

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Honduras

NATIONWIDE STRIKES SHOW POTENTIAL TO BUILD COMMUNIST COLLECTIVES

June 3—The 5,300 workers of the Honduran Institute of Social Security throughout the country are joining the nationwide strike by thousands of healthcare workers and teachers against the privatization of healthcare and schools. This is part of the struggle against the bosses' system and their servants like Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez. Public sector workers have been marching for weeks.

Roads and public buildings were occupied. Members of the Social Security Workers' union took over the facilities. University students occupied the Francisco Morazán National Pedagogical University and buildings of the National Autonomous University of Honduras.

The Platform in Defense of Education and Health ignored the repeal announced by the president of Honduras of the decrees related to the cuts in services of the respective unions. The president of the Medical College of Honduras said that the repeal of the decrees in health and education "is a new trick."

As the days go by, the number of health and education workers grows at rallies in Tegucigalpa and other parts of the country, giving leadership to the masses in motion.

Friends *Red Flag* readers and members of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) in this country and neighboring countries must undertake the task of sharpening the organizational struggle to fight these imperialist servants.

This government represents the Honduran bourgeoisie and the US empire, which has two military bases and plans for another. They intend to use these to suppress the discontent of the working class against the crisis of capitalism and its imperialist rivals like Russia and China.

These bosses have plunged the working class

See [HONDURAS POTENTIAL](#), page 3

"PUBLIC HEALTH IS NOT FOR SALE WE MUST DEFEND IT"



India:

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN DEFEAT MODI AND HIS FASCISTS WHO SERVE ROTTEN CAPITALISM

June 3—"Our fight to build the International Communist Workers' Party has begun in earnest. Only communism can defeat Modi and his fascists who are serving dying capitalism," said a young, enthusiastic member of ICWP. He was undeterred by the electoral victory of Modi's fascist BJP. Our relatively new ICWP in India struck a defiant tone when some of our base felt dejected by the consolidation of fascists in the election.

In one of the most racist anti-Muslim, anti-Dalit campaigns lasting several months, BJP and its paramilitary organizations whipped up ultra-nationalism. Since their electoral victory, hundreds of cases of fascist mobs killing and raping Muslims and Dalits have been registered. Nearly 40% of the members of Modi's new cabinet of ministers have serious charges of violent hate crimes and gang rapes.

This electoral victory of vile fascists in India should not come as a surprise. Elections are conducted so the dominant capitalists can put their

own politicians in power. The fascist BJP was already chosen by India's top five multinationals including Tata and Reliance Corporation. The so-called inclusive opposition by Congress and other fake left parties offered no real alternative to capitalism and its brutality.

Many workers and students feel powerless in the face of continuing mass violence and five more years of the BJP. Modi's party outspent the opposition tenfold to register its victory. Some of our friends in our base who like our ideas are affected by the massive media propaganda about how Modi's party will rule for another 100 years.

ICWP is launching an ideological offensive with the aim of violently confronting fascism by building a mass base for communism. We explain that in capitalism workers and capitalists have opposite interests. The fascist electoral victory has given the appearance of unity between the capitalist bosses and workers. It is both

See [INDIA](#), page 4

INSIDE:

- * SOUTH AFRICA: COMMUNIST SOCIAL RELATIONS** **PAGE 2**
- * 5G WIFI—THE NEW ARMS RACE** **PAGE 5**
- * POPULAR UPRISING IN SUDAN** **PAGE 5**
- * SEXISM, RELIGION & FASCISM** **PAGE 8**

BUILDING COMMUNIST RELATIONS AND FIGHTING SEXISM
TO ADVANCE THE PARTY

What are communist social relations and why are they crucial? This report helps us start to answer these questions.

We look forward to a communist society where all production and distribution will take place without money or markets, wages or profits. We will depend on each other to produce what we need based on commitment to the common good. Nobody will live better or worse than anyone else. Nobody will be able to exploit or oppress anyone else. That is, the world will function, in every way, on the basis of communist social relations.

The report from South Africa suggests how the steps we take today can build an international party that will become capable of winning communist revolution and building communist society.

SOUTH AFRICA, June 2 — Our collective is growing. Its composition has changed. We now have seven industrial workers who have taken **Red Flag** regularly into their workplaces. They are putting the party’s line into practice.

We’ve made significant progress on recruiting female comrades. Six months ago, the comrades were all males. We needed the balance and perspective of active female comrades so they can give leadership to the organization. Now there are seven female comrades.

We needed to be self-critical and analyze our past work. We relied too much on technology (being on WhatsApp). We forgot what is important is relationships, interactions, visiting contacts.

Some comrades joined but then stopped being active. We needed to deepen the communist struggle and build communist relations with them. This relationship is needed so that when you struggle with people, they know it’s not a personal attack. It’s not out of spite or anger but because we know that they can do better.

We carry out the struggle in a comradely way. As the ties become deeper, the level of political struggle and the understanding of the line become deeper.

We had some female comrades before but we were lax. If someone didn’t come to the meeting, we would lose interest. We had to change a lot of things.

Sometimes it may seem that you are doing this for some other reason—personal gain or trying to “hit” on someone. We have to approach it delicately so that they know that when we want to meet with someone it’s about the political work.

