

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Climate Crisis,
see page 3

LET'S FIGHT RACIST DIVISIONS TO BUILD FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

South Africa Auto Strike:

SOUTH AFRICA, September 17—Last week, the auto workers had a strike here. They were demanding a 7% wage increase (147 Rands or about US\$15 a week) — peanuts. The bosses insisted they couldn't do anything above 4% but ended up settling for more.

The union that was supposed to lead the negotiation and the strike was NUMSA. It recently broke off from COSATU, the federation allied with the ruling African National Congress. But the union actively encouraged the workers not to strike. They came up with incentives of an extra 5000 Rands if they didn't strike and worked instead, and maybe an extra 2000 Rands if they work on the weekends too. This was just to push more production so the bosses can make more profit, further exploiting the working class.

We took the *Red Flag* to the workers on strike. Most of the striking workers outside were black workers. The workers on the inside working were mostly coloured [mixed-race] workers. You see this division: most of the shop stewards and supervisors are coloured.

Many black factory workers think that most coloured workers are not to be trusted, that they are always more aligned with the bosses. This is a dangerous generalization because it paints this whole so-called racial group in South

See [SOUTH AFRICA AUTO STRIKE](#), page 2

Auto Workers in India:

CHENNAI, INDIA—“Modi and his fascist gang are asking people in Assam to prove that they are citizens of India. They are Muslims. These fascists have launched ethnic cleansing campaign. We will not let this happen.”

These are the words of an autoworker in Chennai. “Last time RSS [a fascist group associated with the ruling BJP] came to our neighborhood, we beat them up and the police could not do anything”, another autoworker told a member of ICWP who works on the same assembly line.

These workers and millions of others in India are angry and disgusted with the law called National Register of Citizens (NRC) imposed in the northeastern state of Assam, India. According to NRC, anybody (except Muslims) living in India for seven or more years can be granted Indian citizenship. With the passage of NRC, two million residents, disproportionately Muslims, are now declared ‘illegal foreigners.’

The government claims that it wants to get rid of undocumented foreigners from Assam. The senior most minister Amit Shah, who is in charge of internal security of India, called the undocumented people in India ‘termites’ who must be thrown in the Bay of Bengal.

The state of Assam, which is also ruled by BJP, has built huge camps where the 2 million residents will be housed before they are deported. All other states in India which are ruled by BJP want to follow the example of Assam. Large cities are already building camps to relocate large number of workers and their families.

The intensification of fascist attacks on the Muslim workers is also a reflection of capitalism in crisis. Every day, thousands of workers are losing jobs. Cities are becoming dumping grounds for displaced agriculture workers looking for jobs that don't exist.

By blaming Muslims as ‘undocumented foreigners’ for the problems created by capitalism, the bosses are desperately trying to divide the working class. It is an attack on the whole working class as we learned from the rise of fascism in Germany.

In response to these fascist attacks on Muslim workers, ICWP members, friends and supporters at auto factories in Chennai have intensified our efforts to recruit workers to our party. Inside and outside the factories we are distributing our literature. Three workers have joined ICWP and many more are thinking about joining.

See [INTERVIEW WITH INDIAN AUTO WORKER](#), page 3

INSIDE:

USING RED FLAG TO ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNISM, PAGE 2

WORKERS FIGHT RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA, PAGE 4

HURRICANE DORIAN AND CLASS STRUGGLE IN THE BAHAMAS & THE CARIBBEAN, PAGE 5

SAUDI ARAMCO ATTACK, PAGE 6

GUATEMALA STATE OF SIEGE, PAGE 6

International Discussion:**USING RED FLAG TO ORGANIZE FOR COMMUNISM**

September 15 – Twenty comrades from four cities crowded into a small living room in Los Angeles, USA. Nine circled a laptop in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Six arranged themselves around a cell phone in San Salvador, El Salvador. With the help of social media, after a few anxious minutes, we were all part of an exciting tri-lingual discussion about using *Red Flag* to organize for communism.

The South African comrades reported on their limited progress in establishing networks of *Red Flag* readers inside factories. But most of the comrades are not permanent workers. They are casual (temporary). So are the people they're trying to recruit.

They struggled to make their work more consistent. Now they meet with new readers from the factories in their homes. In this way, they recently recruited three comrades who work at another plant. They struggle with these new members to become more active and recruit others from their workplaces and neighborhoods.

V, on the line in El Salvador, had a similar story. She had to leave the factory that is the main party concentration. Her comrades lost touch for a while. "We didn't try hard enough to find her at home," a party leader admitted.

Then V contacted them. She wondered if it was okay to organize for the party in her neighborhood and her new factory? Yes! Of course!

"Can you say more about how you expanded party work from three to four factories?" M, a South African comrade, asked P, another worker-leader in El Salvador.

"Instead of giving one copy of *Red Flag* to each party member in the factory where we are most established, we started giving everyone two copies," P explained. "They had to find someone else to take one. We doubled the distribution. One comrade worked very hard to get a neighbor interested in the paper. That was our first contact in the new factory."

"Every member reads the paper together in the club and sees the important role that the paper plays," P added. The South African comrades made a similar point. P was very interested in how so many of the South African comrades (ten or more) have become regular writers for *Red Flag*.

Their report explained that what made this possible was a change of approach. "Writing can be

intimidating but now we are doing it as a group. That makes it easier. It has helped sharpen the struggle and given confidence to comrades who lacked understanding of the line."

Comrade L in South Africa told about an article he had written about education. He brought it to the collective and said they should take out anything that was not useful. They took out almost everything. "I had written it like it was for a capitalist paper," he admitted. "The solutions I proposed were capitalist solutions."

