for six days in January against the charter schools’ gutting of public schools and for smaller classes. This is part of a growing movement of angry teachers who have seen school reform in all its forms attack the public schools.

ICWP supports the teachers on these picket lines. But we critique public education as a capitalist institution that channels working-class students into wage slavery, exploitation, and the military. For the education students need, we fight for a communist society without money, wages or exploitation.

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

South Africa: On-Going State Capture Commission

Capitalist institutions are there to serve the ruling class but not the poor working class. During the last years of the rule of the former president of South Africa (Jacob Zuma), he was forced by the public to release a report compiled by the former public protector Thuli Madonsela on state capture. The findings of the former public protector focused on corruption of the Gupta family which suggested that they have captured the state.

The Gupta family owns a business empire spanning computer equipment, media and mining, and has been the focus of a widespread corruption scandal because of its close ties to Jacob Zuma during his Presidency.

What is the state or what makes a state?

Amongst other elements that make a state, the most important ones are the judiciary (which includes the judges), the legislature (which includes the parliament), the executive (which includes the government officials), and the army and police.

Following the former president's forced resignation, the current president (Cyril Ramaphosa) appointed Judge Zondo to chair the state capture commission. At the beginning of the commission, it looked like everything pointed to the corruption of the Guptas. One of the government officials even stated that the Guptas offered him a R600 million bribe which he said he rejected.

A few weeks ago, a commission that was to

focus on the Guptas and the former president took a turn.

Bosasa is a group of companies on the West Rand of Johannesburg that have scored a number of major tenders with the government. Its former Chief Operating Officer Angelo Agrizzi came to the Commission with information that did not focus on the Guptas, but that pointed instead to an almost endless list of government officials, Advocates, and other individuals who Agrizzi said have benefitted in the corruption. Bosasa got contracts by bribing government officials. He even provided video evidence of the Chief Operating Officer (Gavin Watson) of Bosasa in a walk-in vault packing money which they gave to the recipients of the bribes.

Unlike in the current system (Capitalism), in a Communist society we will do away with money which is the fundamental basis of the problems that the working class is subjected to by the ruling class. There will be an on-going ideological struggle to fight and defeat individualist tendencies that lead to greed and corruption.

There will be no government as this leads into a formation of another class that rules over the working class. There will be leaders who understand that they are part of the collective, not leaders who will enjoy special privileges.

Everyone will contribute in the society according to his/her ability and commitment and in return receive according to commitment and

needs. We will produce for the use value and not the exchange value. We will build a world that meets the needs of the masses, not to line the pockets of the capitalists.

—Comrade in South Africa



Don't Vote—Mobilize for Communism!

Over the weekend I was with my fellow comrade and friend. I was in his campus deep in the Central Business District of Cape Town.

I had a very interesting conversation with one of the students who lives at his residence.

Our conversation started by just talking about this election "fever" around the country. He was asking me which party am I going to vote for.

Well, I told him that I'm not going to vote because all of them do not represent my interests. Rather they represent the interests of the capitalist class and they are not interested in abolishing the system that exploits the masses.

To my surprise he was excited to hear all of that because he told me that he agrees with quite a lot of what I said, even though he thought he was going to vote for the Economic Freedom Fighters (a Socialist party) because he thinks in the present moment they fight for workers and students.

That's when our conversation started to go deeper. I told him I was a communist and part of the International Communist Workers' Party, in which we mobilize the masses to fight for communism directly. Communism being a classless society where we produce for what we need according to our abilities.

We reject reform and Socialism because we've learnt from history that it does not lead to full emancipation of the working class. It replaces the old capitalist ruling class with new ones while it maintains exploitation and the material basis for capitalism, which is money.

He said, "That is good. I would like to join and know more." But he also he has more questions.

For us it's a good development because our intention is to grow a collective in Cape Town. We have two existing members there and with the prospect of adding another two it means that we can start having regular collective meetings and start mobilizing more.

—A Comrade in South Africa

New Comrade Wants the Solution and the Truth

I am a new member of ICWP here in Port Elizabeth. A comrade mentioned that we new comrades should write down the reasons for joining the party. There is only one reason: it is the solution to the capitalist system because the system is the problem that needs to be solved.

I joined ICWP because I want to be a part of the people who want the solution. This system has destroyed our society mentally and physically. The solution for this capitalist system is to visit the working class and youth of the society so that we can brief them about the party as my comrades did with us.

The youth are struggling to get an Education in order to build a better future for all and they are unemployed because the bosses want to make a profit. The system has existed for many years now but we as people accept it because we lack the knowledge of the game of the system, to be able to see the wrongs of the capitalist system.

The mass party ICWP will contribute growth in the society. The South Africa working class and the youth need to know the truth. That's why I joined ICWP. I want the solution and the truth.