We want to deepen the personal relationships so that they are able to withstand the political struggle. This is a game changer.

The recruitment of female comrades has energized the collective. Comrades have been struggling with each other and with new comrades. That has had a positive effect on recruiting and keeping the new comrades active.

We need to be more observant during and after meetings. In the past we invited female comrades to meetings to talk about communism. Then after the meetings, the guys would go outside to chat

and some female comrades would talk on the side. We needed to come up with ways to interact more and not isolate each other.

A few weeks ago, there was a meeting, then lunch. Some female comrades offered to wash the dishes. Some male comrades were outside chatting and not paying attention to this conversation inside about the dishes.

One male comrade was inside. He offered to wash the dishes and the women would rinse and put them away. This gave us more time to talk about some of the ideas that were still new to them. Now the conversation was more personal. Even the comrades themselves alluded to this example when sharing their experience in the party.

When we talk about fighting sexism we can’t simply talk. We need to show more. People actually believe by seeing.

We can’t talk about fighting sexism and at the same time believe that a woman’s place should be in the kitchen. We can’t just eat, put the bowl in the sink, and assume that there are people who are going to clean it for us.

We need to be mindful. Maybe sometimes we are not conscious in what we’re doing. We need to pay more attention to these details because they can either build the organization or they can destroy it. What we do counts and what we don’t do is important because it can impact negatively on the collective.

Another Breakthrough

We met M in a college. He liked communist ideas. He didn’t live far. He came to some meetings. When we asked him, he committed to join the party.

Then we had a dinner about a month before May Day. M invited a friend. She didn’t come, but the two friends she invited came. We talked.

They liked the ideas and decided to come the following week. They also brought the friend who hadn’t come the first time. **Red Flag** was key in this process.

This led to more people coming to the May Day Dinner. Since we knew there would be more people, we had a sit down, where we prepared for the dinner and also ate ice cream. This setting helped us answer people’s questions. We stayed up all night talking and playing games.

This deepened the communist relations. New comrades started to feel comfortable around the other comrades. They talked more in the meetings. In the past, sometimes people didn’t talk until three months after they started attending. This sped up the process. They started inviting their friends.

Deepening communist relations, changing our approach, made a major difference. Now these comrades are actively recruiting for the party, actively distributing the **Red Flag**. One of the new female comrades has already brought three of her comrades to the party.

She also put more urgency into the collective because she proposed we have to be out there more, talking to people, not just sit in meetings, but actively recruit.

There are other comrades who actively distributed **Red Flag** on May Day. Now they are distributing it in their schools, universities and work places. One comrade took the **Red Flag** to work and some of her friends were asking about it. Now she’s giving it to them on a regular basis.

We need to reflect more deeply on this development. Not to pat ourselves on the back, but to learn more deeply from our successes as well as our failures. This will help grow the party.



South Africa, May Day 2019

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MASSSES IN MOTION AGAINST FASCIST CAPITALISM:
FERTILE GROUND FOR REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM

“They tried to bury us. They didn’t know we were seeds.” — Mexican proverb

Mass political strikes and protests in Argentina, Brazil, Honduras and elsewhere are proving that the capitalist rulers’ repression can’t stop the class struggle.

But class struggle for reforms can’t stop capitalism’s increasingly vicious attacks on the working class. Only communist revolution can do that.

Argentina: A general strike on May 29 stopped planes, buses and trains and shut down the main grain ports. It closed banks, courts, schools, and non-emergency hospital services.

Unions were protesting mass firings and cuts to subsidies that jacked up the cost of transportation and utilities. President Macri’s pro-capitalist policies have shrunk workers’ pocketbooks with sky-high inflation.

Brazil: Thousands of favela residents and supporters rallied in Rio de Janeiro on May 26 to demand “Parem de nos matar” – stop killing us! They are defying President Bolsonaro and the racist police he unleashed to shoot up favelas (mostly-black neighborhoods). They also defied mass fascist rallies of Bolsonaro supporters.

Ten days earlier, students and teachers from hundreds of universities and high schools went on a nationwide strike against major government budget cuts.

Honduras: Tens of thousands have marched against the privatization of education and public health services. On April 30 the Honduran police attacked striking teachers, doctors and students in the streets of Tegucigalpa. Strikers were threatened with mass dismissals. But the protests continued and grew.

On June 4, President Juan Orlando Hernandez



revoked the privatization decrees. And still the protests continue.

Capitalism worldwide is in a crisis created by its very nature. It is driven by a need to maximize profits to attract capital investment. That means driving down labor costs by mechanization and repression. But mechanization decreases the rate of profit. Poverty and repression – sooner or later – spur the masses into revolt.

They try to bury us. But we are seeds.

We need to be seeds of communist revolution.

Communism will liberate us from the tyranny of wage-slavery. No longer will we have to sell ourselves by the hour in order to buy bare subsistence housing, food and other necessities.

Communism will liberate us from the violent

capitalist dictatorship. No more racist police and fascist militaries to terrorize our most oppressed and militant class sisters and brothers.

Communism will end the division between “mental” and “manual” labor that arose with class society, and the schools and universities that perpetuate it.

