

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Sudan, June 30 — Thousands marched to demand the fulfillment of promises made by the “transitional military-civilian government” after the mass uprising over a year ago.



SPAIN, July 1—Strikers shut down Alcoa plants in A Marina and San Cibao, protesting the US-based company's plans to close them and throw thousands out of work.

COVID-19, Hunger, India-China Border War:

COMMUNISM WILL END THE MANY WAYS THAT CAPITALISM KILLS WORKERS

CHENNAI (India) June 29 — “My family will starve if we cannot work in the auto industry. We will be dead by either hunger, lack of jobs or COVID-19,” Nikhil told a neighbor, an auto worker and member of ICWP.

Similar stories can be heard in Bengaluru, the heart of India's garment industry (third-largest in the world). With world demand low due to COVID-19, China is producing more garments. Economic competition is sharpening.

Military conflict is sharpening, too. Some 3000 km (1900 miles) away, the Chinese and Indian armies are clashing in the Himalayas. Twenty Indian soldiers from Bihar (a region bordering Nepal) were killed in skirmishes on June 15. The Chinese rulers (after containing COVID-19) have drawn a line.

The Indian rulers responded with naval exercises, with the US, Vietnam and Australia, in the South China Sea. That is where the bulk of goods flow to and from China and the rest of the world. After the June 15 clash, the US offered to mediate between India and China. This was not what the Indian army wanted to hear.

Bihar is a region of exceptionally low industrial growth. Every year, millions of workers travel across India, looking for jobs in large industrial cities. When the March lockdown came, these migrants tried to walk home. We do not know how many died. But in the northern slopes of India, whether they are killed by Chinese soldiers or (more often) by the Indian police, the effect is the same.

Communism: A Permanent Solution

We need more members of ICWP to build a world where no one will be killed by hunger, covid-19 or inter-imperialist war. To many, it

sounds like a daunting task.

We asked the auto worker in Chennai to join the party. “What good will it do when there is no job?” he asked.

“We will have a member who will recruit others to the party to destroy capitalism. We will also ask them to fight for communism without money and wage slavery. That is a permanent solution.”

The unions or other political parties just want him to join to control him, not really freeing him from his misery. They will offer a solution that does not exist. It will intensify the misery while he thinks something is being done.

We did not convince Nikhil to join the party. It is new to him. But he is taking it more seriously.

We need to develop more to the party, just like we did others. That means we must distribute Red Flag to him and many others. The more advanced,

who have been with the party longer, have joined our party after the George Floyd demonstrations. They saw that what is happening with George Floyd is the same as everywhere else. It is capitalism, and communism will be the only way to end the system.

New ICWP Groups in Tamil Nadu and Pakistan

We distributed many papers to workers in and around Chennai, Bengaluru, and Delhi. We got several people to take ICWP very seriously in other parts of Tamil Nadu. Five are forming a new ICWP collective. They are translating *Red Flag* into Tamil and Telugu. The job of translating is not easy. It will involve many more people, and that is what they are doing with other coworkers and social media.

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“Reparations” Are No Solution to the Horrors of Racist Capitalism

PAIN AND ANGER DEMAND COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARY TRANSFORMATION, NOT A CASH PAYOUT

June 30—“Enough is enough!” Millions worldwide have taken to the streets in the past month in big cities and tiny villages, on every continent.

This mass response to the police murder of George Floyd, in broad daylight amidst a pandemic and an economic collapse, has created an historic moment. The pandemic exposed the vulnerability of the most oppressed and most essential workers. Floyd’s murder exposed the racist police terror that maintains the system of oppression and exploitation.

And the mass response has exposed the vulnerability of the capitalist bosses. Fifty-five percent of all young Americans, and a whole lot of older folks of all “races,” have marched. They faced rubber bullets, police batons, and tear gas in ninety-nine US cities—and kept marching.

The police are trained to respond violently to all workers but especially to Black, Indigenous and Latino young men. So the murders continue — **and so do the protests.**

A recent survey revealed that Black youth see revolution as a more plausible strategy for social change than voting. And protesters of all ages and “races” have welcomed communist ideas and this newspaper.

The ruling class sees and fears the potential for revolution in the current situation. That’s why they are pushing a cafeteria of reforms. The capitalists are renaming buildings and pancake syrup. They are promoting Black-owned businesses and whites-only “consciousness-raising” book clubs.

Cities and school districts are voting to distance themselves from police agencies. They are planning more palatable forms of social control. “Get out the vote” campaigns have new talking points.

And the bosses’ media are now promoting reparations for African Americans.

Reparations: the appearance of justice but the reality of continuing racist exploitation

Reparations may cost the rulers some cash — cash they stole from the working class. But the US bosses are now scared enough to consider this as a lesser evil.

House Bill #40, calling for a study of reparations, has been stalled in Congress since 1989. But this spring the *New York Times*, *Forbes*, Brookings and *The Atlantic* have fast-tracked proposals calling for increased taxes on the richest Americans to finance cash payments to Black American descen-

dants of enslaved people.

The ruling class is desperately trying to buy time, to stifle the mass uprising against racist capitalism. They hope to divert a potentially revolutionary movement into a campaign for social services and social control. For subsidies for Black capitalists and chump change for Black working-class families.

Capitalism is based on racist violence from start to finish. The genocide of Native Americans and the kidnapping and torture of Africans were the foundation of US capitalism in particular and capitalism in general.