—Youth in South Africa

A Society Where People Don't Need Money to Live

Last week Comrade Z said to us new comrades that he would like us to write down "why we have joined the Party." So I'm writing because I am willing to share my thoughts of why I have joined the Party. It is because I have seen some terrible things happen around the world, through the TV, newspapers, etc.

Since I have friends who are al-

ready in the Party, I have asked them what this party is about. Then they have explained to me clearly and I was satisfied.

I have learned some few things about the party: that it is against "Capitalists like big business exploiting workers. It seeks to provide a society where people don't need money to live, where they just live freely." That's how a friend of mine explained it to me.

It sounds good to me and it helps the society to be open minded too because these things do happen around the world. So many black and white people have faced those kinds of issues of exploitation. So that is why I have joined the International Communist Workers' Party.

—New Comrade Moe in South Africa



LOS ANGELES, US, February 2—Comrades took Red Flag to one-year anniversary protest against racist police murder of teenager A.J. Weber.

El Salvador: Students Discuss Elections and Violent Revolution

"I read the article, my friend," said a university student. He was talking about the **Red Flag** article "Elections: An Illusory Trap." "It seems to me to be very much to the point about the politics and all those tricks that capitalism uses to sell us an idea of democracy."

I said that I believed that although people don't openly and directly talk about the idea of changing economic and social systems, they have the need and ideal of change. That's a sign that we can invite the working class to join the communist movement.

I said that only mass, collective popular and long term organization can generate real changes in the workers' way of life. Only the working class can save the working class.

He responded with a phrase that reminded me of the recent international meeting: "People do not question because they are afraid of questioning." During the international meeting, some words from the novel "The Hands of God" came to my mind. The author says: "You

have to ask the people (the farmworker and the city worker) their opinion, what they think, so that they lose their fear of their executioners (the bourgeoisie)."

It's normal to feel frustrated when we see that our friends at work or family members don't organize protest actions like a strike, or become active in a workers' movement. But that's part of uneven development. We need to look for opportunities for discussions of the political situation of any country and the worldwide economic situation that results from capitalist free market policies.

At the end of our conversation the student talked about the civil war and the massive protests of the organized working class in El Salvador from the 1970s through 1990. He said that if that history were repeated, it would be a vicious circle where the masses are the ones who get killed in the end.

In view of this, I stressed the need for sweeping and basic changes through vio-

lence. The history of humanity shows us that men and women have changed and eliminated economic systems through mass mobilization and violence.

That's how capitalism was born. The bourgeoisie took advantage of the revolutionary potential of masses of men and women and put itself at the head of the revolutionary process that put an end to the feudal system. They condemned the newly-born working class and the peasantry to wage slavery.

The communist movement organized in the International Communist Workers' Party is now fighting to end that wage slavery.

I invited him to read the ICWP pamphlet on dialectics, specifically the Law of the Negation of the Negation. That way we can delve deeper into the discussion about the history of class struggle and the illusion of "vicious circles."

—Red Student



EL PASO (USA), February 6: El Paso, TX, 2/6— March and rally of ten thousand organized by groups that have been aiding immigrants for years. Democratic Party politician Beto O'Rourke stole the spotlight. He betrayed the demonstrators when he justified immigration as a way to fill the ranks of the U.S. imperialist armed forces. Soldiers and workers, native-born and immigrant, must unite to defeat imperialism with communist revolution.

New Immigrant Caravan Stuck in Panama

On the border between Colombia and Panama there is a new caravan of migrants. It is composed of 600 Cubans, 120 Haitians and others from Africa, en route to the United States. Once again capitalism shows its growing crisis that affects our class brothers and sisters.

In Cuba, Haiti and many other countries in the world there is high unemployment. Thousands of young people find no motivation in low-paid jobs offered by governments and bosses in the agricultural and industrial areas. Therefore, like others in Europe, Africa, Asia, and America, they look for a place where they can survive.

With the cry of "We want to pass," pregnant women, children, young and elderly men, ask to be allowed to cross the Panamanian border

and continue their journey north.

Many embark on their hard journey passing through Colombian territories occupied by drug traffickers and smugglers. These criminals were previously part of a paramilitary group financed by the US Company Chiquita Brands. This journey, with hunger, thirst, diseases, over mountains and trails puts their lives in danger. But because of their hope for a better life, these obstacles don't stop them.

The government of ex-President Obama in 2017 eliminated the "wet feet, dry feet" law, which allowed those who arrived from Cuba by sea to be admitted as refugees when they set foot in the United States. Now many Cubans have had to travel to South America and Guyana, and from there try to travel to the USA. This caravan follows the model of the Central American caravans.