Communism will bring direct mass participation in making the decisions that affect our common lives. No more elections that (at best) allow us to choose which capitalists will rule over us.

Masses around the world are in a fight for our lives. Many are bravely giving their all to the struggle. Let this be the fight of our lives: the fight for the communist world we need.

HONDURAS POTENTIAL from page 1

We must never forget that in capitalism everything is a commodity, from health to social relations. The initial and final objective is to generate profits.

No group of bosses, no matter how liberal they may seem, is fighting for our class. All obey the dictates of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The liberal bosses have not been able to move this rotten system forward. They only see ways to make more profits.

Police brutality does not stop the workers’ struggles. The determination, courage, and resistance of the working class in Honduras shows the potential for the masses to take up the alternative of replacing the capitalist system with a new system. This is an opportunity to continue the organizational and political work of the communist movement.

This working-class struggle in Honduras is not alone. It is supported by the organized labor movement throughout Latin America and the world.

Honduras today reminds us that within capitalism our basic human needs such as water, health and education will always be subordinated to the needs of capitalist production and profit.

We call on the workers of Honduras to organize for a long term and permanent struggle for a communist world. In communism, universal and quality education and health care will be based on the needs of the working class itself.

We invite you to write, read and distribute *Red Flag* to serve as a basis for the creation of new collectives.

We extend our communist solidarity and support to the health and education workers in Honduras. Their heroic actions and show a deep love and respect for the lives of their children, fami-

lies and friends. A struggle for education and health should be a struggle for communism, for humanity and the future of our international class.

Forward Comrades, for a society free of bosses!



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MEXICO IN THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS

The government of López Obrador (AMLO) carries banners with capitalist slogans like the internal market, sovereignty, the regulation of investment to prevent bribes. He promotes "acceptable" capitalism for the "population" by distributing crumbs to the workers. Some polls find approval of the government "among the population" to be over 80%.

There is little talk about how AMLO's way of governing fits into the dispute among imperialists.

The great powers are dividing up the world: the markets, the sources of raw materials and above all the workers' labor power. AMLO's government is involved in this fight. It tries not to declare itself openly on the Chinese-Russian side. However, it takes advantage of the dispute. It continues the policy of its predecessors: "public-private" investment, militarization of the country, austerity for the workers.

AMLO's detractors accuse him of scaring off foreign investment. The rating agencies (Ficht, Moody's, Standard & Poor's) attacked his plan to have Pemex build an oil refinery in Dos Bocas, Tabasco. He got away with it by first guaranteeing the debt repayment on the established terms.

The value of the peso continues fluctuating but has not returned to 20 per dollar.

Capitalism is still in control under AMLO's "fourth transformation." It's behind the controversial "Mayan train," a project to build a rail line run-

ning 1500 kilometers through southern Mexico. Coffee production is taken over by large corporations: "If they want the economy to grow by 4%, Nestlé, go!"

Foreign investment will be respected. It will have guarantees. The bourgeoisie in Mexico still does the major part of its business with U.S. capitalists. However, it continues to diversify its investors and business partners. European investment has grown faster than that of the U.S. capitalists. So has that of Asian capitalists: Japan, Korea and lately China. Huawei is one example.

European Union and U.S. capitalists are fighting over US sanctions on European companies

investing in Cuba. Mexican and other capitalists will surely fight for a larger share of the profit pie with their U.S. partners.

Carlos Slim himself (owner of América Móvil) will expand his business in the U.S. and in Cuba. Cemex, the Zambrano family's international cement company, may try again in Cuba if the threat of sanctions is overcome.

The workers gain nothing by supporting one or the other capitalist side. We need to free ourselves from all of them. We need to constitute ourselves as a class. Building the ICWP will be the process where we will forge the conditions of our emancipation.

There were 15 federal strikes in the first quarter of this year at factories, government institutions, supermarkets and universities. The Communist movement was not a factor in these struggles.

We have a long way to go to achieve the mobilization of the masses for Communism.

In our last meeting we saw the need for a strategy to achieve greater unity among active members, to study our line rigorously, and to recruit new members. All this to be able to better respond to the conditions generated by AMLO's government, the capitalist crisis, and the inter-imperialist rivalry in this part of the world.



May Day, 2019, Mexico City

Welcoming Contradictions and Struggle

"You are ahead of your time," said a new Red Flag reader, contacted during the recent May Day march.

"I like radical ideas and how you put communism at the forefront," he said. During the whole march, he proudly raised our red flag and talked a lot about his ideas with a comrade. Other friends of his also marched with our contingent.

"Why don't you support Nicolás Maduro and López Obrador?" was one of his initial questions, since both are considered by many as leftists and pro-worker. We explained that these are capitalists who promise some crumbs by

seeking workers' support for their own interests and that they are not interested in destroying capitalism but on the contrary in keeping it alive and well.

A few days later we invited him to a social / political activity: the celebration of Mother's Day. He arrived with two friends, who quickly adapted, enjoying the familiarity and camaraderie of those present. After delicious roasted cornish hens, some communist speeches, poems and songs to mothers, he asked for the floor to present his political position: "I am from Morena (Movements of National Renewal), and I support López Obrador. I think with him, they can give good changes. "Then he told us, "I would like you to come to our meetings with

your newspaper." The women he invited sang songs of protest and agreed to participate with the singing group of the ICWP.