Black workers have played a crucial role in the accumulation of capitalist wealth. Murderous police power developed to suppress the fight-back of Black Americans excluded from the fruits of their labor by centuries of slavery, legal discrimination, imprisonment, racist exploitation, and violence.

Racist terror and lies have kept the working class divided. They have allowed the capitalist class to continue in power even as it becomes increasingly obvious that its system is dying.

No cash payment can compensate for the life of a loved one, or for slavery’s kidnappings and family separation. The pain and anger of slavery and racism demand revolutionary transformation, not a cash payout.

Reparations won’t change the nature of capitalism. Its twin pillars are exploitation and inequality. It can’t be reformed. It must be overthrown.

We must destroy the divisions of racism, sexism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and homophobia that have kept the working class subject to the demands of capital. We must mobilize the masses, especially industrial workers and soldiers, into a revolutionary army that can take power away from our long-time oppressors.

And when we take power, we must dismantle all the systems of oppression. We fight for communism and nothing less. We will abolish the oppressive capitalist state with its cops and courts and prisons and jails. We will abolish the institutions that have perpetuated racist ideas, the bosses’ media and their schools.

But more: We will abolish the economic base of our oppression. That includes the private ownership of the wealth we have collectively produced, the banks and stock options, wage-slavery and money itself. We will seize the fields and the factories and the mines, the weapons and the hospitals and the infrastructure of transportation and communication that the working class has built. We will use it to meet the needs of the masses.

We will finally be able to work together for the good of all. We’ll finally repair the damage that has been done by racist capitalism. Society will have its basis in the communist principle, “from each according to commitment, to each according to need.”

Communist society will make real reparations for the racist attacks of capitalism. It will give wings to the resilience and dedication that racism has taught the Black working class.

REPARATIONS: LONG-TIME TALKING-POINTS OF BOURGEOIS NATIONALISM

Bourgeois nationalists worldwide have demanded reparations for colonialism, apartheid, and slavery for decades.

One starting-point is the Marxist-Leninist and pan-Africanist revolutionary Thomas Sankara. He was President of Burkina Faso from 1983 until his assassination in 1987.

Sankara urged other African leaders to cancel their countries’ foreign debts. “Debt’s origins come from colonialism’s origins,” he declared. “We cannot repay but the others owe us what the greatest wealth could never repay, that is blood debt.”

Sankara influenced the “Black consciousness” movement in South Africa.

In 2003, the South African government said it would make token reparations for Apartheid. These went only to about 19,000 individuals who testified before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Today, Julius Malema’s Economic Freedom Fighters have transformed the demand for reparations for apartheid. They demand the nationalization of all rural land without compensation.

Indian politician Shashi Tharoor has built a popular following by demanding that the British government pay the Indian government symbolic reparations for colonialism. These would amount to just one pound sterling per year for two hundred years.

Groups with similar demands exist in Haiti and the former British colonies of the Caribbean.

Groups in Brazil, the destination of the largest number of people kidnapped from Africa during the Transatlantic Slave Trade, also call for reparations.

All of these groups accept capitalism as the framework for reparations. None address the “blood debt” of centuries of racist exploitation. We ask readers to help produce articles that deal with these currents in more depth.



In the Haitian revolution (1791-1803), enslaved people successfully fought to abolish slavery and took power in a former French colony. Later, French gunships imposed “compensation” payments, impoverishing the Haitian masses. The next Haitian revolution must be for communism.



German Coast rebellion, 1811, the largest slave rebellion in US history. Five hundred enslaved people, led by 22-year-old Charles DesLondes (formerly enslaved in Haiti) marched on New Orleans with arms and banners and fought hard until the end.

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DESPITE THE PANDEMIC, WE'RE BACK IN THE TRENCHES

EL SALVADOR, June 28 — “The masks they give us are made of cloth, they are unsafe,” a garment worker asked the supervisor. “Why don’t they give us surgical masks?”

“If you want one of those, buy them yourself,” the supervisor replied. “The company doesn’t have the money to buy them.”

We workers, women and men, get paid \$9 a day. A surgical mask costs about \$1 and is to be used for six hours. The company makes millions of dollars. This is the reality that we face as the working class.

Returning to the factory after the coronavirus lockdown, we workers organized in the International Communist Workers Party have analyzed our situation. With our **labor power**, we are the fundamental condition of production. Without us, factories are nothing but air, buildings, and machines. The bosses by themselves are useless. The transformers of the raw material into useful things for society are us workers.

When the companies first re-opened, despite the upward curve of the Coronavirus, the maquilas took back workers whose contracts had been suspended since March. Still 25% of the workers aren’t back, those who have not been incorporated. In the plant where we work, only about 670 workers are going to work, because collective transport has not yet resumed. That

means that many workers still continue suspended.

There are comrades, readers and friends of the Party who are not receiving wages and are waiting to go back to work, including the doctor we saw for medical consultation.

The current government of Nayib Bukele promised that it would compel the bosses to pay workers for the months in which their contracts were suspended. The government and the boss are two sides of the same coin.

We have met with ICWP comrades inside the factory and we have had conversations about how to do the organizational work in this new situation. Before, we had approximately 45 minutes for lunch. Now we have 30 minutes. We have also taken the opportunity to discuss the world situation and how we will hold cell and extended Party meetings.

We have talked about how the bosses have wanted to starve us to death, but that we have had the solidarity of our class through the Party, organized in other parts of the world. This has



helped us to keep the morale high of all the ICWP members here.

We will resume our ICWP cell meetings, and we will continue with the rest, when the collective transportation begins to function. We are once again in the trenches, in our workers’ center, to win our class to Communism. We have had one-on-one discussions. We are learning to use our group on WhatsApp, video calls and how to be present at national and international meetings.