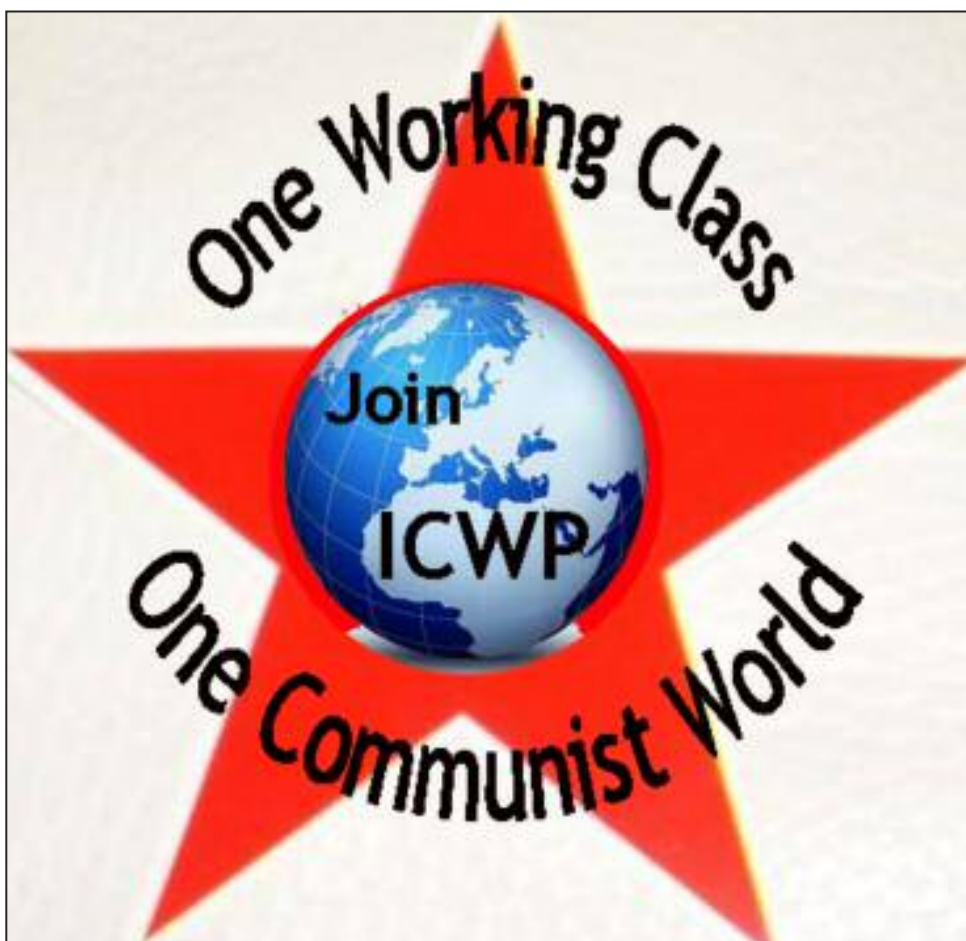
Comrades gave him the Party pamphlet on education and he read it. Then he understood better what the communist solutions are and rewrote his article.

Comrade P still thought writing was very hard. He apologized for the collective not contributing regularly to the paper as they had promised to do at an earlier meeting.

Comrade A in Los Angeles reminded him that it had been hard to start the party in the factory, but he had helped to do that. As a leader, he was responsible for trying to do hard tasks. He seemed to appreciate the struggle.

A comrade from the editorial collective in Los Angeles wrapped up the discussion. She said that how we do the work of *Red Flag* builds on, and builds up, the relationships among Party comrades and collectives. We should always think about how to do this in a constructive, collective and comradely way – especially when we struggle to advance the line and the work of the party.

Our three-way meeting – conducted in Spanish, English and Xhosa – showed us all how this can be done.

**SOUTH AFRICA AUTO STRIKE from page 1**

Africa as class traitors, but this is not the case.

People take one or two isolated incidents and they conclude this. Our party collective discussed that we need to investigate further, not just look on the surface.

The problem lies with the bosses. They create and exploit this conflict by giving more preferential treatment to coloureds. So the other workers won't look at the boss as the main culprit but at the person who is used as a pawn to further divide the working class.

It's crucial to understand why this division exists. These two groups make up the majority of the whole working class in South Africa. It is divided based on "race" instead of being united based on class. The capitalist wage system keeps all us workers in chains. At the same time that it requires divisions among the workers so the bosses can keep power.

To win the struggle for communism, this is the major gap we need to bridge so workers' viewpoint can be based on class consciousness instead

of "race." Then they can understand they are more similar than different.

The strike was a learning experience for us. We saw that there has to be major representation of different "races" in our collective. This will reinforce our theory that even though we are different in terms of colour, we are still the same because we come from the same class. Our collective has to reflect that. We are encouraged by party collectives elsewhere that include comrades of different "races."

When we distributed *Red Flag* to the striking workers, we made contacts with three workers in the same production line as our comrade. We visited them at home. We talked about communism. Some of them were interested. It didn't take much convincing because the workers are experiencing the brutalities of capitalism first hand. We explained what we are prescribing as the solution.

These workers remind some of us of ourselves when we first joined the movement. They have a

dangerous mix of nationalism with Pan Africanism and black consciousness. We needed to find something that we agreed on, which was the need for revolution. That there has to be a violent transfer of power from the ruling class to the working class.

The ruling class will never ever relinquish power voluntarily to our class. They see us as inferior to them. We are their wage slaves after all. To win power, we have to seize it. For that, the working class will have to be armed. Recruiting soldiers to our cause becomes imperative. They are from our class.

We showed that for this to happen there has to be a party that will give leadership to the workers for revolution. To win, it has to be a mass party. We said they should join the ICWP and invited them to the next meeting of our collective.

This struggle will help us. We have to always look for ways of doing things better. We shouldn't be afraid, when something isn't working, to try new things. It was a good experience!



VOL. 10 #12, September 18 to October 9, 2019

Join the International Communist Workers' Party
www.icwpredflag.org — Twitter @RedFlagBandera
 E-mail: icwp@anonymousspeech.com
 Blog: icwpweb.wordpress.com/
 Write to: P.M.B. 362
 3006 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90007, USA

Worldwide Student Climate Strikes:

COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER CAN SOLVE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

September 18 – As we go to press, millions of students worldwide are planning to strike and march this Friday and next. They are demanding that the “adults in charge do something, anything about the climate change disaster.” But those adults are in charge of a global capitalist system. And capitalism is not capable of resolving the climate crisis it has created.