A couple of comrades will continue this political relationship with these new friends. We see a good opportunity for struggle. We will continue inviting them to study groups and to other activities. At the same time we will try to participate in their meetings and take our newspaper to other workers.

Obviously there are contradictions and we welcome them. It is a struggle between communist and reformist ideas. But at the same time, it shows the potential to win these workers to become communist organizers.

—Comrade in Los Angeles

INDIA from page 1

temporary and dangerous.

The victory of the fascists also comes while India's economy, along with capitalism worldwide, is facing a crisis. Too many goods of all kinds are going unsold. Workers can't afford to buy them. More workers are laid off. Too many cars, too much food, too many houses, overflowing production of oil have created masses of unemployed, hungry, and homeless people. They are angry and they are looking for answers.

Our answer is communism. In communism there will be no production for profit. Nobody will benefit from the labor of the other. The entire society will be mobilized to produce for need.

Once the capitalist relationship of exploitation is destroyed, communist relationships among the working class will create a new foundation for building a society to fulfill the needs of everyone

This new material reality will unleash the true collective potential of the working class. New technologies, new languages and communist culture will leave nobody homeless, hungry and spending all their life working for profit.

Fascists will be violently eliminated. Millions of people joining the communist ICWP will actively struggle against racism and sexism. Religious practices of demeaning women and racism will not be allowed to continue.

Modi and his fascist gang are desperately trying to save Indian capitalists in crisis. But more im-

portantly, they see the escalating tension between US and Chinese imperialists as an opportunity to advance the interests of the Indian capitalists. This contradiction will force them to push more nationalism and more fascist violence to suppress the angry working class.

ICWP in India is planning a communist school to counter rising fascism. We are confident that our ideas are correct. The temporary unity between some workers and bosses in the form of fascism cannot be defeated by elections. Only a violent communist revolution will end the terror of capitalism. Our communist school will discuss how we can grow massively under the shadow of fascism.

US-China Imperialist Competition:
CONTROLLING 5G COULD MEAN CONTROLLING THE WORLD

“In the race to dominate the next generation of cellular networks both the US and China know there’s much more at stake than ultrafast internet. This is the new arms race.” (*New York Times*, Daily Podcast, Feb. 25).

This competition has become a crucial part of the escalating US-China trade war. The Trump administration has targeted the Chinese company Huawei, the second largest manufacturer of smartphones in the world. More important, Huawei is the largest manufacturer of the infrastructure required for 5G, the next generation of Wi-Fi technology. Huawei has 40% of the trademarks in the 5G technology compared to only 13% by US companies.

The Trump administration has barred Huawei from doing business in the US. It has also prohibited US high-tech companies from providing components and software to Huawei.

Huawei has a huge market share in Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia. It is in a commanding position to upgrade its existing global 4G networks to 5G. The US is far behind. It will be a decade before it can fully implement 5G.

Huawei’s chairman responded to the restriction on US firms from doing business with Huawei by admitting that it will be a short-term setback for the company. But he added, “In three years we will be at an advanced stage in technology where the US will never be able to catch up with us again.” These restrictions will also force the Chinese capitalists to manufacture state-of-the-art computer chips in China, a big blow to the US monopoly in this field.

The US lag in 5G technology is a serious blow to US capitalist interests globally. In a capitalist society, rival capitalists compete for profits by capturing larger markets. Their survival depends on their ability to maximize profit. One way they achieve this by using technological innovations to speed-up workers.

5G Wi-Fi will deliver data several hundred times faster than the existing 4G technology. It will have dramatic applications in everything from road transport, maritime shipping, public transit, healthcare, factory automation, autonomous cars, trains, airplanes and farm machinery.

cheaply and move them at a lightning-fast speed.

The Chinese lead in 5G will also produce next-generation high-tech products that will make it very difficult for today’s leaders like Intel, Google, Amazon and Apple to compete.

US imperialists are facing a critical dilemma. They are losing their technological ability to compete in the global markets with the Chinese and as a result they are losing their traditional allies.

The Trump supporter Lou Dobbs said, “We have met an enemy and that is Huawei.” The US is putting tremendous pressure on the Europeans not to implement 5G networks using the “enemy’s” technology. In response, the Chinese capitalists are enticing European businesses with more investments and improved market access.

If US bosses become completely isolated from the European and other rulers, they will have no choice but to go to war with China sooner rather than later. We must understand and explain to many others that preparations for imperialist world wars for profit have already begun.

This is our opportunity to win the masses for communism everywhere as the bosses relentlessly attack the working class. Some comrades of ICWP in Pakistan are in touch with Chinese workers. They are urging them to form *Red Flag* study groups and join ICWP.

Hundreds of millions of Chinese workers live in horrific conditions due to the Chinese bosses’ drive to outpace other imperialists. The intensification of US-China imperialist rivalry is creating havoc for the working class around the world. These workers can be won to communism. They will form a formidable revolutionary force to defeat all imperialists. Our urgent task of the day is to recruit more members to the International Communist Workers’ Party.