Today more than ever we have seen the need to continue fighting directly for Communism. As ICWP we continue in active ideological struggle, because for us, being organized is the weapon that guarantees unity for the victory of communism.

WORKERS BRING COMMUNIST LITERATURE TO SOLDIERS OCCUPYING DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES (USA), June 26—“Remember, you guys, these people are just like us,” repeated a military veteran to the comrades going with him to distribute communist literature to National Guard troops patrolling the city streets.

Just like with the global pandemic, the U.S. ruling class scrambled to find ways to quell the uprisings brought on by the racist murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others. Their biggest attempts at suppression were curfews and deployments of the National Guard. They hoped we’d quiver in fear. Instead, we made it our mission to get our literature to the soldiers.

Comrades of multiple generations, male and female, visited the National Guard twice. Our sign read: “Soldier don’t shoot your class brothers and sisters! Join them!” We brought the party’s military pamphlet, a leaflet and *Red Flag*.

The first time there were four of us. Almost every soldier that we talked to took the three items. For the second visit there were three of us. This time, not every Soldier took the literature but many did. Also a soldier gave us his contact information. Altogether, soldiers took well over 50 of the three items.

This action came in the wake of the criticism that the Party’s military work was weaker than the party’s other areas of work. There was initial resist-

ance, based mainly on fear and the lack of confidence that soldiers will accept our ideas. Collective struggle made this action possible. Most important was the leadership of the army veteran comrade.

This comrade joined the army right after high school precisely to organize in the military. His experience gave us all confidence.

As we walked towards the soldiers, he kept repeating “remember, you guys, these people are just like us.” Earlier, he had figured out where the National Guard was stationed, made reconnaissance trips to the area and came up with the actual movement that we would be doing. He took on most of the leadership, too, when talking to soldiers the first time. This gave the rest of us the confidence we needed to be more open with our politics on the second trip.

“We’re with you guys, we have the same enemy,” we said to the soldiers. “Most of us that join the military are from the working class; the sons and daughters of the rich do not join the military.” We told the soldiers posted in Downtown Los Angeles that “historically, soldiers have led revolutions.”

Their responses ranged from “Hell yeah!” to “Yeah, my parents have taught me that.”

Three younger comrades gave the main political leadership to this work. In doing it, we developed as communists and our commitment to the party grew. “We really have to say we’re communist,” a

comrade critiqued during the first visit. “We have to get contacts,” insisted another.

After our first visit, we discussed both our strengths and weaknesses in the work. This led to advancements that we made the second time around. We received a great responses from soldiers and civilians and were actually able to make contacts while being out right with our politics.

Rather than making things up as we go along (as the ruling class has done with the pandemic and the uprisings) ICWP makes plans. We intend to utilize the masses’ distaste for the capitalist regime to mobilize for communism. Whether it’s police brutality, mass incarceration of Black and Latinx people disproportionately, poverty, or abolishing the police, no true justice can come unless we first start by uprooting the core problem that breeds the rest: Capitalism.

In order for the working class to eventually overthrow capitalism and establish communism our brothers and sisters in the armed forces are indispensable. The Party internationally is developing this work and taking the initial steps to guarantee it. We are working hard to identify the contradictions holding our military work back and, through collective struggle, to make sure that it happens. We are working collectively to overcome our barriers that may hold us back. By doing this we are putting communist work into action.

INDIA-CHINA from page 1

Our work has gone beyond the borders. A group of workers in Pakistan has also joined ICWP. They have translated *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* into the Urdu language. The next step is in the Sindhi language. They have offered to lend their ears to the dialectical materialism video we propose to produce.

While the new comrade in the Chennai is not joining the party now, many more new developments are taking place. This gives more confidence to the party everywhere to recruit more. Many more papers distributed consistently, many more conversations, will eventually result in recruitment.

Our task is to understand more clearly the process of recruiting Nikhil to the party. We will get to know him better. When we convince him and others like him, it will open the door to recruiting more around the world.

April 22, 2020: Migrant workers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh protest Indian government starvation policies



Learning from the Working Class:

CONSISTENT IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE CREATES CHANGE

SOUTH AFRICA—Two comrades visited comrade Fezile in Motherwell, where workers went on strike a few weeks ago. Our conversations with workers there helped us understand better the process of change in building the party.

Comrade Fezile organized his friends and co-workers to come with us to their workplace to distribute the *Red Flag*. Then we discussed the struggle for communism with them.

We introduced ourselves as ICWP, which fights for the working class. Most workers were interested. Since the strike, most still have problems with management and are not yet back to work. Some thought we were there as a union to help them resolve their dispute with the bosses.

We explained that we sympathize with them but our goal is much broader. The only thing that can help the working masses in the long run is the destruction of capitalism, the eradication of the bosses.

Most of them don't seem to believe they have the capacity and power to fight the bosses. A worker said that he doesn't think anything can change "because the bosses have the money; they own the police, they own the soldiers. We can't actually do anything to change that."

They feel betrayed by the bosses and the unions. We had to get them to see that they don't need either. If they act collectively as a unit, they have the power, not the bosses. They hadn't considered that the bosses need the workers more than the workers need the bosses, because without workers to create value, the bosses can't make profits. We said the only way to change society for the better is to fight for communism.

We struggled with them about how things change. Sometimes change isn't visible, but it is happening. It may seem that the continents aren't moving, but they move a centimeter each year. Eventually people will see the change.