The youth themselves must ally with the working-class masses around the world to destroy that system with communist revolution.

In communism, the masses of workers will collectively exercise power. We'll build a new world on the wreckage of the old. No longer will we be chained by money, markets or profits. Instead, we will organize production to meet everyone's needs – including those to come after us.

Communism will unleash the creativity of the masses. We'll build on existing technology and advance it further to develop a fully sustainable energy infrastructure. What's more, we'll mobi-

lize labor massively to reverse the social and environmental devastation caused by capitalism's insatiable thirst for profit and its ever-deadlier wars.

The technical means already exist to begin to restore oceans and deserts, fields and forests, city and country. Communist political power will put these to work. Communist mobilization will unite masses to use their brains and muscles to figure out new solutions. We won't rely on a few “experts” who were trained to provide the bosses with “cost-efficient” plans.

And we won't rely on a few “super-star” activists like Greta Thunberg. Instead, starting on four continents right now, dozens (and later hundreds,

thousands, and millions) are learning to be communist leaders and to train many more.

We invite you to become one of them! Nobody is too young and nobody is too old! And nobody can afford to wait.



US Autoworkers on Strike

UNIONS CAN'T RESOLVE DEEPENING CAPITALIST CRISIS

September 18—Fifty thousand US auto workers are striking against GM. It's the first United Auto Worker (UAW) strike since 2007. Workers are striking for higher wages, to reopen idled plants (4 more were closed recently), to add jobs at other plants and to close or narrow the growing pay differences between new hires and veteran workers. GM wants the workers to pay a bigger part of their health care costs.

Another key issue is the use of temporary workers, who work alongside permanent workers, but receive lower wages and worse health benefits and retirement plans.

The auto industry is in decline worldwide. *Forbes* says that over 4 million fewer cars will be sold in 2019 than last year. Markets in China, the US, India and worldwide are shrinking. This is part of the deepening crisis of overproduction.

All the auto makers are competing for shrinking market share.

No reform demand can resolve this or guarantee auto workers their jobs will be secure! Capitalism is based on competition for maximum profit. Crises are built in to it. And this will inevitably lead to World War III.

Auto workers in the US and worldwide need to mobilize for communist revolution. In communism there won't be such a thing as overproduction—or competition. Workers will collectively produce just what our class needs—without money or bosses. Capitalism's wage system is a chain around our necks. We can't make it fair. We have to get rid of it.

The Communist Party USA organized the UAW as a militant union, instead of organizing for revolution. Today, the UAW has shrunk along with the US auto industry. ICWP is fighting for communist revolution, the only way to guarantee useful work for everyone, where no one will live better than anyone else, and everyone's contribution will be valued. We urge auto workers to read and spread *Red Flag* and to join us!



INTERVIEW WITH INDIAN AUTO WORKER

Red Flag: What made you decide to join ICWP?

Lalam: I was very disturbed to see killings of Muslims going on. They are just like us. My friend comes to my house with *Red Flag*. He always says that capitalism divides workers. We need communism to end these divisions. I thought about this. And I agreed. I have seen other political parties that are against the killings, but they don't want to fight for communism.

Red Flag: Do you talk to others about ICWP and our newspaper?

Lalam: Yes, I work in the assembly line. We produce car seats. Our job is very hard, and we have to work fast. When we work, we don't know who is Hindu or who is Muslim. We are all workers. At the end of the day, the boss makes a lot of money and we go home tired with very little to feed our family.

During my lunch break I have started to talk about communist solution and the need to build for revolution. Many workers agree. It is easy for

me to continue talking to my neighbors about communism because they also work with me.

Red Flag: Can you organize a meeting of your neighbors to talk about communism and ICWP?

Lalam: Comrade Kaditula who recruited me to ICWP is working with me. Next Sunday we

are going to have a meeting at my house. We have invited all the neighbors. We can have 100 or more people. We will explain how to build a society without money and how this communist society will eliminate borders, “races” and nations. In communist society we will learn to create and share everything we produce.



Striking auto workers in India, September 2019

Attack our class enemy, not our working-class family

ANSWER XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE BY MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM

SOUTH AFRICA—Recently, there have been attacks by some South Africans against workers coming from other African countries, particularly Nigeria and Zimbabwe. They started in Pretoria and spread to Johannesburg. The African immigrants have been attacked physically as well as having their small shops and homes vandalized. Seven people were killed!

Some people from Nigeria and other countries have responded here in South Africa as well as in other countries. The Zambian national soccer team cancelled a friendly match against South Africa. Nigerians have begun to attack South African businesses and threaten those from South Africa living in their countries with violence, exacerbating the working class' divisions.

The crisis of capitalism, with its increasing exploitation and unemployment, is creating massive suffering for the working class worldwide. Capitalism's exploitation of workers does not make exceptions based on skin colour. It only benefits the capitalist class at the expense of the masses. The capitalists compete with one another but have in common the exploitation of the working class.

Their need to compete and to divide the working class led them to create borders and modern countries. African borders were drawn up at the Berlin Conference in Germany by leading capitalist imperialists 130 years ago.

Capitalist crisis and exploitation have forced working people to move to other areas or countries to sustain their families. No country escapes this exploitation. The hardships are getting worse everywhere, albeit with varying degrees. This



leads to migration.

There are 2.3 million immigrants in South Africa. Most are workers from other African countries, the majority from Zimbabwe. Capitalist propaganda wants the domestic (native born) workers to think the immigrants are different simply because they come from somewhere else—to divide the working class against one another while diverting the causes of hardship to “foreigners.”

This propaganda has been pushed so that workers think they do not have jobs because “these foreigners” took them. This pushes workers to fight with one another in an ugly way, like the recent violent xenophobic attacks here.

Solving this issue means destroying nationalism, borders, and nations. The root cause is the vicious capitalist wage system which pits workers against each other to compete for fewer jobs for lower wages. Their automation means that fewer workers produce more goods while mass unemployment soars.

To fight against these attacks, we need to fight against capitalism. Workers need to unite against the bosses for a communist society without exploitation, where the means of production are owned collectively. All workers will be welcome everywhere to help plan, produce, and distribute everything the masses need. No one will be a “foreigner.”

This necessitates cooperation, not division, collectivity not wages or money. The possibility and the need for a united working class fighting exploitation exists now. Workers have more in common than we have differences.

Seeing that the capitalists' racist, xenophobic propaganda is a lie is critical to ending capitalism.

The ICWP invites workers to join us in ending capitalism by fighting for a communist revolution. We are mobilizing the masses by distributing workers' communist ideas and struggles through our *Red Flag* newspaper everywhere possible. The advances made in many countries show the potential of the international united working class.

In South Africa we are fighting these xenophobic attacks and capitalist propaganda by recruiting foreign students. One student from Lesotho is part of our collective reading of the *Red Flag*. We seek to recruit our working-class brothers and sisters from other countries like Zimbabwe. A couple read *Red Flag*.

We condemn the violence directed at working people! We call for it to be directed on our class enemy, the capitalists. That starts with joining the struggle for communism.

Los Angeles Transit:

FIGHT RACIST ATTACK AGAINST BUS DRIVER BY JOINING ICWP

LOS ANGELES (USA), September 17—“Did you hear what happened here a few weeks ago?” an MTA bus driver asked a distributor of *Red Flag* at Division 8. He related a horrible racist incident perpetrated against a black MTA bus driver.

Three racists, not working at MTA, armed with video equipment, entered the MTA parking lot and verbally attacked him. They called him a pimp and a drug dealer because, they said, that was the only way he could explain owning the Mercedes Benz he was driving.

They stayed for quite a while harassing him and other MTA employees. Gutter racists like these are popping up all over the US. They have become bolder given President Trump's racist rantings against black people, Muslims and immigrant workers, especially Haitian and Latinos. They posted their racist video on YouTube.

Stopping people “driving while black” is the hallmark of US cops. It has triggered mass rebellions. In the summer of 1964, Watts, then a predominantly black neighborhood in Los Angeles, exploded in a major uprising. It was sparked by a clash between black people and the police who had pulled over a black woman “suspected” of driving under the influence

Until recently, US people of color only worried about being terrorized by the cops for “driving while black or brown.” Now they have to worry about this racist scum too!

If You Want to End Racism, Join ICWP and Fight for Communism

Centuries of struggling against racism worldwide has not ended it because racism was born

with capitalism and can only be ended by ending capitalism. This requires a communist revolution and building a communist society free of money, wage slavery and production for profits.

Capitalists need racism to maximize their profits by super-exploiting some sectors of our class – lower wages, little or no benefits - while keeping us divided and unable to overthrow them.

Capitalism's production for profits requires competition to capture the biggest share of the world's markets as possible. This competition eventually leads to trade wars, which inevitably lead to shooting wars. The capitalists use xenophobia – racism against foreigners – to blind us to patriotically fight for their profits and empires.

Racists in these fascist movements the capitalists-imperialists are building worldwide will also be used as storm troopers to try to violently force everyone to go along with their program and put into concentration camps or kill those who try to organize against them.

Only Communism Can End the Deadly Venom of Racism

Communism will destroy the material basis that constantly breeds racism. Communist production - based on the principle “from each according to their commitment and abilities, and to each according to their needs” – will eliminate the petty “racial” differences capitalists use to force us to fight each other for jobs.

Communism will provide creative and satisfying work for everyone. We will work for the love of our worldwide human family. We will all

do mental and manual work – no privileges for anyone.

With no nations or borders, all workers will be welcomed everywhere. We will collectively, massively and decisively deal with the remnants of racism, sexism, xenophobia and homophobia we will inherit from previous class societies.

The fight for communism requires a Red Army of communist workers, soldiers and youth and a mass ICWP to lead it. Join the fight! Read, distribute and write for *Red Flag*. Organize an ICWP collective on your job, neighborhood or military unit.



A Lesson from Hurricane Dorian:

WORKERS DON'T NEED THE BOSSES BUT THE BOSSES CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT WORKERS

Class determined who suffered as Hurricane Dorian laid waste to Abaco Islands. Baker's Bay, located among the islands, is a playground for millionaires. The Mudd is the adjacent neighborhood of immigrant Haitian workers who maintain this exclusive playground.

The Baker's Bay Golf and Ocean Club is a development that comprises amenities for the rich. Townhomes sell for millions; individual homes for tens of millions.

The Mudd was built with abandoned construction materials on low-lying, flood-prone ground. It is ravaged periodically by fires. The Bahamian government calls it "an unregulated community." Most of the residents, Haitian workers, are illegal according to the government and are subject to deportation.

In communism, the collective labor of our class will provide for our collective well-being, no matter what nature has to dish out.

The homeowners had the Haitian workers prepare their sturdily built houses for the storm, while the owners monitored the hurricane from afar. Their residences suffered some damage but remained intact.

Meanwhile, the trapped workers in the Mudd watched their shacks leveled. Many died, joining 28 other Haitian migrants, who drowned in February when their boat capsized. The Haitian workers had to evacuate. There is nothing to return to in the Mudd.

Now the club management is complaining that they can't find workers to get the resort up and running. The racist xenophobia of the club's bosses is disgusting!

"And these workers are the 'bad people' the president says we have to worry about?" said a Boeing worker who helped distribute our pamphlet on the communist answer to the bosses' xenophobia.

The U.S. government is looking for any excuse to get Haitian workers kicked off the rescue boats

headed for the U.S.

This same government is trying to deport tens of thousands of Salvadorans, Hondurans and Nicaraguans. For decades, these workers have built and maintained the storm water tunnels, new Metro lines and train stations and people-movers at Dulles International Airport in Washington, DC.

This is part of the attempt to end the temporary protected status (TPS) of hundreds of thousands of immigrants who came to the US fleeing poverty, armed conflict and natural disasters in their home countries. It will directly affect 195,000 Salvadorans, 46,000 Haitians and tens of thousands of others. Ending the TPS is part of the ongoing attack by US bosses on immigrant workers.

A similar dynamic played out during the recovery efforts after Katrina in New Orleans (USA). Mexican immigrants provided the labor. The fancy areas were rebuilt, while the black, poorer neighborhoods were left to rot.

Around the world, workers build the playgrounds for the rich bosses, and everything else,

for that matter. The working class is left to suffer and die from "natural disasters." Then the bosses complain that they don't have enough workers to rebuild.

In communism, there will be no playgrounds for millionaires. In fact, no millionaires!

No worker will be considered a foreigner. The word will be meaningless when there are no nations or borders.

Workers will expend their labor building decent, collective housing that can stand up to the weather. No shantytowns for immigrant black workers or any workers!

Workers have built everything everywhere. The bosses would like us to think that we can't function without their "expertise," when just the opposite is true. Only the working class can meet the needs of our class. The international working class has the knowledge and skills to bring food, clean water and air, and excellent healthcare to every part of the globe.



Haitians demonstrate in Washington, D.C. in February 2019 against termination of Temporary Protected Status

REBELLIONS OF ENSLAVED PEOPLE IN THE BAHAMAS AND ELSEWHERE INSPIRE WORKERS TODAY

Liberal news reports about Hurricane Dorian have concentrated on the devastation and destruction of the life and property of the working class in Abaco. But another history needs to be told. People in Abaco, like those in the rest of the Bahamas and the Caribbean, have a long history of struggle against oppression.

The rebellions of enslaved people in Antigua, Jamaica and, Haiti inspire working people around the world today. These rebellions teach us that the human spirit is never finally crushed, and that solidarity is more important than technology.

The rebellion in Haiti resulted in the defeat of Napoleon's forces which European powers had been unable to do. Slaves initiated the rebellion in 179. By 1803, they succeeded in ending slavery and French control over the colony.

Rebellions in the British colonies increased after the end of the legal trade in enslaved Africans by British ships in 1807 and the end of the US trade in 1808. Rebellions in Barbados in 1816, in Demerara in 1823, and in Jamaica in 1831 encouraged the movement in Britain to abolish slavery. In 1834, Britain ended slavery in its colonies in the West Indies and Africa. However, slavery remained in the territories controlled by the East India Company and Ceylon until 1843.

Slave Revolts in the Bahamas

In the aftermath of the American Revolution,

many white people who were loyal to Britain moved to the Bahamas and brought their enslaved Africans with them.

Many enslaved Africans joined the British armed forces during the Revolutionary War under Lord Dunmore's promise of freedom in return for fighting for the British. They knew that they were legally free and had experience with arms. Many of them went to the Bahamas where they joined fugitive slaves in the struggle for survival.

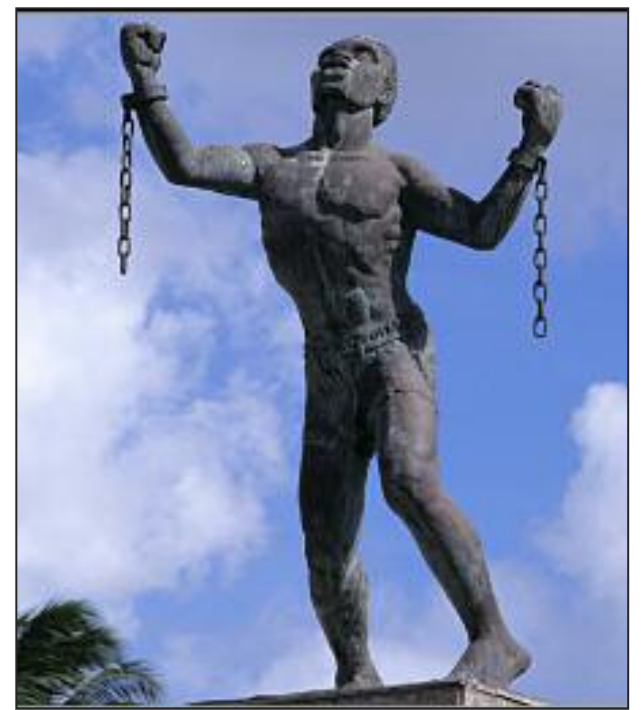
Everywhere chattel slavery was established, a constant state of war took place between enslavers and enslaved. Daily acts of resistance, runaways, and raids by maroons—encampments of runaway slaves—occurred constantly in the Bahamas. The first recorded rebellion of enslaved people in the Bahamas took place in Spencer's Bight, on the island of Abaco in 1787. This was followed by revolts in other islands.

In 1830, Pompey led the most famous revolt in Exuma in the Bahamas in response to a plan to move 77 enslaved people from their homes in Exuma to Cat Island.

In 1840, the *Hermosa*, a US slave ship sailing from Richmond to New Orleans, wrecked in Abaco, a British territory where slavery was illegal. The Bahamians forcibly freed the ship.

In 1841, slaves aboard the *Creole* rose up in revolt, and ordered the captain to take them to the

Bahamas. The US government demanded that the rebels be put on trial. The British governor in the Bahamas insisted on holding the trial there. The court found the rebels not guilty and declared that enslaved people had the right to do whatever they deemed necessary to get free. In the end, 128 enslaved Africans were freed in what has been called the most successful slave revolt in US history—and one that is never found in the history books.



This statue in Barbados celebrates the 1816 rebellion of enslaved Africans.

Saudi Aramco Refinery Attack:

INCREASED THREAT OF WAR, INCREASED URGENCY OF COMMUNISM

September 16 – Two days ago, drones or missiles crippled the world’s largest oil refinery. Oil markets are in disarray. Saudi rulers’ plans for Aramco, their cash cow, are going up in smoke. It remains to be seen how the Saudi rulers and their US enablers will respond.

But the broad outlines of this developing crisis are clear. Like the Balkan crisis in 1914, it could easily explode into a far broader war.

Such a pre-World War period can become a revolutionary situation, though it’s not one yet. That can only happen when and where a growing communist party, based among industrial workers and soldiers, emerges to give mass leadership.

What matters most in the present crisis is how we respond. Whoever we are, wherever we live, now is the time to step up.

We must end capitalism with its cycle of ever-deadlier imperialist wars. We must start building communist social relations now. With these, we will weave together a world without borders or nations, money or markets. A communist world organized through cooperation, comradeship and sharing.

Stepping up means joining the International Communist Workers’ Party, if you are not already a member. For all of us, it means recruiting others to party collectives. That’s how we can coordinate the work of spreading communist ideas through *Red Flag* and every means possible.

These collectives, sooner rather than later, must become a Red Army that fights the only war that serves the interest of the international working class: communist revolution.

Regional Wars and Imperialist Powers

Three regional conflicts are fueling the immediate crisis.

First, the Iran/Saudi proxy war in Yemen (2014-present). The Iran-backed Houthi rebels pose a serious threat to the remains of the Saudi-backed Yemen government. The pro-Saudi forces are armed and supplied by the USA, and supported by the Emirates.

War crimes on both sides, but especially the Saudi blockade, have created the world’s worst current humanitarian crisis with mass starvation and a cholera epidemic. Many, many people have good reason to hate the Saudi regime.

Second, the continuing civil war in Syria (2011-present). About thirteen million Syrians have fled their homes as refugees, internal and external — over 60% of the 2011 population. Syrian people have suffered from war crimes committed both by Iranian- and Russian-backed government forces and by US-backed rebel groups.

Turkey’s rulers originally sided with the US and Saudi Arabia. Now they have joined with Russia and Iran to “guarantee” a cease-fire, though bombs

and bullets continue to fly. Rulers of these three countries have now agreed on a plan to reconstruct the Syrian government.

Third, the US government (encouraged by the Israeli fascists) escalated tensions with the Iranian rulers by withdrawing from the multilateral Iran nuclear arms treaty in May 2018. Since then, almost continual military and diplomatic skirmishes have resulted in “relations between the United States and Iran [being] as tense as they have ever been.” (US Council on Foreign Relations)

In recent weeks, unidentified warplanes — at least some of them certainly Israeli — have targeted Iranian-backed fighters in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. The US rulers condoned these deadly attacks.

It doesn’t really matter whose weapons took down Saudi Aramco.

What matters is this:

No worker anywhere has anything at all to gain by supporting any capitalist rulers, ever.

In wartime, especially, we must wage an all-out ideological struggle against patriotism and nationalism — a struggle for communist internationalism.

The US is a declining power. Trump is both a result and a cause. His deference to the Saudi Kingdom exposes the weakness of the US position. Netanyahu’s failure to win the Israeli special election is another blow.

Iran and especially Russia are the biggest victors — so far. The masses everywhere are the biggest losers.

But the masses can win. We can win by mobilizing for communism.

Many of us don’t live in a war zone — yet. That can change almost overnight. Let’s not wait.

Now is the time to step up. Now is the time to join and build the International Communist Workers’ Party.



US veterans against the war in Iraq mobilizing against future imperialist wars

Guatemala State of Siege:

CITY AND RURAL WORKERS FIGHT AGAINST RACIST OPPRESSION

On September 5, a Guatemalan army patrol attempted to enter a Mayan Q’eqchi village on the pretext of searching for a drug-trafficking plane. The villagers confronted the soldiers. In the struggle, three soldiers died. Two more were wounded. The rest fled. Two indigenous people were also injured.

In response, the Guatemalan government imposed a state of siege (suspension of the right to travel, demonstrate, assemble and carry weapons), in 22 municipalities in the northwest of the country. It accused the rural workers of collaborating with the drug traffickers.

The Q’eqchi Indians have a tradition of resistance dating back to the Spanish conquest. And it is not the first time these clashes have occurred since the signing of peace between the guerrillas and the government. Nor is it the first time that a State of Siege has been decreed in Guatemala. This happens every time city workers and rural workers organize to fight against the capitalism that threatens their ecosystem of life.

In the last ten years, the exploitation of mineral resources by CGN Pronico, a subsidiary of the Russian transnational corporation Solway Investment Gro, has caused severe environmental damage to Lake Izabal. The destruction of mountains for the cultivation of the African palm, by the company Naturaceites, has also caused more poverty for the inhabitants of the region.

For the capitalists this ecological destruction

has produced huge profits without caring about the lives of the Mayan farmworkers displaced by the war of the 80’s, who live in conditions of misery.

Without schools, clinics, streets and roads, they are themselves, without the help of the government, building their villages by living off fishing and agriculture. And it is they who have also opposed the destruction of their means of livelihood.

We Need Communism.

It is time to change this system of racist exploitation. Now we have the opportunity to fight directly for a communist System.

In communism we will not have to migrate to look for arable land. The Earth’s natural resources will be respected and used for our own interests without polluting our towns, lakes or rivers.

In 2017, Mayan communities began a series of protests over the contamination of Lake Izabal. They ended with a farmworker leader killed by police protecting the walled citadel where the company’s middle management lives. On that occasion, Mayan farmworkers also blocked access to the city, preventing company trucks from



Denouncing the mining companies in 2015

leaving the city.

Urban and rural workers in Guatemala are accustomed to fighting against exploitation, despite racist oppression. The resistance of the Guatemalan working class was shown during thirty years of armed struggle. The Mayan, Garifuna and Xinca Indians were the mainstay of the guerrilla groups.

The threat of the bosses is again making itself felt on the indigenous peoples as in the 1980’s, but the response now may be different.

During the war the guerrilla groups led the workers into a struggle for National Liberation, which would supposedly later lead to Socialism. But history showed that all this was a failure. **See GUATEMALA: STATE OF SIEGE, page 7**

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

About Universities

Recently I read an article about the future of education in communism, that is the future of universities (RF Vol. 10 # 10). A group of us comrades discussed it. This article was putting forward the end of universities as centers of xenophobia and racism, and intellectual elitism.

I mentioned the importance of the revolutionary nuclei in Latin America within the universities that gave a strong social struggle and organizational efforts to create the first revolutionary nuclei.

These would later form the armed groups that would join the Farabundo Martí Front for National Liberation in the case of El Salvador. Another example of the struggle was in Mexico during the 1960s where students and teachers massively crystallized the malaise of the terrible economic and social policies of the Mexican Government at the time.

It was there within the universities that, thanks to international workers' solidarity, in these nations they had access to revolutionary and visionary documents that spoke of communism, socialism, dialectical materialism and then spread them to the industrial and farm-worker centers.

The criticism is through questions that were raised in the discussion and that should be answered by the communist workers and groups internationally.

What kind of education do we want?

Should the Universities be eliminated or changed?

What is the historical role of the Universities in scientific and technological development?

Let us remember, then, that human practice also includes theoretical training, culture and art. Therefore it does not refer only to work in the workplace. Anything that is part of the activity of the human being is practice. It is important to take into account the practical-theoretical unity for the advancement of human societies, something very present in the communist movement.

A comrade who mentioned that it is revolutionary education and not academic education that creates revolutionaries, is right. We must

start collective discussions to visualize how we intend to solve a problem on a global scale, which is the education of every human being on earth, a great task ... To rescue what worked and what did not, during the educational model of the Soviet Union, North Korea, Cuba and China during the Cultural Revolution, to identify elements that help in building a communist educational system.

A new vision and mission of education from and for the masses must be formed. Since the communist revolution must not be a gray steamroller of the collective consciousness of the masses, it is vital that it be the starting point for the liberation and emancipation of the thinking of humanity.

With the end of universities, racism, xenophobia and intellectual elitism will not be completely eliminated. This is related to the formation of values and mass consciousness from a capitalist production model that expropriates the fruits of the workers' labor and puts commercial relations and the interest to accumulate capital above everything.

The transformation of material reality and production relations is the substantial step to generate a transcendent and permanent impact on the minds of millions of people who have lived with the idea that capitalism is the highest point of human progress.

A comrade in the United States who said, "The universities educate and train people with a capitalist and bourgeois mentality," is correct. However, let's remember that the communists are within the capitalist system. We fight within institutions that perpetuate the capitalist model of production and yet that is where we must work and from there with discipline and perseverance we build communist nuclei or cells.

—Comrade in El Salvador

Write More about Recruitment

I think that RF in general could do a better job in encouraging friends of ICWP to join, and encouraging members to recruit them. Here I'll go over the last issue to illustrate the problem.

It does not begin well. On the front page are two articles, a short one on the Brazil fires and

a longer one on the auto industry in India. Both make useful points but neither have anything at all to say directly about joining or recruiting, not even a short call to join ICWP.

The page 2 article has next to nothing about joining/recruiting except for the final sentence, exhorting Pia Klemp and RF readers to "join us."

Things look up when we reach the memorial article for the late comrade Martha Bracho. Oddly, there is no call to join/recruit in her memory. But it makes clear that she took recruiting very seriously and successfully. And her secret: getting to know lots of people, doing things with them, and forming strong personal ties.

Another bright spot is a letter from a new comrade in South Africa explaining in straightforward language why they joined ICWP, and how they are going to recruit others.

But what really saves the day is the "sense" article from Seattle. It explains how workplace (and other) discussions about current events can be used to recruit. Its optimistic message is that "every week comrades meet more potential communists at work, at multiracial and international social events, at schools and in our daily lives."

That's about it. The rest of the articles say nothing about joining/ recruiting or merely call at the very end, for example "let's build the ICWP" or "join the fight for communist revolution."

I'm not suggesting that every article has a big section about recruiting. That would be boring. But the editors should make sure the issue is addressed in each issue.

Where RF really and consistently falls down is in not explaining what it means to join ICWP. There are basic questions people have which are almost never answered. For example who can join (anyone), how do you join (ask any member), do you have to know a lot about Marxism (no). What do you do as a member? Why is it important to join now? And why do we need a party in the first place?

I suggest a pamphlet about all this.

—Comrade in Canada.

**GUATEMALA, STATE OF SIEGE from page 6**

Millions of lives throughout the world were lost to a lost cause, and Guatemala was no exception. Guerrilla leaders sold out the struggle of the indigenous city and rural workers who gave up everything for a change that never happened.

With the recent developments, the opinion of the Mayan Indians is divided. Some think that the army has changed, others that the scorched earth massacres of the 1980's will be repeated. The truth is that the army as an institution is still the same. It still represents and defends the interests of the bosses. This oligarchy has governed the country since the conquest.

But we must not forget that many of these sol-

diers are forcibly recruited from their populations under penalty of imprisonment. These recruits can also be won to the revolution. They are also children of the working class.

Let's organize in Guatemala and around the world for a communist revolution, as the workers are doing in South Africa, El Salvador, Mexico, Puerto Rico, India, and many countries where *Red Flag* has arrived and where capitalism is still massacring the working class. Let's organize through the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP). Only Communism will free the working class from capitalist terror.

SUBSCRIBE TO RED FLAG - \$20/YEAR

Name _____ I want _____ copies per issue

Address _____

Send to P.M.B 362, 3006 S. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90007

The True Lesson of 400 Years of Racism in the United States: WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE FOR COMMUNISM TO BREAK THE CHAINS OF WAGE SLAVERY

The photograph shows two railroad tracks, “intersecting but going in different directions, toward different outcomes.” This, concludes the *New York Times 1619 Project*, is “a fitting metaphor, perhaps, for black and white life in America.”

Or perhaps not.

This final image reveals the project’s driving purpose. In 100 pages of history, personal narrative, photographs and poems, the *NYTimes Magazine* (August 18, 2019) argues that black and white workers in the United States have nothing in common. Other ethnicities are virtually invisible here.

Four hundred years ago, a ship arrived in the British colony of Virginia bearing a cargo of 20 to 30 enslaved Africans. This is the first recorded evidence of enslaved Africans in what would become the United States.

The slave trade began long before 1619. It was a global system, building capitalism in Europe, devastating Africa, and transporting millions to Central America, the Caribbean and South America—especially Brazil. Less than 10% of kidnapped Africans were shipped to British North America.

As Marx pointed out in *Capital*, chattel slavery was part of the murder, theft and looting that provided the initial capital for the capitalist system. It included the displacement of European peasant farmers and the genocide of indigenous people in the Americas.

Today, global warming and a world-wide refugee crisis remind us that capitalism is still a global system. But *The NYTimes* promotes a view of history that rejects both internationalism and class struggle. Its 1619 Project is designed to build US patriotism around an identity-politics non-class outlook.

The introductory essay makes this clear. “[D]espite being violently denied the freedom and justice promised to all, black Americans believed fervently in the American creed.” The author emphasizes that “we [black people] have

helped the country to live up to its founding ideals.” She calls for a continuation of “the idealistic, strenuous and patriotic efforts of black Americans” to improve American democracy.

How to win black workers and youth to “patriotic efforts?” A few truths and many lies.

A few truths: Articles on mass incarceration, health care, urban planning, the gap in black-white wealth and others detail the legacy of slavery in racist US society today.

Many lies.

One lie is the boot-strap narrative: if you are smart and work hard you will succeed. The centerpiece of the issue shows portraits of four graduates of the prestigious historically-black Howard University Law School. These young people trace their heritage to ancestors who had been enslaved, but, in three of the four cases, had been able to become landowners and in one case a public official.

Another lie is that black people did not fight back. The magazine includes sixteen original compositions—art and poetry—inspired by historic events in black history. Only two of these—Gabriel’s Rebellion in 1800 and the formation of the Black Panther party in 1968—have anything to do with struggle. The others either celebrate black culture—from colonial black poet Phillis Wheatley to Hip-Hop—or portray black Americans as victims.

The most glaring lie is “For the most part, black Americans fought back alone”—as if their struggles were not part of the class struggle of all workers.

The NYTimes claims that “Anti-black racism runs in the very DNA of this country.” This echoes the idea, advanced by Democratic Party politician Stacey Abrams in *Foreign Affairs*, that black and white Americans are separated by an “intrinsic difference.” It is, at its core, a fascist idea.

“Race” is not a biological fact of life. Capitalists created it to justify the brutal super-exploitation of some of us and to divide us so that we’re

not able to overthrow them. Racism was the justification and the result—not the cause—of chattel slavery.

Before the legalization of chattel slavery in the 1660s, black and white unfree people worked together, had sex together, fought back together, and ran away together. Native Americans welcomed runaways, African and English. The purpose of the laws that institutionalized slavery was to keep our ancestors apart, ending that solidarity.

The movement to abolish slavery was clearly interracial—John Brown’s 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry is only the most famous instance. So was the Civil Rights Movement in the mid-20th century.

From the coal mines of Tennessee in the 1890s to the massive Communist-led sit-in strikes in the 1930s to the 1970 postal workers’ strike, among many others, workers of all “races” (including black and white workers) have joined together to fight their common class enemy.

It is the role of the *NYTimes* to separate us and to argue that we have nothing in common. It aims to use identity politics to win black workers and youth to support racist capitalism.

The 1619 Project concludes that “black people have seen the worst of America, yet, somehow... believe in its best.” This is a call to vote for the Democrats. To legitimize the Democratic Party’s effort to construct an electoral coalition based on prioritizing personal identities—gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity and race.

Capitalism needs racism. Communism—and the fight for communism—needs the unity of workers of all races, nationalities, ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations.

As the crisis of capitalism intensifies, the rulers are working overtime to divide us. **Red Flag** must put forward our vision of how communism can end racism. Read our pamphlet, **To End Racism, Mobilize the Masses for Communism** at icwpredflag.org/rpe.pdf. Join our Party. Fight for Communism!

Ayotzinapa Massacre, Five Years Later

Mexico will soon observe the fifth anniversary of a gruesome mass murder. This horrific crime has received international attention. An international commission on human rights came to some serious conclusions of close ties between the Mexican Army and organized crime.

On the night of September 26th, 2014, 57 students set out to commandeer local buses, as they had for years. They were to travel to Mexico City to commemorate the Student Massacre of 1968, Plaza Tlatelolco. This yearly custom was well known by locals. It was an inconvenience, but the vehicles were usually returned.

This night did not end as it had in the past. The buses that the young men “borrowed” were to have been used for a celebration that the mayor’s wife organized

each year to congratulate herself on her civic pride and accomplishments. The commission that investigated the murders pointed to the mayor of Iguala and his wife. Neither has faced charges or been convicted!

According to eyewitnesses, the local police set up roadblocks and began firing on three busloads of students. The students tried to drive away. Finding the roads blocked, most

escaped into the hills on foot. The local police from Iguala and the nearby town of Cocula rounded up 43 of 57 students. Claiming they were part of a drug cartel, police handed the students over to members of a local crime syndicate.

As the mother of three young adults, this case will never disappear from my memory. I have seen the signs, with tears in my eyes.

Families demanded justice, praying for their beloved children to return, while the Mexican government stonewalled their case.

Now the government of Manuel Lopez Obrador is in the spotlight. The election promised reforms, after the widespread corruption of the Enrique Pena Nieto regime. What will be done about Ayotzinapa now?

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