Drones equipped with 5G will be used in vast oil pipeline security and mineral exploration. Above all, 5G will be used in battlefield communications and command structure. All this will make the Chinese workers more productive and the Chinese army more lethal compared to the US.

Together with the vast Chinese global Belt and Road Initiatives, 5G technology will produce an enormous amount of Chinese goods more

Sudan:

FASCIST MASSACRE NEEDS REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST RESPONSE

June 5 – “My friend in Sudan asked me what the published death toll is currently (he has no access to internet due to the blackout),” posted an overseas Sudanese translator. “When I said 40 people he sighed and said, ‘That’s not even a quarter of the number of people killed.’”

Two days ago, militias of Sudan’s Transitional Military Council (TMC) opened fire on a months-long sit-in in front of Army headquarters in the capital, Khartoum. They burned tents, raped female doctors in the medical area, and dumped bodies into the Nile River.

Since then, troops have besieged Khartoum. The TMC shut down the Internet, trying to hide its crimes. Sudanese expats and supporters have held or planned solidarity rallies in Germany, Great Britain, Canada and elsewhere.

As we go to press, Sudanese trade unionists have announced that a general strike has brought Khartoum and all major cities and ports in Sudan to a standstill.

A millions-strong pro-democracy movement has rocked Sudan since December. It’s too soon to say whether the military crackdown will end it. What we do know is that nothing short of communist revolution can enable the masses to exercise real power over our lives.

Negotiations between Sudan’s liberal leaders and its military rulers broke down in May. A general strike on May 28-29 demanded a new majority-civilian ruling council.

General al-Burhan, head of the TMC, visited

the capitalist dictators of neighboring Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia. These butchers fear a resurgence of the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings. They green-lighted the military assault that started a few days later.

The Rapid Support Forces that led the murderous attack were formed out of the Janjaweed militias. They have carried out the genocide in Darfur. They have fought in the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. Yet they get material support from the European Union.

These same European leaders went to the UN Security Council on June 4. They wanted a resolution calling for an immediate end to the violent crackdown.

China and Russia blocked that resolution. Along with Egypt, UAE and Saudi Arabia, they are among Sudan’s leading trade partners.

The UN confrontation exposes the inter-imperialist conflict that lies just beneath the surface of the Sudan crisis.

Leading US imperialist voices – including the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* – are calling for a “democratic

transformation” of Sudan. They really want its transformation from a Chinese stronghold to a western one. That’s pretty unlikely.

Sharpening confrontation between competing imperialists creates a “real risk,” as the Soufan Group (international security consultancy) warns, that Sudan “could spiral into full-blown civil war, which would significantly affect the region.”

“We need urgently a return to the negotiating table,” said German Ambassador Christoph Heusgen yesterday. “Legitimacy cannot come from the barrel of a gun.”

But that’s always where real power – if not “legitimacy” – comes from. That’s why workers and soldiers in Sudan and everywhere must lead masses in armed struggle. We must destroy this bloody capitalist system. Democratic elections and civilian rule are not the answer.

Communism is.



Strike, Khartoum, Sudan, May 28, 2019

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



Ports Closed to War Ports Open to Migrants

Genoa, Italy, May 20—Italian dock workers walked off the job to prevent the loading of a deadly cargo of weapons onto the Saudi ship Bahri Yanbu.

They said they refused to be complicit in sending military equipment for use in the murderous war on Yemen.

They aren’t alone. Activists in Le Havre, France, and Santander, Spain, had previously blocked the Bahri Yanbu from taking on weapons.

The Saudi-led war on Yemen has caused at least 50,000 deaths since March, 2016, and pushed the country to the brink of the worst global famine in a century. Despite allegations of war crimes, Saudi Arabia continues to be supported militarily by Britain, France, and the United States.

Port workers in Genoa have a long history of solidarity. They were the first to block U.S. ships headed to Vietnam, and refused to allow war equipment to disembark for the 1973 Chile coup. They went out on strike in 2003 in refusal to load arms for the US invasion of Iraq.

But the action in Genoa was only a temporary victory. The arms were sent to the Italian military port of La Spezia, 100 kilometers east, where they were loaded by Italian sailors onto the Bahri Yanbu.

This strike shows militant class consciousness and potential—but to end murderous wars like that in Yemen we must organize workers and sailors/soldiers not just to boycott arms shipments, but to get rid of this entire murderous system.

737 MAX Tragedy Shows Need for Commism

Even in casual conversations amongst Boeing workers the topic of the 737 MAX pops up. Over a couple of glasses of beer, a comrade and an inspector discussed who was ultimately responsible for the tragic crashes and the subsequent grounding of the airplane. Even more importantly, how we could end these preventable deaths.

Over the last three months, dozens of experts—pilots, engineers and FAA inspectors—have reported how their warnings were ignored or how flaws in the aircraft design were hidden from them. Whenever an objection was raised, corporate bigwigs overrode them. “Isn’t that always the case,” said the inspector.

The inspector had good reason to feel this way. The company is eliminating 1000 inspector jobs, even as production increases and new, less-experienced workers are hired.