It's the same with us. The party is still small and growing. It needs them to join so we can expand. As time goes by people will start to see the change the Party will make.

Defeat Bosses' Racist and Sexist Ideas

We explained the need to look beyond the divisions the bosses impose through sexism and racism. Workers are more similar to each other than different. They are more different from the bosses than similar to them. Whether workers are Black, white or coloured (mixed-race), they are still workers so they have more similarities with each other than with the people who are exploiting them.

Our conversation centered on how the bosses keep the workers divided through racism. They give preferential treatment to some coloured workers so that the black workers will be jealous, mistrustful, and see them as class traitors.

This time, we offered the *Red Flag* to all the workers, not only the black workers. Most of the coloured workers took it. This shows that the generalization that all coloured workers are class traitors is unfounded. It was important to show that the bosses use this to divide them.

And that the only thing that ties workers to the bosses are wages. Sometimes this is the main reason they feel they can't do anything. Without wages they can't meet their needs.

This is where ICWP comes in. When we establish a communist revolution, they won't have to work for a wage. Their needs will be met and they will make their own contribution, according to their ability and commitment.

The conversation helped us understand why workers sometimes doubt their abilities to fight the bosses. It also answered some questions we had ourselves as a collective.

We've been talking about the law of quantity and quality. Some comrades were questioning

whether the law is applicable in real life. Whether when we put in quantity there will be qualitative change.

What kind of quantitative changes will lead to the qualitative change we need? It is in practice where we see how these things work. We need to be consistent, to carry out the ideological struggle over and over. That's where we will see change.

Each *Red Flag* we distribute is a potential contact. This should be the starting point to initiate conversation. Then we need to explain it to people. When we do that it will lead to qualitative change.

This visit showed the importance of the practice of consistent ideological struggle to see how quantity leads to quality, how to advance. This is not a dogma; it's not set in stone. It develops through practice.



Conversations that Make a Difference:

WHO IS A CAPITALIST? WHAT'S WRONG WITH SOCIALISM AND NATIONALISM?

PORT ELIZABETH (South Africa)—After a visit to a factory in Motherwell, comrades continued the discussion with Pho, a friend.

We talked to him about the need for change. He didn't agree about the need for communism. But, he agreed that in order for things to change, there has to be a transfer of power from the ruling class to those who suffer, the working class.

Our point of struggle with him was that he only views capitalists as people who are white. This myth is perpetuated by organizations like the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). We explained that even if you are black, if you own the means of production, you are exploiting the working class. You are a capitalist, regardless of whether you are black or white or any other colour. He seemed to take this to heart. He ended up asking more questions.

He asked, "Who can be classified as a capitalist?"

We answered, "If you own the means of production you are a capitalist."

In his view, then everyone who owns a spaza shop is a capitalist. But you can't be a capitalist because you don't have surplus. You only sell those things to have income to pay for your needs. In communism you don't have to do that because your needs will be taken care of by the entire working class. You will contribute based on your ability and commitment and you will receive based on your needs.

He thought that the people who should lead this revolution should be pro-black consciousness. We explained to him the narrowness of most of the black consciousness movement. Our point of view is to fight directly for communism, instead of fighting for the emancipation of black people only here in South Africa. And what about other workers? We are similar to other workers who are oppressed anywhere in the world, even in Europe or England.

At the end of the conversation, he agreed with us that in spite of what they are told by parties like EFF about black consciousness, now he sees that it is opportunistic on their part to advocate for the nationalization of resources. After all, they would be the ones who would preside over this new capitalist class that would arise if parties like EFF were to succeed.

It means that the workers won't benefit in any way, just like under capitalism that we have now. We gave many examples from history to show that socialism doesn't help. It reverts back into capitalism.

We made an example of the tripartite alliance

and the African National Congress (ANC). They are in alliance with the socialist movement (the South African Communist Party) and COSATU (the trade union federation). The ANC carries out anti-working class policies, while these organizations support them. Regardless which of these organizations you support, the results will be the same: the exploitation of the working class.

The only way to end the scourge of the bosses is to completely eradicate them with a communist revolution led by ICWP, with the support of the soldiers. He agrees and would like to know more about the party. We are making plans to send him more literature like *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. We can also ask him to help spread it among his co-workers and friends.



High School Teacher Reflects on Capitol Hill Occupied Protest:

POLITICAL CLIMATE CALLS US TO BUILD FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SEATTLE (US)—After the death of George Floyd, thousands battled the police in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. Protestors came back every night to confront the cops at the local East Precinct. The police attacked the protestors repeatedly, unprovoked, with flash-bang grenades, pepper spray and CS gas.

After eight days of protests, the cops abandoned the precinct. The demonstrators immediately claimed seven square blocks around the precinct, including half of a large park. Protesters held the space as CHOP (Capitol Hill Occupied Protest) for more than two weeks.

Within a week, the city played on the divisions and lack of clear leadership to co-opt the occupation. They installed new barricades that make it difficult to protect CHOP from attack. In my opinion, the occupation gave up all its leverage at that point. The city is now reopening the East Precinct and reclaiming the streets in phases.

Early on, demands were agreed upon by enough people that they became the unofficial reason for the occupation. There were three: defund the Seattle Police Department by 50%; give that money to Black and brown communities; and freedom for all protesters.

CHOP became a magnet for armed fascists and right-wing groups. Small groups of Proud Boys, some armed, made appearances. In one armed attack a man drove his car into the protesters and shot someone in the arm. There have also been

at least two other Proud Boys attacks on protesters and/or Black people around the outside of the space.