Although the government of Panama seems

very humanitarian with the shipment of food and other aid, the truth is that it will not easily allow the passage of these migrants. That's because of their dependence on business with the Trump government. The racism and patriotism of the Panamanian government has been one more attack on these workers.

In communism there will be no borders imposed by governments that protect the bosses' profits within a territory. Much less will there be employers (bosses) and employees (wage slaves) because the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), together with the masses, will not allow any form of exploitation.

We workers organized in the ICWP will make sure that there are no oppressors of other workers. For a world without borders, or wage slavery, participate with the ICWP.

—Immigrant Communist in the US

Studying Dialectical Materialism

The MTA (Public Transport) workers' collective in Los Angeles, in the most recent study group with six workers, discussed the differences between dialectical materialism and idealist philosophies.

For some it was the first time hearing this kind of discussion. After a short presentation about these philosophies, a worker said, "I had never thought that philosophy was so important in daily life and in the struggle."

"Until today I have been an idealist, but I also need to learn dialectical materialism," said a new Party member.

We pointed out the importance for the working class in understanding these antagonistic philosophies. We said that it is vitally important that the revolutionary communist movement put the ideas of dialectical materialism into practice in the daily ideological struggle.

This struggle can help us with the mass distribution of our *Red Flag* newspaper. This will

give us all confidence in the ideas and the fight for communism.

Then we concentrated on studying the Unity and Struggle of Opposites (contradiction), with some examples from the pamphlet. We talked about the contradiction between the two teams in a basketball game. Some of those at the meeting play basketball. One of them said, "I hadn't thought about it that way. It makes sense."

We also discussed the sharp contradiction between workers and bosses. The workers liked and were impressed with this.

As Lenin said, "Without revolutionary theory, there can be no revolutionary movement." And this great truth is seen in all those reformist or pseudo-revolutionary movements that, because of opportunism and political ignorance, denied the crucial need to study dialectical materialism and put it into practice. And today we see how these movements

crumble like sandcastles.

A weapon and a brave heart are not enough to take and hold power. It is essential that the party as a whole put the ideas of dialectical materialism into practice. At first perhaps mechanically, but with practice they will become an intrinsic part of our revolutionary understanding.

During the reading of our Party's (ICWP) dialectics pamphlet before the dialecticals study group, we observed that the philosophical exposition lacks a more detailed explanation of the struggle between materialism and idealism. We think it should be added to the pamphlet.

We agreed to continue studying the different laws of dialectical materialism for our development as communists and to fight in the best way for the construction of a communist society.

—Comrades in MTA, Los Angeles, USA



Using Dialectical Materialism to Help People Understand Personal Change

My work is to help people meet goals of sobriety and recovery. I believe that most of my success with the people has to do with my understanding of dialectical materialism. I also believe that when I teach them to look at a process using dialectical materialism, they will also be better equipped to analyze the world around them.

Dialectical materialism is the scientific study of how things change, but it is simply a tool. As most tools they are useless without applying/using them to/for something. In talking to people about how to get to their goal, we start to break down the process into something less daunting. We examine what the forces are at work, in other words, what is keeping the problem in place and what is pushing for change. This is the unity and conflict of opposites. These forces are united in struggle, but are also in conflict with each other.

We talk about ways to strengthen the "side" they want to win. If they want "recovery" to win then they'll need to develop a plan for how to do things to support their recovery daily. They will also need to do less of the things that keep

the problem in their lives. Eventually, this could lead to a qualitative change.

For example, I might teach them a new coping skill such as meditation. I emphasize how learning something new is also a process. Learning how to ride a bike is a similar, but different. You can't learn to ride a bike by having it simply described, you must physically get on the bike and through practice master the art of balancing on the bike. Quantity leads to qualitative changes. To facilitate learning we practice on "easy street," but eventually we get better and some may even learn to ride going downhill on mountains!

Initially meditation is easier to learn with guidance or by practicing in areas with very little to no distractions. However, one can eventually achieve a relaxed state even after being triggered by something that in the past could have led them to a relapse. Lastly, it is also important for them to know that despite relapses they do not suddenly forget all that has been learned. This is negation of the negation. Learning to remain sober long term requires a series of processes and each will build on the last. While some skills will start to become natural and new automatic responses develop, there will also be new learning and new challenges.

—Comrade social worker

Capitalism forces people from their homes

Emigration, whether it's forced by starvation or near starvation, civil war or gang violence, is the dominant experience in today's world. Whether it's from village to city or across borders, conditions of modern life force millions to

migrate.

It has been like this since industrialization and capitalism opened the slave trade in the 16th century. The heroic Haitian Revolution signaled the beginning of the end to the worst aspects of this exploitation. But capitalist relations of production survived and developed.

By the dawn of the 20th century, monopoly capitalism conscripted and massed armies on all the fronts of the First World War. It took a different form, but it was the same practice. It uprooted, assembled and concentrated a mass of young men. Instead of chained in a plantation they now faced the mud of "no man's land."

The heroic Bolshevik revolution, helped by the soldiers and sailors turning their guns around, halted the slaughter of millions but its socialism only modified the dominant capitalist relations of production.

Later, as capitalist crisis surfaced once more, concentration camps around the world followed the pattern of the same continuous practice. And from the unthinkable death and destruction, a mass revolutionary peasant army emerged triumphant in China. Unfortunately it too, following the example of the Bolsheviks, only set out to modify, not obliterate, the capitalist relations of production.

—Comrade living outside his country of birth



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Crisis in Philippines Reflects Inter-Imperialist Conflicts

WORKERS IN THE PHILIPPINES NEED COMMUNISM

SANTA MONICA (US), February 16— “All the bosses—in China, the US and the Philippines—are the enemy of the workers. We do not demand that our enemy respect our human rights. We organize to get rid of them, and to build a system based on human need.”

A comrade said this at a recent church meeting about an international campaign for human rights in the Philippines. The organizers had provided postcards to send to Congress, urging a cut-off of US funding to the Philippines military. Our comrades engaged in fruitful and wide-ranging discussions and exchanged contact information with two young activists.

Growing Resistance to Fascism

The ongoing crisis in the Philippines means that the masses can no longer live in the old way.

Mass unemployment and economic hardship drive an estimated 10% of Filipinos to work overseas. This includes a million in Saudi Arabia, hundreds of thousands elsewhere in the Middle East, 2.3 million in the US. A million of them are undocumented.

The Philippine government has encouraged this migration for forty years. The goal of this policy is partly for the money migrant workers send home and partly to avoid unrest.

Meanwhile drug dealers and gangs attack the poorest communities. The government’s response has been brutal official and semi-official murder. President Duterte came to office in July 2016 promising to kill drug dealers. Since then more than 23,000 people have been murdered in his “drug war.”

Duterte has responded to mass protests against his death squads with continued repression. At least 540 people are jailed as political prisoners.

At the same time, guerrillas are organizing in the southern island of Mindanao. Martial law was declared in the fall of 2017. More than 400,000 residents were forcibly evacuated. The National Democratic Front of the Philippines hopes for peace talks with the government, but peace consultant Randy Malayao was murdered in January in an obvious attempt to intimidate and crush all resistance.

Trump has called the Philippines the “most prime piece of real estate from a military standpoint.”

Spain colonized the Philippine Islands in the 1500s. Four hundred years later, Spain was a declining power and the US was on the rise. In the



Youth in the Philippines protest Duterte’s move to lower the age of criminal responsibility from 15 to 9 years old.

Spanish-American War (1898) the US defeated both Spain and an insurgent independence movement. It seized the Philippines as a US colony.

US politicians at the time referred to the Philippines’ strategic position near China and its rich potential for agriculture, raw materials and minerals.

The Philippines were occupied by Japan during World War II. A Communist-led resistance movement, the Hukbalahap, fought the Japanese. It continued the struggle against US colonialism after the war. The US granted the Philippines independence in 1947 and signed a Cold War-era Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippine government in 1951. It continued to support the government’s fight against the Huks.

Now the US is a declining power, facing a rising rival China. This competition is especially sharp in the South China Sea. Recently China attempted to block Philippine efforts to repair strategic facilities on Thitu Island, an island there claimed by the Philippines. These repairs are financed by hundreds of millions in US aid.

On the other hand, there is evidence that Duterte’s government is hedging its bets. One example is that the Philippine Defense Secretary called in December 2018 for a review of the 1951 treaty. Another is Duterte’s 2016 trip to China, where he was promised \$24 billion in aid and

business deals.

As the comrade said, all bosses are the enemy of the workers. And as a party leaflet distributed at this event concluded:

As both sides increase their military preparations, the Philippines, because of its strategic location, will inevitably be drawn into the conflict. Capitalism is a dog-eat-dog system where rival imperialists constantly compete for markets, resources and labor to maximize their profits. This inevitably leads to crises, wars and world war.

As they move towards war, they increasingly attack the masses. At the same time, they promote patriotism to try to win us to kill and die for their empire and their profits.

The war we need is to get rid of capitalism and build communism—a system based not on mass murder for the profits of a few, but on the unity of workers to produce collectively to meet our needs. A world without money, markets, profits or competition. A communist world where we live mutually as one global family will eliminate all wars.

Working people in the Philippines, in China and in the US, all have the same need—to end this murderous system. Join the International Communist Workers’ Party to fight for that world!



Coming soon:
**FIGHT FOR THE DAY
 WHEN NO WORKER WILL BE
 CALLED FOREIGNER**

—a new pamphlet by the International
 Communist Workers’ Party