“Now that there is all this news about the 737 MAX, headquarters may delay the plan a little while, but you know they’ll go full steam ahead as soon as this furor dies down,” he gloomily predicted.

The bosses’ media is busy advocating reform of regulatory agencies like the FAA. But we agreed no regulatory agency can rein in the drive for profits.

Capitalist companies must compete in the marketplace. In this case, Corporate promoted the design of a fatally flawed plane to save \$10 billion in development costs and to catch up with the best-selling Airbus model.

Could this have been avoided by relying more on a circle of experts? Never! In this system the power remains in the hands of the bosses. If these experts want to keep their jobs, they will always bow to those in power.

The only answer is to put the power in the hands of the working class. To exercise such

power, we’ll need a society that eliminates the separation of mental and manual labor. Markets and profits will be replaced by the will of mobilized masses. Only communism can do this.

—A couple of disgusted Boeing workers.

Comrades, not allies

“When you and I stood shoulder to shoulder against the fascists, Harriet, I was there, not as your ‘[white] ally,’ but as your comrade.”

Harriet and I were in a book club sponsored by the Santa Monica Committee for Racial Justice (CRJ). We’re from the activist generation of the 1960s and 70s. She’s black and I’m white.

We were discussing *Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria*. The author begins by defining racism as a system involving cultural messages and institutional policies and practices as well as the beliefs and actions of individuals that clearly operates to the advantage of whites and to the disadvantage of people of color.

She says that’s her definition, and people should be clear about their own definition.

I said that I got that, it’s her book, but I’d like to pose an alternate Marxist definition.

I said that racist ideology justifies systemic racist super-exploitation and special oppression. Capitalism is based on the exploitation and oppression of the entire working class. Capitalist competition needs the economic competitive edge that racist super-exploitation provides.

However, the political necessity of racism is even more crucial. Because the workers always outnumber the bosses, they need racist terror and special oppression to keep the working class divided.

Capitalism is based on the oppression and exploitation of all workers. That’s why I, as a communist, talk about extra oppression and exploitation of workers of color (as well as women, immigrants, queer and disabled people)

rather than some advantage for white (male, citizen, straight/cis and abled) workers.

We talked about that a little. Many of the members of the book club are teachers or doctors, and are not always clear about how they are exploited or oppressed as part of the working class. And the term “white privilege” is the dominant discourse in progressive circles these days.

These folks hate racism and want to change the world. They’re not convinced by what I’ve been saying for almost three years, but people respect me and some of them read *Red Flag* regularly.

Actions speak louder than words

In July 2017, an organized group of about 30 white supremacists showed up to disrupt the monthly CRJ meeting. A number of people tried to persuade them to go away. Harriet and I guarded the door. The fascists did not get in and the meeting proceeded, although in a very tense atmosphere.

It was that event that I referred to in the book club meeting. Harriet and I agreed that we had been there as comrades. I was not there to back her up—or to defend black people from white supremacists. It wasn’t charity, but solidarity.

I was there because the fight against fascism is my fight—it’s a life or death struggle for the entire working class. And it’s a fight we must win—as comrades.

Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Ask Friends What They Think About Red Flag

A couple of days ago I asked a student friend and *Red Flag* reader to give me his opinion on the recent article COMMUNISM, NOT SOCIALISM, WILL GUARANTEE HEALTH FOR ALL

I wanted to know the opinion of other people outside of my ICWP collective of the articles that are published in each edition of *Red Flag*. He answered me that same night:

“Well, look, the way I see it, it seems that it is good for all to work for the benefit of all. That seems good to get us to grow as a society with no need for a rate of exchange or a whole monetary system. But I don’t know, maybe I have questions or doubts because I wonder how to change the way people think, the masses?”

...Well, because the text talks about abolishing the system of money and everything that concerns money, such as businesses or big companies. But people are used to money, it is a pattern that has been implanted for a long time. How can we remove this idea from our minds? This idea is very entrenched in society, and I do not think it can be changed overnight. Besides, I think the problem is that people accept what there is. They don’t dare to read a little or at least find out about political and government systems and beyond this to think about ways of living. And it is not only to talk about money, but also many other aspects as mentioned in the text, culture, health, education, etc. But if we talk about capitalism, I think that if people accept what is and continue to be a little asleep, this suits them. I don’t know, that’s what comes to mind.”

I thanked him for his contribution to improving the quality of our articles. This can help those of us in the party see what we are not grasping about the message we are conveying about communist revolution and communism. I asked him to see us at the end of the term when we finish our final exams.

—Young Comrade in El Salvador

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

More About Danger of War in Persian Gulf

There is a big dispute within the US ruling class about where to go to war against China and Russia.

One sector wants to face them in the Middle East. They are provoking Iran, hoping its rulers will overreact and give them an excuse to wage war to retake control of the whole region. This would force the Chinese and Russian imperialists to intervene or see the US use the huge oil reserves there to collapse the Russian economy and deny China the oil for its industries and military machine.

The other sector wants to face them in Asia-Pacific. Their thinking is that in the Middle East the US is isolated and has no military allies, except Israel and Saudi Arabia. In the South China Sea, they think they could form a more formidable alliance with Japan, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia and Vietnam.