If we think of CHOP as an experiment in establishing a different kind of society, we can draw some important lessons.

First, people can quickly develop support systems to take care of each other. Participants developed systems for feeding, clothing and providing for people's needs. Volunteer medic and mental health teams emerged. A crew self-organized for cleanup and trash removal. Community-generated funding maintained portable bathrooms.

Second, without mass commitment to basic communist principles, bureaucratic structures of power quickly reasserted themselves. Security teams started to act more like mini-police forces. General assemblies quickly devolved into clashes of egos and battles for the spotlight.

Third, being anti-racist, as important as that is, was not enough. There was a culture in the space to lift up and prioritize Black voices, especially Black women's voices. But this was often done uncritically, and people ended up following lead-



SEATTLE (US), June 12—Sixty thousand anti-racists marched two miles, many carrying signs saying “Defund the SPD” and “Abolish the Police.” Millions around the world are making similar demands. Only communism can put an end to racist killer cops by mobilizing masses.

ership from Black men and women with reactionary politics.

Finally, the tension of the occupation and immediate threats made it difficult to broaden the focus of the discussions. Many participants wanted to imagine a different sort of society, but the immediate needs took precedence. Everyone in the space agreed that “Black Lives Matter” but that agreement quickly became superficial, even a cliché.

Discussions about communism are critical, even when faced with threats. The Chinese Red Army had mass meetings on the battlefield. These meetings helped soldiers develop a clearer idea about the nature of the communist society they were fighting for. After winning the revolution, these rank-and-file troops went on to spark a decades-long battle within socialist China against revisionism and for communism.

CHOP was not sustainable, but its existence has added to a political climate in which the building of a revolutionary movement feels possible.

For future issues of *Red Flag*, comrades and friends will write more about how capitalism requires racist police forces and how communism will eliminate them.



This issue of *Red Flag* barely scratches the surface of the relationship between racism and capitalism. Please read our pamphlet to learn more: TO END RACISM: MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

icwpredflag.org/RP/rpe.pdf

TRANSIT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TEACH EACH OTHER ABOUT COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES, June 28 —“In a family, the young people work, the children study, and the grandparents contribute what they can. But when it's time for dinner, everyone eats at the table. And if someone is sick, the family cooperates to take care of them.”

That's how a young comrade MTA transit worker explained the way communism will work.

Five MTA workers, plus the spouses of three of them and four other ICWP comrades, were at a barbecue in the young comrade's back yard. We got together to see how we could continue to organize and inspire the fight for communism during the pandemic. We were Black, Latinx and white.

It's a contradiction. We know we must stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the most vulnerable among us. But we felt that, in this case, we needed to get together in person to learn from each other so as to fight the more deadly virus—capitalism. So we wore masks, tried to keep some physical distance, and had great discussions about communism.

One worker asked how communism will deal with unemployment and homelessness. Comrades explained that communism won't have those problems because the society will take care

of each other. Nobody will need money.

His wife, also an MTA worker, asked how communism will deal with looting. Comrades explained that in communism looting, like sexist and racist behavior, will be dealt in a mass way in all the places we work, learn and live. We had a lively discussion about individualism and need for collectivity.

The meeting was very relaxed and comradely. We asked other women what they think about communism. The wife of the young MTA comrade replied, “I like it, and I'd like to learn more.”

We passed *Red Flag* to everyone. Our *Red Flag* literature is very important for the continued growth of the ICWP. Our members reading and distributing it is part of the fight towards a Communist World.

The endless efforts of every member to better understand and help others understand the Racist, Sexist, Discrimination, Greedy, driven ways of the failing system of Capitalism is part of the struggle. We invited everyone to help with this.

The worker who'd asked about homelessness saw the picture of the George Floyd protest in Syria on the front page. “Wow, amazing!” he said. “How big is the Party?”

“We are still relatively small,” a comrade an-

swered. “But we have great potential to grow, and we are already organizing in Mexico, El Salvador, South Africa, India, Spain and other places. *Red Flag* reflects those struggles.”

The worker who'd asked about looting was very interested the *Red Flag* article about that. “I want to learn more about communism,” she said. “I want to be in the next zoom study group that you are talking about.” We plan to invite many more workers to these zoom meetings.

Her husband agreed with us that mass demonstrations need structure. We said, “That's why we need a Party and you should be part of it.” They both smiled.

Capitalism only benefits the less-than-1% elite of the world. It does not benefit the rest of the population that is mostly the working class. The purpose of the party's growth is not solely in our jobs, communities, or families, but to impact the masses on a global scale.

History has helped us understand what a Revolution is, and at this given time, it could be very near. We need to continue the culture, be organized, and be very well structured to continue the fight towards Communism.

THE COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST RACISM WILL MAKE US ALL HEALTHIER

The current pandemic has exposed how unhealthy capitalism is. It has also exposed how devastating the racism of this system is to health. Much of what makes us sick in the 21st century will be eliminated by the destruction of capitalism through the mobilization of the masses and the leadership of the International Communist Workers' Party.

Life under capitalism is extremely stressful for all workers. We have to worry about paying the rent or mortgage, buying food, health care, transportation, clothes, etc. We have to worry about losing a job or getting sick. Stress aggravates almost all illnesses, from diabetes to depression. The top two causes of death worldwide (though not in Africa), heart disease and stroke (APHA), are very strongly linked to stress.

Ironically, it is the very healthcare workers we depend on during this pandemic who are subject to extraordinary levels of stress.

This stress is multiplied many times more for Black and Latinx workers, who face lower wages, dangerous working conditions, less access to healthcare, increased incarceration rates, and death by police violence. Huge numbers of healthcare workers and others have demonstrated to recognize racism as a public health hazard.

Racism means that Black, Latinx and Indigenous workers experience higher rates of illness, impairment and death in the U.S. and globally. For example, Black women are far less likely to have breast cancer, yet are 40% more likely to die from it than white women (Centers for Disease Control). Racism is clearly a killer.

One of the main ways that health will improve under communism is by the fight against (and eventual abolition of) racism. Health and healthcare will no longer be dependent on race or economic status.

Communism will abolish money and wage slavery. Without capitalist exploitation, we can win the struggle to end sexism, racism and xenophobia. Working together for the common good will provide fulfilling lives, rather than the self-serving, individualistic lives we are encouraged to live under capitalism.

Work itself will be both meaningful and productive. Instead of working to make the bosses rich, we will be working together to meet the needs of our class brothers and sisters. There will be no economic incentive for racist speedup and harassment.

In order to maximize prof-

its, capitalists must develop production systems that break down work into the simplest tasks possible. Workers are forced to do the same repetitive jobs, day after day.

Communist production, on the other hand, focuses on fulfilling the needs of the masses, not profits. As matter of course, workers will do a variety of jobs, even on the same day.

Communist production is much more flexible and resilient. It will allow the party to mobilize millions of worker to produce whatever is needed at a particular time. Without profits, we can prioritize good housing, sewage systems, clean drinking water and clean air. Racism and imperialism make these necessities inaccessible to most worker under capitalism.

Almost all activities will be communal, greatly reducing isolation. Loneliness is known to be a health risk factor – as harmful as smoking or obesity.

Good food is vital to good health. But for capitalism, what's vital is cheap food, so bosses pay low wages, expose workers to pesticides and force us into dangerous working conditions. For example, in Yakima, the center of farming is Washington state, the percentage of people with COVID-19 is six times higher than in the city of Seattle. Most of the farmworkers there are Latinx.

There will be medicine, healthcare workers and hospitals under communism. They'll be available to all those who need them. If there are pandemics and other forms of new diseases, we'll mobilize the masses to eradicate them.

For all these reasons, we believe that in communism workers won't experience illness on the scale they do under capitalism. This is especially true for those who are subject to racist attacks. Communism is key to workers' health.



Seattle (US)—Seven thousand healthcare workers and others fill City Hall Plaza to demand racism be declared a public health issue. Only communism can eradicate the deadly disease of racism.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO ICWPREDFLAG@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.ORG

Juneteenth: Opportunity to Promote Communist Ideas About Racism

Some friends have noticed that there was no mention of Juneteenth in the last RF. Now, we don't usually pay much attention to holidays in the paper, because most all of them (except May Day) are religious or patriotic. But this holiday is different, because it is a part of a long-term struggle against racism in the US.

Juneteenth has been celebrated for many years in the African American community because it marks the date that enslaved people in Texas found out that chattel slavery had been abolished, two years after they were legally freed.

Of course, slavery still exists... wage slavery. And racism and inequality.

Communists have always been in the forefront of this battle because we know that capitalism cannot be defeated by a working class divided by racism. The struggle for the most part has been around institutionalized racism, as it should be. Recognizing that our entire society is founded on racism and inequality and that must be defeated and replaced with communism.

The movement that is growing now has emphasized the personal, one-on-one racism that exists

within our own class and the activist community. Some of the demands are divisive, not helping to build a mass movement. Their answer is to make Juneteenth a national holiday, or to elect more people of color and women to office, or defund the police or demand reparations.

From my own experiences (and other comrades'), most Black workers know that all this has been tried before and it won't make things better for them or any workers.

We have to struggle harder with ourselves and our friends and family to defeat the racism within ourselves and others. We cannot with-

draw from a discussion on racism if we are white.

Young people are especially angry and impatient with this system, and they have a right to be! At the Juneteenth demonstration we attended, we got a lot of positive feedback about **Red Flag** from many young people, who were interested in learning more about communism.

Communist ideas are embraced all over the world by people of every ethnicity and gender. So let's get our ideas out there because so many people are looking for something to believe in and fight for.

—Seattle comrade



LOS ANGELES (USA), June 19 – Comrades greet marchers from Los Angeles Trade Tech College arriving at City Hall after a Juneteenth march, giving **Red Flag** to many.

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Lessons of 1989: Soldiers and Workers Are Key

The waves of protests around the world made us all reflect on how to change the governing system that increasingly puts the majority of people at disadvantage. These remind me of what I experienced in 1989, the year of change in Eastern Europe.

In 1989, the Berlin Wall began to topple and massive protests led to the overthrow of all dictatorships in the region.

What motivated people to put their lives on the line? Was it the widespread poverty described by a lack of goods and food? Was it censorship, misinformation, restricting travel? Was it the brutal and fearful ways in which these governments secured their power?

In Romania, where I lived, the arrest of a Hungarian pastor in the small town of Timisoara sparked an uprising. It grew, fueling massive protests nationwide.

Following presidential orders, the army and police tried to stop the Timisoara protesters with batons, tear gas, guns and tanks. Undeterred, more locals joined the demonstrations. The government tried to incite large groups of rural workers to embark on trains and go fight the "hooligans." When they got to Timisoara, these workers joined the protesters.

Soon the entire country was flooded by unrest. The Romanian president organized a rally in Bucharest, the capital, and spoke from the balcony of the Central Committee building. He condemned the Timisoara uprising and accused the protesters of treason.

After a few minutes, the crowd (estimated at 100,000) suddenly burst into a roar: "Down with the dictator!!" The president stopped speaking and his special guards rushed him to safety.

That was the moment many of us had dreamed of but never imagined it would happen in our lifetime. It was the moment when we all decided to fight back, to stop being afraid. We all understood that we were finally having our Romanian Revolution.

As in other Eastern European countries, the scope of the revolt was clear: to replace the tyrannical regime by a democratic one. People wanted their rights and their dignity. But, unlike our neighboring countries, the Romanian Revolution was not a velvet one.

The tyrant president urged his special police, conventional police, and army to forcibly suppress the demonstrations. Tragically, many were killed, injured, or arrested. Then something else unprecedented surprised all of us. Most of the young soldiers could no longer obey the government that was forcing them to

harm civilians. Gradually, all of them joined the demonstrators.

In one instance, a woman offered food to some army men. She said that her son was serving elsewhere in Romania and he was most likely being ordered to suppress protesters, too. She was worried that the soldiers had not eaten in days. The army men, very touched, lay their guns on the ground, and joined the protesters. Then more and more did the same. The masses started shouting, "The Army is with us!"

The tension slowly died down. The outcome is well known: the tyranny was abolished.

Since then, revolts and uprisings around the world have changed even some of the governments most difficult to change. I am hopeful that people in North America will become more politically active and more determined to eliminate injustice in this part of the world.

—Red Flag reader

Red Flag responds: Thank you for this inspiring story! It shows us how quantitative changes (bigger and bigger protests) can lead to qualitative change (toppling a government). Socialism in Eastern Europe was another form of capitalism and so was the liberal government that followed the uprising. The uprising we need everywhere, to create a qualitatively different society is communist revolution. The quantitative change necessary to make that happen is more **Red Flag** readers becoming communist organizers.

Thoughts on How to Fight for Communism and Nothing Less

The old communist movement failed because they didn't fight for communism. But that wasn't their only failure.

As the experience of some of us shows, the movement could have developed the long term goal of communism and still end up not achieving that goal.

Therefore, we developed the line Mobilize the Masses for Communism and nothing less. It means that we don't fight for reforms of any kind.

The working class, however, has been trained for the last several hundred years to fight for reforms. The same could be said of the international communist movement during its almost two hundred years of existence.

Instead of reformist class struggle, we talk of organizing communist class struggle. Communist class struggle is mainly about ideological class struggle: replacing capitalist ideas and practices, embedded in us and the working class, with communist ideologies and practices.

That is our main task. This struggle starts by building communist social relationships with coworkers, friends and families. We engage them in political discussions ranging from world current events to what is happening at work and in their lives. We distribute Red Flag and other literature. We write articles and leaflets with their help about issues important to them.

We use the communist social relations we forge to recruit them to be **Red Flag** readers

Read our manifesto:

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

available at icwpredflag.org/MMC/MMCE.pdf



and distributors, to come to study groups, and to join the Party.

Not fighting for reforms, however, does not mean we don't participate in them. For example, if workers strike for higher wages where we work, we join the strike; walk the picket lines; and fight with them against the scabs and their police protectors.

This will allow us to struggle with them to organize for a communist revolution instead of fighting for reforms. We could strive to expand the distribution of our literature. We can struggle with them to adopt our revolutionary slogans: "Abolish wage slavery with communist revolution!" "No borders, no nations! Fight for communism!" etc.

We intensify the ideological struggle by intensifying our efforts to recruit them to the Party. The goal is to build Party collectives. Once in the Party, we strive to turn them into communist leaders to repeat this process as often as possible.

By doing this, we will increase our forces and our influence will grow among the workers. Now, we are in a better position to put into practice the concept that "theory also becomes a material force as soon as it has gripped the masses."

Actually, we can put it into practice at a higher level. Creating networks to distribute our literature, building study groups and recruiting to the Party are instances of "theory becoming a material force after being gripped by the people" we work with.

Also, we are at the point for bigger qualitative changes: that material force can now mobilize larger numbers of workers. Besides continuing and expanding the ideological struggle with more workers, we can respond more massively to capitalist attacks, and when possible organize offensive actions of our own.

We could organize work slowdowns, work stoppages, strikes, demonstrations and marches under our banners and slogans: communist political actions indicting capitalism and calling for communist revolution.

Our goal would be to broaden, deepen and sharpen our ideological struggle with the forces we move and those impacted by our actions. Such actions could galvanize our class nationally and internationally, advancing the struggle ideologically and organizationally. Repeating this process consistently will enable us to build the Party we need to make a communist revolution.

Not fighting for reforms doesn't mean not fighting. It means waging a resolute ideological struggle to organize and lead communist class struggles;

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)



PASADENA (USA), June 19 – Comrades and friends join hundreds in two Juneteenth rallies, a car caravan and a march, distributing about 100 copies of **Red Flag**.

HUNDREDS PROTEST RACIST LYNCHING OF ROBERT FULLER AND DEBATE STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (US), June 30 — “His smile brightened the days of all who met him,” said a friend of Robert Fuller. The body of Fuller, a 24-year-old Black man, was found hanging from a tree in front of Palmdale City Hall at 3:30 am on June 10.

“He was becoming more involved in standing up for the movement near the time of his death,” the friend continued. “He was well-known and loved in the community.”

Immediately, with no investigation, the Palmdale Sheriffs declared Fuller’s death a suicide. Family, friends, and community members went to the City Council to demand an investigation. None believed that Robert committed suicide. They all believe it to be a racist lynching.

On June 13, hundreds of Palmdale residents marched with Robert Fuller’s family demanding an investigation. The marchers were Black, Latin and white, young and older.

“People marched together as ONE in the name of peace and justice,” wrote a young friend. “Our chants of ‘No Justice No Peace’ and ‘Say His Name ... Robert Fuller!’ made the ground quake outside the Sheriff Station with the power of the people’s voice.”

The family told how Robert Fuller was a young man full of promise and potential. They demanded that the Sheriffs open a homicide investigation.

At the station, they faced Sheriffs who pointed

their guns and tear gas canisters guns at the entire crowd. Inside there were Sheriffs in riot gear. People stood firm, chanting. Then someone came out to say they were changing the status of the case and would be calling for an independent investigation. After about 45 minutes, the community marched back and heard speakers who said that we can’t let ourselves be divided or pitted against each other.

Since then, the community has held vigils and marches to demand the truth about Robert Fuller’s lynching. Lies and rumors have been spread about Robert Fuller to try to turn people against him. This is what the racist system does: first they murder the victim and then they try to murder his character with lies.

An activist said, “Some conservative people have a mission to make us look like we are outside of society, when society gives little to any of us, then society perceives us as a threat. We are still mobilizing.”

This friend also said, “I’m also going to help get out the vote and make sure people know and question the candidates.”

A comrade responded, “Voting won’t change the system. They are all capitalist politicians. To get rid of racist terror, we need to mobilize for communist revolution.”

“I know you say that communism will end racism and police terror. But that’s not going to happen right now. We need to elect the best candidates we can.”

But no politician can or will stop capitalism’s unending horrors. The system is in decline. No matter who is in office, it will intensify the attacks on us. The thing to do right now is to spread *Red Flag* and build ICWP collectives.

We are struggling with these friends to distribute *Red Flag* to their friends and to organize a study group with them. We want them to see the need to join and recruit others to ICWP to organize for a communist revolution.



PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO ICWPREDFLAG@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.ORG

Contradictions are resolved by sharpening them

“Can I give you a copy of *Red Flag*...” began a comrade.

“Is that something about Latinos only?” interrupted a Black protester at a Black Lives Matter demonstration condemning the murder of Andres Guardado.

Andres was an 18-year-old community-college student murdered by a Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputy. He was shot six times in the back, while kneeling with his hands up in the air.

“No. It is an international communist newspaper.”

“What do you mean international? Latinos in other countries?”

“No. About workers worldwide organizing a communist revolution to get rid of racist capitalism that oppresses and exploit us all.”

Understanding that the protester might be referring to Chicano nationalist movements (now or in the 1970s) our comrade said:

“It is not a question of race. It is a question of class. The capitalists in Haiti and South Africa are Black. Yet, they oppress, exploit and kill our working-class brothers and sisters there just like

the capitalists do here and everywhere else. We need a world without racism, nations or borders. We need a communist world without capitalists or money.”

We discussed and agreed that there was only one race: the human race, which first developed in Africa.

“Racism is a class question,” our comrade added. “Racists come in all genders, skin colors and national origin. Their ideology is capitalist. Anti-racists come in all genders, colors and national origin. Their ideology is pro-working class. We fight to make it anti-capitalist and pro-communist”.

Taking a copy of *Red Flag*, the protester said, “Thank you. I learned something today. It is a question of class, not race.”

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

Let’s Organize a Revolution for Communism

“This is a communist newspaper. We need a revolution to get rid of racist capitalism and to build a communist world that meets our needs.”

“Yes, we need a revolution. I want that paper. Thank you!”

This is a common response of protesters in the streets. Revolution is in the air.

The goal of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) is to mobilize these masses to fight for and build a communist world that meets the needs of the masses everywhere.

But revolution won’t happen spontaneously. It needs to be planned and organized.

One friend says that

first we should dismantle the police. Then we should dismantle landlords and abolish rent. Then tackle having good healthcare for all.

These are goals that capitalism will never allow. The capitalists’ goal is to maximize their profit on our backs—above all else. Their luxurious life style depends on the profits they extract from our labor. The police and the judicial system legalize and enforce this exploitation. Capitalism won’t allow being dismantled piece by piece. It needs to be destroyed all together.

A communist revolution will overthrow the capitalists and put the working masses in power. It will abolish the capitalist state, its courts, jails, police, and factories. In its place, the communist masses, organized in inter-connected ICWP collectives, will build production and agricultural centers to produce and distribute everything needed by the masses. It will be a struggle that will involve millions worldwide.

It will take an armed struggle to destroy capitalism so that we can build a communist world to meet our needs. It will take a mass ICWP of millions of leaders – who are both thinkers and doers – to organize and lead these efforts. Our communist goal should be clear: no capitalists, money or exploitation. We will build a world free of racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, borders or nations.

We will get there by spreading *Red Flag* newspaper and building collectives of ICWP. As capitalism attacks on our class intensify, more people are opening up to revolution. They need organization and the vision of a communist world.

We won’t have a state bureaucracy but instead Party collectives that plan, produce and distribute what the masses need. These collectives will guarantee the masses’ security and safety through a mass ICWP and Red Army.

Join us! Let’s mobilize for communist revolution!

—A comrade



Gardena, USA, June 28—Comrades in a car caravan protesting racist murder of Andres Guardado