These sectors are also divided over when to go to war. One sector wants to do it before the Chinese become too militarily powerful. The other sector agrees but wants more time to win the US working class to willingly fight and die for US imperialism.

The world’s imperialist butchers – like Trump in the US, Modi in India, Le Pen in France, Salvini in Italy, Bolsonaro in Brazil and others – are struggling hard to win their working classes’ allegiance for war. They are having some success building fascism. This makes our struggle to win those masses to communism even more urgent.

Mobilizing billions of workers and soldiers for war, if they are not won ideologically, could be very dangerous for the capitalists-imperialists. When this happened in World War I, the suffering and horrors imposed by the war quickly radicalized masses of soldiers and workers. In Russia - where a communist party existed that was dedicated to making revolution and with a base in the military – these masses of workers and soldiers were won relatively quickly to overthrow capitalism.

This did not happen in other imperialist armies and countries because there were no similar communist parties. The other parties supported their ruling classes in the war.

Let’s struggle hard to win the allegiance of the working masses to communism! Let the rulers of the world tremble at this scenario! This time we will bury them forever with workers’ communist power!

—Los Angeles comrades

One International Party: What We Do Counts

Sometimes it may seem that what we do doesn’t count, but it does. Maybe one comrade in the US donates \$1 or \$2 to the organization. Maybe that \$1 helps to produce *Red Flag* in South Africa and in turn it helps us recruit new members. That may seem insignificant but it is really important. It helps our work.

Our May Day Dinner would never have been possible without the support of the whole international collective. We had to transport people to the event. So, the contribution from other Party comrades played a significant role in our recruitment and advances.

It is important to point out the inter-connectiveness. We are not an island. In order for us to grow, we need the whole party. As individuals we can’t do anything.

The contributions of the international organi-



Rio de Janeiro “Stop Killing Us” See article page 3

zation led to the event. Inter-connectiveness led to the collectivity of the event.

Please keep the donations coming!

—Comrades in South Africa

New Comrade Encourages Everyone to Join ICWP

The first time I went to an ICWP meeting was when I was invited by a friend. I asked him what it was about. He said, “It is a meeting, we will be talking about communism.” He had already given me the *Red Flag* and I knew just a little bit about ICWP.

When we got there, I had questions on how communism would work, given that we will not use money. The comrades were clear in their response that there are no definite rules written in stone about how communism will work. However, we do have guiding principles that we will mobilize the masses to produce for the needs of the working class as whole. We will organize ourselves to the best of our abilities and sharing the fruits of production instead of selling them.

The comrades talked at length, too, about the horrors of capitalism and how the system of exploitation doesn’t have color. It affects workers regardless of their race, gender and nationality. They talked about the urgency to fight against it.

The comrades at the meeting asked me to join ICWP. I agreed to join, not because I thought everything they were saying was perfect. But I saw, and they made clear, the urgency with which we as the working class need to mobilize ourselves in order to fight capitalism. If we don’t, nothing will change, and we will continue to suffer great sufferings.

I must say it has been a pleasure being a member of ICWP. I’ve learned a lot from mobilizing workers, students and from each other. Since I joined, we have grown as a collective and also as individuals. We have made mistakes and learned from them.

I encourage everyone to join ICWP and fight to end this terrible system.

—Comrade in South Africa

Racism, Class Oppression & Police Murder

It’s important to discuss how we analyze the data about police murders in the US. It’s even more important to use these numbers to help us build the communist movement that the working class needs to get rid of this murderous system.

The letter in the previous issue criticizing the article “Communist Movement Needed to Fight

Fascist Police Murders,” highlighted a weakness in the presentation of the argument.

An earlier article, “Racism is the cutting edge as Epidemic of Police Murder...Aimed at Cheapening the Life of the Working Class” Volume 6, #23, did a better job of explaining how an intense attack on one section affects the lives of all workers. In that article we argued among other things that “Economic status is one of the best indicators about what class a person belongs to...Our ‘hunch’ is that 99% of the victims (no matter their racial or ethnic identity) were from families earning around or less than \$80,000 a year.”

The data from the *Washington Post* that we looked at backed up our “hunch.” It looked at “police killing zones”—cities, towns and rural counties where the police kill civilians. About one fourth of Americans live in these zones, which taken together have a lower median household income and a higher poverty rate than the country as a whole. However, in our attempt to simplify the research we made an important error. We claimed all the murders take place in neighborhoods with a median household income (mhi) of \$52,218. We should have said that \$52,218 was the mhi of all the neighborhoods where the murders are committed.

The main point of the article, however, still stands. The police in 2017 killed 987 people. Racism means that black and Hispanic men are killed at a higher rate than their percentage of the population.

These are the data that the ruling-class media concentrate on. What they cover up is the class aspect. Class oppression and residential segregation means that most of the white victims (292 of them) lived in lower-income working-class rural counties. Most of the black victims (149 of them) lived in lower-income working-class city neighborhoods. The Hispanic victims lived in both rural and urban lower-income working-class communities.

As we pointed out in the original article, it’s workers that the cops are murdering—and while racism means that more black and Hispanic men are killed by the cops, working-class white men in rural counties around the US are also being killed at a shocking rate.

Understanding how capitalism works can help us build the class consciousness which is necessary to avoid reformist traps and to build a revolutionary movement to win the communist world we all need.

--Comrades in California, US

Anti-Abortion Laws: Sexism, Religion and Fascism

COMMUNISM FIGHTS FOR THE LIVES OF ALL WORKERS AND OUR CHILDREN

USA — “The egg in the lab doesn’t apply,” said a sponsor of the new Alabama anti-abortion law. “It’s not in a woman. She’s not pregnant.”

Obviously, the recent anti-abortion laws aren’t about “protecting unborn life.” Nobody should be fooled by them.

They won’t even reduce abortions. The best ways to do that are (1) freely available birth-control and (2) material support for new mothers and babies. The “anti-abortion” forces oppose both.

Communism will do these things and much more. Collective responsibility for child care. Shelter, food, health care according to need. Collective decision-making about how each person can best contribute to production. That includes helping women make choices about child-bearing.

We have published other articles about the fight against sexism that are available here:

icwpredflag.org/sexe/

Why these anti-abortion laws now?

Some US rulers want more government control over women, especially over their reproduction. This is part of a fascist trend: more intensive surveillance and repression of the masses.

Anti-abortion politicians promote misogyny (hatred of women), religion, and anti-science. This sexist, fascist ideology divides the working class. It makes it harder for us to see the need to destroy capitalism – and all class society.

This is the flip side of racist “replacement theory.” Anti-abortion politicians want to force white women to have more white babies to “make America white again.”

The most extreme “American Taliban” politicians call openly for the US to become a Christian theocracy.

Meanwhile, another US ruling faction eagerly channels mass anti-sexist, anti-fascist anger into Democratic Party dead-end politics. Their liberal feminist ideology also obscures our need to destroy capitalism – and all class society.

A mass communist understanding of sexism and how to end it is more important than ever.

Sexism and religion developed with private property and class society.

Early hunter-gatherers didn’t have religion as it exists today. We infer this from hunter-gatherer societies that existed well into the 20th century.

Pre-class communist people were “animists.” They thought everything – not just people – had a spirit.

Most pre-class societies had shamans. These men and women were socially recognized as healers, problem-solvers and leaders of rituals that promoted social cohesion.

People steeped in religion describe animism and shamans as “religion” and “priests” but this is wrong. Religion is not part of “human nature.”

Pre-class communism had some division of labor between people who bore and nursed children and people who didn’t. Women gathered most of the food everyone needed. Men were most often hunters.

But nobody’s work was valued more or less



than someone else’s. All adults generally participated in community decision-making, problem-solving and rituals.

Religious beliefs in the existence of high gods (creators, judges) did not arise everywhere. When it did, it reflected the social and political structures of class society.

We don’t know exactly how class society emerged when and where it did. Evidence from the Kung San people, among others, contradicts the usual explanation. They were able to collect more than they needed for bare subsistence but remained a classless society. Also, we don’t know why mainly men became property-owners.

But sexism surely arose hand-in-hand with private property, the family and the state. Patriarchal monotheism (“God the father”) reflected these institutions.

Male property-owners wanted to pass their possessions to their sons. For this, they had to control women and their sexuality. Eventually Christianity – the ideological underpinning of European feudal society – provided the most fully-developed excuse.

The material basis of feudalism was private property in land and control over the serfs whom they forced to labor on it. But this system of brutal exploitation contained the seeds of capitalism.

Rising capitalists in Europe overthrew feudal institutions and coopted feudal lords. They created their own system of brutal – and racist – exploitation based mainly on private property in money.

As with any qualitative transformation, however, the new system preserved many aspects of the old. For example, it maintained an earlier form of exploitation, slavery,

in a new form.

Capitalism’s racist slave-owners put a vicious new twist on control of women’s sexuality. They routinely raped enslaved women and sold their children for cold cash.

In some places, feudal social relations persist into the 21st century. Even slavery still exists.

Capitalism created its own ideology but it still preserves aspects of feudal thinking, especially religion. When European imperialism conquered semi-feudal lands such as India and the Persian Gulf region, they repurposed other sexist religions like Hinduism and Islam alongside their own Christianity.

Communism will end capitalism and, with it, all forms of private property. It will “negate” (abolish) class society, which itself “negated” early communism. But this “negation of the negation” will create a new, highly conscious form of communism instead of simply resurrecting the old one.

The communism we’ll build will destroy the material basis of sexism and religion. We will cherish everyone’s lives and work in the here and now.

But our new system, too, will preserve aspects of the old. We will have to struggle fiercely to eradicate them.

Mobilizing masses for communism means more than preparing for armed insurrection against the capitalists. It also means fighting for communist ways of thinking and communist social relations now.

It’s a big mistake to respond to Christian theocrats and their anti-abortion laws with liberal reformism. Their fascist initiatives reflect the deeper reality of US imperialism in decline and world capitalism in crisis.

And that’s why a mass communist fight against sexism is more important than ever.



Read our pamphlet:

THE COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST SEXISM

available at
icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf