





## REBELLIONS IN NIGERIA CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION EVERYWHERE

On Tuesday night, October 20, the fascist Nigerian ruling class unleashed their murderous police to coldbloodedly fire on masses peacefully protesting police brutality. The protesters called for disbanding SARS, a special police unit openly indulging in extortion, torture and murder. Eleven protesters were slaughtered, and scores wounded.

On Wednesday morning – as news of this massacre spread – the anger of the masses spilled into the streets of Lagos, Nigeria's biggest city. Masses, mainly youths, set ablaze the Nigerian Ports Authority Building, police stations, cars and federal buildings throughout the city. The youths live-streamed the events and shared them on social media while trapped amid fires and tear gas deployed by masses of officers who shot into crowds and prevented ambulances from treating the injured.

Nearly sixty percent of Nigeria's population is young. Most are out of work and finish school with no jobs waiting for them. Out of Nigeria's 40 million young workers, only 1.7 million are fully employed. This, plus extortion and torture by SARS agents, adds further fuel to the flame that is capitalism in Nigeria. The Nigerian working class have had enough!

This massive protest is the culmination of years of lack in opportunities and empty promises by Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, who has promised to dismantle SARS for years. Members of Buhari's staff recently explained that their officers would only be relocated and not fired or disciplined for their disgusting actions. Of course, the capitalists aren't going to put their lap dogs down!

### Communism Is the Solution

The Nigerian crisis shows that we need to fight for a communist world where human lives are nourished, cherished and treated with respect and dignity from cradle to grave.

This requires a system without money where production is to satisfy the masses' needs, not to make profits for the capitalists. In communism nothing will be bought or sold – especially our labor power, the source of the capitalists' profits. This will end wages and wage slavery. No longer will we be chained to the capitalists, depending on their jobs and wages to survive.

In communism there will be no separation of mental and manual labor because we understand that working requires both skills in all aspects of our lives. The less labor-intensive jobs won't just be put in the hands of those with degrees or special certifications.

Only communism can liberate the Nigerian masses from the crushing poverty and abysmal inequality, where the richest bloodsucking capitalist makes in one day 8,000 times more than what a Nigerian worker spends in one year to survive. While Nigerian capitalists live in opulence and splendor, 70% of the masses live with less than \$1.10 a day. Nearly 740 babies die each day before

they have lived one month!

These are just a few of the wounds that capitalism inflicts on the Nigerian working class every single day. The capitalist repressive forces exist to terrorize us into passively accepting these oppressive conditions.

Abolishing or disbanding the police won't work. The only way to end unending suffering and bloodshed is by mobilizing the masses to fight to destroy capitalism and build communism.

British Colonization in Nigeria, like European Colonization everywhere, sucked the country dry of its natural resources and workers' labor. It pitted different tribes, ethnic groups and religions against each other. What's important now is that these protests have united those who the rulers, then and now, have tried to keep divided. Many Nigerians have had terrible experiences with SARS, a sentiment that crossed the boundaries of tribe, religion, or ethnic backgrounds. The workers are uniting!



They came waving the green and white flags of Nigeria. They came singing the national anthem. The Army met them with bullets and bullets and bullets. The masses will re-group, their flags now blood-stained red and their voices in search of a new anthem to sing. The struggle teaches us all. That Army murdered workers, not Nigerians. Capitalism has nothing but bullets to offer the working class. Revolutionary communism is the way forward. Once again from the Lekki Toll bridge to every corner of the globe workers voices will sing with renewed conviction "...The workers' flag is deepest red .."

### Our Tasks Today

*Red Flag* helps prepare for the day when the masses are mobilized for communist revolution. We must build a Red Army where we can win a battle against the Bosses and their forces. No substantial change has ever come without armed force and that is true for our cause as well. The working class has the advantage in numbers. The "one percent" has no chance against us.

That requires building the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) in Nigeria and everywhere to organize masses across the world into a Party-led Red Army. Join us in fighting for a world without capitalists, their money or wage slavery – the root of racism, sexism, islamophobia, and other poisonous ideologies everywhere in the world. We need a world without borders or nations, where "from each according to their ability and commitment, and to each according to their need" will be the guiding principle.

Let's make this a reality by organizing ICWP collectives based on reading, distributing and writing for *Red Flag*. We have a world to win!

## South African Comrades: We Need International Approach to Police Murders in Nigeria

SOUTH AFRICA, November 2—In the past few weeks we've been hearing reports about the slaughter of our class brothers and sisters in Nigeria. We are encouraged that the masses have not taken this lying down. They went out in the street in force to violently resist the assault by the Nigerian police despite the threat to their own safety. They have burned police stations, cars and other government buildings to show their anger.

This has been happening for a few months. It's only being reported now in the mainstream media. The Nigerian police and the Nigerian army have been killing civilians left right and center. They started in southern Nigeria, mostly in rural areas whereby the excuse is that they are fighting terrorism.

What they are really doing is suppressing and looting and there are some cases of rape. These are areas that are less developed than the cities so information takes time to come out. Hence most incidents go unreported. But we need to stand in solidarity with our class brothers and sisters in Nigeria.

And not only Nigeria. The same things have been happening nearby in Zimbabwe where protesters have been killed on a daily basis. Nurses and doctors who have not been paid for more than three months have been protesting. The response of the government has been brutal. But that has not stopped the masses from going out in force to violently resist this assault.

The Nigerian SARS police units received their training from the UK government. This shows the brutality of the police worldwide, including here in South Africa. There's always this notion that police are not racist. But this whole system is racist. In South Africa's case, mostly police officers are black and even in Nigeria most police are black. But the way they are brutal shows they are not there to protect us. They

are there to protect the bosses and their interests.

It shows the need for us to violently eradicate the capitalist system. The police and gangs are the first line of defense of the bosses. If we are to succeed, we need to confront them directly. By doing that the bosses will be defeated. This can't simply happen automatically. There has to be a violent revolutionary struggle against these injustices, these barbaric acts.

It is important for us to adopt an international approach. We ask our comrades around the world to resist these bosses' murderous acts. The police are protecting the bosses' interests everywhere.

The party's response in exposing this barbaric act and adopting an active approach to doing something about it is encouraging. We have created a leaflet. This will help if we circulate it widely and engage our Nigerian brothers and sisters in South Africa. There are some Nigerian workers here. It will be beneficial for us to distribute the leaflet together with *Red Flag* to them. Hopefully it will find its way to that part of the world.



## Surging Layoffs and Racist Attacks:

### USE RED FLAG NETWORKS TO ADVANCE UNDER ATTACK

SEATTLE (US), October 29—Boeing’s layoffs and racist attacks are accelerating. This upsurge speaks to the truth of the last two Boeing *Red Flag* articles. The first emphasized the need for communist organizers to end racism, and the CEO’s phony pledge to address company racism. The second called for communist collective production to replace the failed capitalist model. Many thought the articles were helpful.

Even on-the-spot communist articles won’t—in and of themselves—mobilize masses for communism. More workers must write for and distribute *Red Flag*. The practice of circulating and defending the paper will develop more communist organizers and grow the ICWP.

Soon after the company announced almost double the planned job cuts, a friend in a comrade’s old crew texted about upcoming transfers. Transfers increase during periods of layoffs. This year and next, three shift operations are being reduced to one shift operation. Those workers who escape layoff are being sent all over the place.

Transfers seriously upend workers’ lives. Under capitalism, you have to worry even more about your job when the bosses send you to areas where you don’t know anybody or how to run the new machines. Historically, Boeing bigshots have transferred comrades when they have led anti-racist fightbacks.

Thirteen workers from the friend’s crew are being forcibly sent to other worksites. Our friend made the point that all are Asian. Almost all are

immigrants. He said it was racist.

The comrade referenced the *Red Flag* article on Boeing’s racism, saying he never believed the CEO’s pledge to increase workforce diversity. His friend agreed. As the day wore on, many other workers texted their agreement. They were all suspicious about management’s motives.

Then a retired friend chimed in. “It’s always been racist!” wrote this *Red Flag* reader. She thought the racist cuts would continue. “And it’s not going to turn around like it used to.” Current, retired and laid-off workers were emphatic: racism has been built into the Boeing culture for decades.

In communism, workers will regularly help out where needed, but our work and livelihood will never be threatened. We will produce only for our collective needs. Collective production will create a climate that will get us through the difficult stretches. And any change of work assignments will involve multi-racial and gender-integrated crews.

#### Workers Are Turning to Comrades for Counsel

Another worker from a different area summed up the situation. “I haven’t been in a hard time like this. All of a sudden, the 737 Max problem, then Covid-19, then the protests everywhere, the layoffs, the election. It’s really a long stressful time. I’m tired. I wonder what I can do?”

A retiree in this text group—who has relatives and friends around the globe—encouraged her:

“Hang in there! It’s hard for everyone around the world.”

A comrade added what keeps him going: “Talking to workers, writing for *Red Flag* and helping others write for the paper. Hearing from others how they are fighting back.” That helps him “move forward and focus on changing the fundamentals that influence all our lives.” It all boils down to building for communist revolution to end the horrors of capitalism.

#### Build Red Flag Networks; Grow the Party

*Red Flag* has been on top of these key issues with communist analysis. The struggle among the party’s orbit has been upfront. Not only comrades, but friends of ICWP have contributed to these articles.

But we still need more written (or texted) contributions from the shop floor.

Comrades and friends have to build and expand networks of *Red Flag* readers. To start, the half dozen or so Boeing workers referenced in this article are invited to begin showing the paper to their friends. If they are already showing the paper to a few friends, how about a few more?

In this way, we can get the reactions of a larger group of workers. When our friends distribute the paper and see more workers responding, it will encourage them to join the ICWP. Building *Red Flag* networks is vital to building the party and advancing under attack.

## INDIA LEAFLET from page 1

will not have to beg the bosses, their politicians. There won’t be District Magistrates (DM), Inspectors General of Police, India Administrative Services, or red beacons with the blaring sounds to intimidate us.

But to achieve this system without money, to achieve communism, we have to bury the bosses and their ghastly system that is killing the Dalits in Hathras. We will have to be united as a class to defeat the bosses. The shameful bosses are saying that there was no gang rape in the village of Hathras. We all know that they are trying to cover themselves. Their DM is intimidating us. But when we are united, women, men, Dalits, Muslims and all workers, we will have the power of communism.

We are the future. The future is communism. The bosses and their intimidation have an answer—communism. Every boss fears communism.

We are reaching out you, comrades. We want to share our *Red Flag*. It will explain to us all that the communist system will triumph. We want you to come to our meetings. Every problem that the bosses have created will be met by more communists.

#### Report from the Comrade Workers in India

We distributed this communist leaflet in the Hindi and Kannada languages to our neighbors in the garment districts. Many were incredibly



Garment workers, Bengaluru, India, 2016

angry with the continuing atrocities of the police, the bureaucrats, and the political bosses. However, no one was surprised.

Many looked at our leaflets and showed us the *Red Flag* they had received weeks ago. Three workers in one family wanted to know how to join ICWP. One of them said that the CPI and CPM were just like the bosses. We need a better alternative.

We asked them to come to our regular meetings, distribute our literature and talk to their neighbors and workers in the factory. Another worker said that, year after year, fake union leaders fight for higher wages and the bosses take it

away with rampant inflation. We can never win in this money system.

One comrade who had met an autoworker last year said that when we are fighting as a class, it opens our eyes to communism. A group of young workers wanted to know why socialism cannot open the doors for communism. We promised to produce our Mobilize the Masses for Communism in local languages so many people are exposed to these questions.

We have made many contacts with comrades who are willing to meet with us regularly. We welcome them as it will expand our ICWP collectives.



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## US ELECTIONS: FIGHT FASCISM WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

November 4—As we go to press, the votes in the US elections haven't all been counted. The legal challenges have barely begun. There may be a "red mirage" but there was no "blue wave." Whatever the eventual outcome, it's no victory for the working class.

That's always true of capitalist elections, but some things are different. In the US, stores don't usually board up windows the day before an election. The National Guard isn't usually on standby. Fascist gangs aren't usually applauded by one candidate for trying to run their opponents' bus off the road.

We are seeing a new level of fascism in the US. It's more like than different from the fascism that the US has imposed and backed all over the world for so long. Capitalism in crisis requires fascism and we are seeing it now. The US is no "exception," no "beacon of democracy," and it never really was. No wonder that so many are so anxious!

And many are depressed, for good reason, that so many white people voted for Trump's "strongman" persona and his brand of naked racism and undisguised sexism. This mass base for fascism must be taken seriously.

But fascism doesn't always come dressed in

red hats, white sheets or blue uniforms. Sometimes it comes in business attire, wrapped in the US flag and talking smoothly about "national unity." Either way, its essence is to cajole or coerce the working-class masses to accept a declining standard of living to "save the economy," meaning the capitalists' profits. To prepare to fight and die for those profits in imperialist wars.

That's why it's a dangerous illusion to think or hope that "democracy" (elections) or Democrats can save us from fascism. The record voter turnout, especially among youth, shows what a strong hold this illusion has on the masses.

But those youth, especially, do not want a return to the "old normal" of racism, war, exploitation and environmental catastrophe. Of evictions, police killings, and a disgraceful excuse for a health care system. Many are looking for a way forward from capitalism.

Whoever sits in the Oval Office on January 20—if it's decided by then—both sides will continue to fight. The Trump forces will continue to mobilize around violent racism and toxic masculinity. Democratic Party forces, including many unions, will mobilize against them in defense of "democracy."

When the rulers are forced to mobilize masses,

they take a calculated risk of not being able to maintain control over them. They create opportunities for us to bring communism to a wider circle of people in a way that connects to their needs and aspirations.

We must prepare to continue and expand our struggle: the struggle to destroy this vicious racist decaying system. To finish off the wounded, voracious US eagle with its Democratic and Republican wings, once (but no more) the top global predator.

We communists are not passive and we don't want you to be, either. We dedicate our lives to the struggle for communist workers' power, not a few hours every few years to the ballot box.

In our party today and in the communist society to come, everyone contributes to making and carrying out decisions, big and small. Everyone helps to shape and implement policies and to evaluate practice. We don't "choose" leaders — workers and youth like you ARE leaders.

Real change will come only when more *Red Flag* readers and friends make that commitment to serve and fight for the international working class. To mobilize masses for communism.

### Trade Your Vote for a Conversation

I am a 42-year-old American male and I have never voted. As a kid I learned about the system of Capitalism from my mom who happens to be a member of the ICWP. I was given a unique perspective on society, one that most people don't get.

Under Capitalism, your vote means nothing. You are essentially voting on two of the same thing, just dressed up differently. Both parties thrive on Capitalism and prey on votes from the working class in exchange for "promises".

As you get older and older you start to see that these promises are never met. In fact, they will never be met because Capitalism allows for nothing but consolidation of power and wealth. The gap between rich and poor increases every four years. The system is much

larger than your vote.

Neither party has your best interests...Ever. Both parties will make you see the differences we have, which are very few, in order for us not to see our similarities, which are many.

If workers realized their similarities and were not controlled to believe differently, society would look very different. A society that's actually "for the people, and by the people." Under Capitalism that is an impossibility. The system MUST be destroyed, and workers must control the means to production. Only then can we live in an equal society.

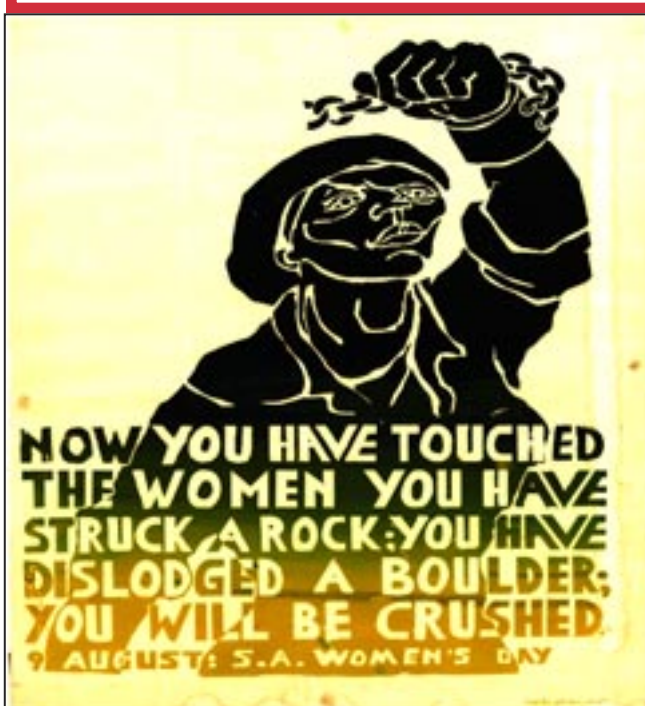
When you decide to vote you are contributing to the Capitalist system. If you say to me that it's "better than doing nothing," I would say that you are doing the wrong thing. Instead I believe workers of every race need to

organize against the racist, fascist, sexist, classist system that Capitalism is.

Instead of voting in this election, I would rather trade that one vote in exchange for having meaningful dialogue with one person about the system in which I and most of the world live. If each voter traded in their vote and talked with one other person and so on and so on. The vote count would diminish and the base to fight for a new system, could be a reality.

As Capitalism continues to fail as it is right now, these opportunities to educate fellow workers become more and more crucial. What better opportunity than now?

—Son of a Red



Read our pamphlet:

## The Communist Fight Against Sexism

available at  
[icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/sxse.pdf)

POLAND, October 31— More than four hundred thousand women and men took to the streets of Poland for nine days to denounce the high court decision to make abortion illegal, even in the case of severe birth defects. As we go to press the decision has not been formally published—showing the fear the rulers have of this kind of mass anger. It's still unclear what will happen to this decision. What is clear, however, is that the fight against sexism will require abolishing its basis in class society, and building a new, communist world, where we can work and play together as working class siblings.





## COMMUNIST COLLECTIVITY WILL END CAPITALIST PUNISHMENT

Capitalism's system of punishment leaves everyone sick: victims, perpetrators, and communities. When a person commits a "crime," they end up in a cell isolated from their community with very little stimulation. Prisoners live in chronic high stress and fear. Not surprisingly, when released they are likely to re-offend and return to prison. In Colorado's diversion program they practice Restorative Justice and have an 8% recidivism rate, significantly lower than overall recidivism of US prisons. But this still does not resolve capitalism's essential contradictions.

**The practice of punishment has been inherent in capitalism's wage slavery from the start.** The biggest crime is the capitalists' theft of the value workers produce every day. But the bosses use punishment to control us, the masses. It may even feel natural. Like racism, it informs most institutions, including schooling and work. Children are socialized early to fear punishment. This causes alienation from one another and from our caretakers in families. In our schools it causes alienation between teachers and students.

When harm happens, we ask who is to blame and how should we punish them instead of why there was harm and how we can repair and prevent it. Instead of focusing on making our communities whole and repairing harm, capitalism focuses on punishing perpetrators and scaring people into not becoming perpetrators.

Capitalists have no real investment in developing individuals, as long as they have obedient workers. Capitalists treat us as commodities—both usable and dispensable. They try to hide how we are all interconnected because capitalism must keep us divided.

Many develop anxiety, depression and are left angry and resentful. Capitalism thrives on and values selfishness, individualism, competition, racism, sexism. The ruling class then finds reasons to lock up minorities and the poor while producing constant high stress, inside and outside the prison system.

However, the foundations of moral behavior are inborn. We have mirror neurons present from birth that help us grow empathy and shape our behavior, despite being born into capitalism. The

key ingredients that reduce chronic stress are compassion, connection to others, and caring for others. The practice of giving rather than receiving helps humans reduce stress and promotes longevity. It allows humans to flourish.

**The long-term fight for communism requires us to change.** Communist collectives struggle to put the needs of the masses and of the collective first. Communists care about and struggle with each other to be less selfish, to do away with racist and sexist ideas and practices. We struggle to work together for our common goal: to get rid of capitalism and its prisons and build a society based on communist relations to meet everyone's needs.

In communism, people will not be put in cages with limited contact with their communities. We can use the methods of Restorative Justice to correct behavior. This helps both the victims and perpetrators heal. A safe face-to-face contact is facilitated among all affected. Victim, perpetrator, and members of the community come together. The victim can air their pain and talk about the consequence of the perpetrator's action(s). The perpetrator can see the impact and emotional response, stimulating their amygdala, which helps them grow in empathy, accountability, and remorse. They can apologize sincerely and become open to making amends. Victims become more able to forgive, releasing anti-inflammatory agents into the body. Healing becomes possible.

Together all participants come up with what the amends will look like. New brain cells and connections are possible. We will bring science to recovery. No one will be dispensable.

**The masses seizing the means of production through revolution and organizing communist relations of production will mean a healthy society.** However, if we hold onto cultural beliefs like blaming, shaming, and punishment, our revolutionary project will fail. It's important that we begin now to practice changing our thinking and practices. We try to do this in communist collectives. How can we do better at this in our collectives, and also in our families, and at school and work?

Of course, when there are diametrically opposed interests like between workers and bosses, it is not possible to resolve the conflicts in a restorative manner. However, when we are working together with our working-class siblings, we should practice and improve resolving conflicts this way.

A communist system will produce what everyone needs, as opposed to maximizing profits. We will repair harm rather than producing more harm. A restorative justice process would work to make the community whole again and let each of the people involved know that they are valuable members of the community despite past behavior.



### Uses and Limitations of "Restorative Justice"

Restorative justice or restorative practices can be useful in building and maintaining community and in helping to imagine a world without punishment, but they have their limits.

Restorative practices are useful in challenging the punishment model that pushes so many working-class children out of schools. The practices can be used to build community and resolve conflicts among people that should be in community, but often are not because of artificial divisions created by capitalism.

For example, rival groups of students come into conflict with one another based on an illusion of ownership of one neighborhood or another (gangs). Instead of using punishment to exclude the students from the school, a restorative model can be used. It asks what harm has been caused, both to the individuals involved and to the community. When the students sit in circle with each other, they can sometimes see the bonds that unite them and dispel the illusions that divide them.

However, restorative justice has its limits. It cannot be used to resolve class conflicts. Working class people do not have the same interests as the police, so we cannot work to

resolve conflicts with them restoratively.

The police are our class enemy, just as the bosses are. Workers cannot sit in circle with the factory owner because the factory owner's existence is based on the exploitation of the workers. The resolution of this contradiction requires a communist revolution, the abolition of the wage system and collective communist production

So restorative justice is useful within communities and helps us to resolve conflicts where we do harm to one another. But we cannot allow for it to be co-opted and used by capitalists to try to get us to believe that we can resolve the contradictions of capitalism,

racism, sexism and homophobia, by talking it out.

Restorative justice cannot exist between people who are not in community, who do not hold the same class interests.

—Seattle High School teacher

**We appreciate the contributions of the comrades who worked on these articles. Please read the letter on page 6 from comrades in El Salvador for their perspective on "Restorative Justice." We invite other comrades to contribute to this discussion.**



Read our pamphlet

**Communist Education  
for a Classless Society**

available at

[icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf](http://icwpredflag.org/epe.pdf)



## WORKERS AND YOUTH: YOUR **RED FLAG** IS YOUR VOICE

“You are part of a very exciting experiment in starting to mobilize for a communist revolution and a communist world,” said a comrade opening a recent international meeting about **Red Flag**. “How do we produce a paper relying on workers and youth like you, not on professional journalists? How do we unite theory and practice? How do we help ourselves and others see our communist future in the work we do today? How can we encourage more friends and comrades to contribute the articles we need?”

Workers and youth, especially those targeted by racism, sexism or communalism, are used to hearing that their ideas don't matter. We know they do! Their ideas – in addition to their passion and commitment – are vital to developing everyone's understanding of communism and how to fight for it.

That's why **Red Flag** needs more articles describing conversations about the party, communism and more with co-workers, family and

friends. It's why we need to find and use creative methods to get the voices of many more workers and youth into **Red Flag**.

Some comrades already send in contributions as audiotapes. Some write them on their phones as text messages. We need more of this. One worker comrade writes his ideas on slips of paper from his job, and other comrades help put them together. We can do more interviews.

Contributions get better when they are more collectively written, discussed and edited. Those that come in earlier (by the Friday before the new **Red Flag** comes out) get more feedback from the editorial collective.

A comrade from India reported on an exciting new plan for a series of podcasts that explain the Party's line. The collective that will produce these has asked for more volunteers. If you can help, tell the person who gives you **Red Flag** or contact [icwpredflag@anonymousspeech.com](mailto:icwpredflag@anonymousspeech.com).

Looking ahead, we need to build more local

collectives that see producing **Red Flag** as a crucial part of their work. This is key to increasing our capacity and developing new leaders.

This international meeting showed that we are already on this path. Nine comrades helped to lead different parts of the meeting. Several explained how they had gotten more involved in producing **Red Flag**. One left the meeting and immediately got a younger relative to write a letter for the next issue.

Two young comrades and a newer comrade stepped up to help, very capably, with simultaneous translation. One young leader did her part after being up all night with a sick child. Another participated after working all night. Their contributions make a difference and their commitment is inspiring.

**Red Flag** is striving to become the voice of communist workers and youth around the world. Please join us in that struggle.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO  
[ICWPREDFLAG@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.ORG](mailto:ICWPREDFLAG@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.ORG)

### “Restorative Justice” in El Salvador: Fascist Murderers Go Unpunished

During the civil war in El Salvador, there were many massacres, tortures and disappearances of the civilian population and people who had organized against government repression. These brutal attacks were carried out by the military and security forces in different areas.

One of them was the massacre of El Mozote and nearby places in the department of Morazán in 1981. Approximately 1000 people were murdered there in the most cruel and ruthless way. They included women, men, children, the elderly, rural workers killed at the hands of units of the Atlacatl Battalion of the Armed Forces (formed by the CIA at the School of the Americas in Panama).

This massacre is considered one of the vilest ever committed against the defenseless civilian population. It was repeatedly denied by government authorities. To this day there has been no sign of justice. Some governments have promised to carry out justice but have done the opposite. They have prevented any type of investigation into this massacre.

Some journalists reported in national and international newspapers on the barbarity that was committed. They were called liars. The White House not only denied the facts, but also increased the economic budget to the Salvadoran government to attack the guerrillas.

A 1993 “Amnesty Law” shielded the perpetrators from prosecution. Later, when it was abolished (in 2016), they began to speak of “Restorative Justice.” This is a type of justice in which there is no punishment. It is about forgiving and forgetting. An experiment of letting the victims speak.

Maybe it is better psychologically to bring the cases to light; it brings some relief. But the murderers remain unpunished. Maybe restorative justice is a way of not doing justice.

In 2019, the 11th Restorative Justice Tribunal was held in El Salvador. It is not criminal court justice, but rather it is defined as “moral justice.” It is a space that serves the victims to prepare themselves in case justice is ever done, in multiple cases of murders and massacres of workers that occurred in the country.



Days after the vote approving the drafting of a new Constitution for Chile, thousands of protestors demanded that those jailed during the October 2019 protests be freed. The state is guilty for the deaths and imprisonment of many Chileans who took to the streets to protest. The only solution to put an end to the murderous capitalist system is mobilizing the masses for communism. Not with laws, but with a communist revolution.

The victims are still waiting for justice, but that will only happen in a classless society, where the causes that motivated them to organize, for which they were massacred, will not exist. We are talking about a Communist society.  
—Veteran Comrades in El Salvador

### Communist Ideas Are a New Opportunity for the Youth

Hello comrades! A very special greeting to each and every reader in different areas. I am a ninth-grade student. These days I have started reading **Red Flag**. I have liked the ideas that the International Communist Workers' Party has. I have read the articles of maquila workers. I have realized how the ruling class has treated workers in these times of crisis. But for me I think it is an opportunity to see the reality of life today.

We talked with the person who distributes the newspaper about how, in capitalism, today's youth do not have opportunities for a better life for the future. It's like us poor are destined to always live like this. When I read the newspaper and find ideas of a life where there will be no bosses and where the workers will no longer be enslaved, it makes me think.

It really gets my attention because at my age I have heard about the abuse and mistreatment that exists in the factories by the employers,

where the boss demands that the worker work more for a minimum wage. Because I would not want to live like that anymore. That's why I think communist ideas are a new opportunity for the youth. From the little that I have read, communism will make a better change for each worker where everything will be different, because we will no longer have so many problems.

I believe that when communism, with its energy, moves the masses from capitalism to communism, we will have to remain united. It will not be easy, but it will not be impossible. The strength of youth is also a challenge to fight for a better world. The work of building the party is not easy: to be able to defeat capitalism and have a victory, but it will not be impossible. Everything will be in its time. I encourage all members of the party to continue fighting against the enemy, which is capitalism.

—Comrade student daughter of industrial workers

### Wants a Communist World

Thanks, comrade. It was nice meeting you, too. We are here for the same cause. We are fighting for communism. And hopefully the whole world will get under this system really soon and our struggle will be successful. Thanks once again.

—Friend in Pakistan





**Red Flag thanks readers who have written with criticisms, comments, and stories. We encourage more to take part in the ongoing struggle to develop our communist political line.**

### **Bolshevik salutes, comrade!**

Hope all is well there. Comrade, I have gone through the manifesto Mobilize the Masses for Communism, but I asked some questions on VICTORIES. You mentioned three victories: Paris Commune, the Great October Socialist Revolution and the Chinese revolution. Don't you think that the establishment of peoples' democracies in eastern and central Europe was also a great victory, which undermined western imperialism?

You said "the defeat of the Nazis in 1945 laid the basis not for world communism but for a new Soviet empire that called itself socialist but renounced world revolution." How can you say so? You admit that Chinese Revolution was third great victory. Then why do you forget the decisive role in the victory of Chinese revolution played by the Soviet Union under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolshevik)?

Don't you think that the victory of the Chinese revolution and the establishment of peoples' democracies were great advancement to world revolution? Why are not you ready to differentiate the pre- and post-Stalin Soviet Union? It was the Khrushchevite renegade revisionist clique who betrayed the great and mighty cause of socialism.

However, comrade, I want to join you in ICWP. Is it possible to start recruiting in Pakistan? We have a golden opportunity. I have some differences with my understanding of communism, but we can advance now.

—Comrade in Pakistan

**Red Flag** responds: Thank you, comrade. We welcome you to ICWP! We invite other comrades to write letters answering the different questions you raise.

### **Target Industrial Workers with Communist Ideas – Isolate the Misleaders**

It is important that our communist political work is pushed on top of the agenda, so to speak, or is given priority. I am raising this because as an industrial worker and an activist in the trade union movement, I see a potential for work to get as many workers to our communist ideas.

I couldn't help but notice that these reformist misleaders are the ones who are a hindrance to advancing communist revolution. If communist political work is done targeting directly the workers, and isolating these misleaders, a lot can be achieved. These useless reformists are happy with how things are because they are benefitting immensely at the status quo.

The more communist ideas are spread to co-workers on the job and off the job, as well as our friends and families, the better. Industrial workers are prepared and ready to fight to overthrow this barbaric system but are discouraged from doing so by these misleaders.

Workers have lost their jobs in hundreds of thousands and the bosses continue to retrench workers unabated.

There is a very strange phenomenon of zigzagging, wherein national strikes would be called. And on the eve of the strike action, these misleaders call off the strike because of some perceived truce or parties finding each other at the eleventh hour. This is all done to kill the revolutionary potential existing among the workers and workers are left disjointed.

Indeed, the sooner we concentrate on building organic leaders the better. Viva industrial and healthcare workers! Viva!!!

—Industrial comrade in South Africa

### **Respond to Brutal Attacks on the Working Class by Building International Communist Unity**

A Nigerian teen told me that the City of Hawthorne was where many Nigerians live. I went scouting downtown Hawthorne and shopping centers. I ran into a few people and said to them that I was aware of the killings in Nigeria and wanted to organize a protest. I asked what would be an optimal place to have it. They did not know.

I found a Nigerian market. I went in and spoke to a man running the store. He took his phone out and said, "Here, talk to this guy." A man from Nigeria living in Los Angeles was on the phone. We spoke for a while. He said he was part of Nigerian group and referred to them as his comrades. I told him I was part of an international organization dedicated to the liberation of the working class worldwide.

The previous Saturday his group had organized a demonstration at the British Embassy here in Los Angeles. His group is planning a second one this month. He said he would let me know the date.

After the conversation, I sent him the party leaflet about Nigeria on WhatsApp and asked him to let me know what he thought. He responded with "two thumbs up". Then I sent him the electronic version of the recent **Red Flag**. He responded "Thank you!" In return, he sent me a YouTube video, "An Honest Explanations of the Nigerian Civil War: The Biafran Story".

International incidents that are actually brutal attacks on the world's workers can bring us together to fight the capitalist onslaught. Together we can create the communist world we all desperately need.

—Comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

## **WAR IN THE CAUCASUS** **from page 8**

Instead, Lenin proposed to "rally the greatest possible masses of workers of each and every nationality more closely for struggle for a democratic republic and for socialism." Today, our party rallies the masses for communism and nothing less.

Given his line, Lenin strained to interpret the "right to self-determination." He concluded it meant "oppos[ing] any attempt to influence national self-determination from without by violence or injustice." (That is, by imperialists.)

### **Armenia, Azerbaijan and the USSR**

By 1920 the Bolshevik line on "the national question" had changed for the worse, largely under Stalin's influence. The new line would be fiercely contested, especially by communists in India and Iran.

In Transcaucasia, conflict had sharpened after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire and the fall of the Russian Czar. As Turkish troops retreated, Britain took control. Its eyes were on Baku oil. British imperialism lay the groundwork for incorporating Nagorno-Karabakh into Azerbaijan.

Both Armenia and Azerbaijan had geographic and historical arguments for their claims to "mountainous Karabakh." Armenians were a majority of its permanent residents, but Azeri nomads regularly travelled between Karabakh's mountains and its lowlands in Azerbaijan.

Fighting broke out in March 1918. The Bolsheviks, officially neutral, quietly supported Armenia. Ottoman Turks fought for Azerbaijan.

The First Congress of the Armenians of Karabakh proclaimed the region's independence. In November 1919, Armenians formed a revolutionary Soviet government. A month later, Soviet Azerbaijan renounced its claim to the disputed provinces.

Armenia and Azerbaijan joined the new Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). As our friend put it, "Armenia joined the USSR to avoid massacres and get help."

The USSR was the "federation" that Armenian socialists had proposed (and Lenin rejected) in 1903. For 60 years it managed to avoid Armenian-Azerbaijani fighting. But it failed to build communist class consciousness.

After the USSR collapsed in 1991, Armenia and Azerbaijan became independent states. The mainly-Armenian "autonomous region" of Nagorno-Karabakh also voted for independence. This triggered another war. Armenians regained control in 1994 but Azerbaijan never accepted that.

Today the "Artsakh Republic" in Nagorno-Karabakh is again a flash-point in the deadly struggle among imperialists and regional capitalists for control of critical energy resources.

Transcaucasia has been a multi-ethnic region for centuries. Armenian socialists were correct in 1903 when they said that geographic borders did not correspond with "nationalities."

Workers' struggles there – notably in industrial Baku – have always crossed lin-

guistic, cultural and religious barriers. The communist movement there reflected this diversity but failed to draw the correct conclusion: Nationalism and communist internationalism are incompatible.

**Workers of the world, unite for communism! No borders! No nations!**



**1921 Soviet Era poster in Russian and Georgian: Long Live the Brotherhood of all Caucasus Nations**



## War in the Caucasus:

# REAL COMMUNISM ENDS BORDERS AND NATIONS

“I feel very sad about what is going on in my motherland (Armenia),” confided a co-worker.

“In 1915 the Turkish government killed over 1.5 million Armenians. To this day, the Turkish government denies this Armenian genocide. My grandparents are genocide survivors who fled to Syria. Armenians are afraid that the Turkish nations want to ethnically cleanse the Armenians. Turkey has many times said they want to finish off the Armenian race and have all Turkic nations border one another.

“Nagorno-Karabakh borders Azerbaijan. It got bombed and shelled starting September 26. Civilian buildings, schools, hospitals were all targeted. The Armenian military quickly realized that they were fighting Turkish forces, Syrian mercenaries and ISIS as well as the Azerbaijani military. There have been two ceasefires, but they only lasted a total of ten minutes.”

“Thank you,” a comrade responded. “Bolshevik policy on ‘the national question’ was disastrous. They allied with nationalist leaders who opposed imperialism. That led them to support governments in Turkey and Iran that were murdering communists.

“Globally, humans have migrated so much and for so long. Homogeneous national territories are no longer possible or desirable. People need to unite on the basis of shared class and human interests. That won’t happen until genocidal prejudices can be overcome.”

### Communism and the “National Question”

The International Communist Workers’ Party



is not a federation of national parties. All of our members are comrades in one international party for one international working class.

We all fight against imperialism. Against racist, religious and communal divisions. Against nationalism and patriotism. We fight together for one communist world.

Lenin and the Bolsheviks struggled with the contradiction between national- and class-consciousness. In particular, when Lenin welcomed the League of Armenian Social-Democrats into the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party in 1903.

The Armenian socialists declared themselves “for the interests of the Russian proletariat in gen-

eral, and of the Armenian proletariat in particular.” The future Russia should be a “federative republic with local self-governments” to safeguard all its diverse groups.

They noted “the absence of geographical boundaries between the various nationalities.” They therefore demanded cultural but not political autonomy.

Lenin applauded the League’s line of “complete equality, rather than national autonomy” and for “the right to self-determination.” But he noted the contradiction of calling for a “federative republic” while denying the “political autonomy” of its units.

[See WAR IN THE CAUCASUS, page 7](#)

## ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN WAR: GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CAPITALISTS SACRIFICE WORKERS’ LIVES FOR POWER AND PROFITS

November 3—Thousands of workers are dying in the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In this region, national-ethnic groups intermingle and their territories overlap. Ethnic tensions are being exacerbated and exploited by outside powers. Workers urgently need to turn the bosses’ profit wars into communist revolution.

This war is a qualitative leap in the ongoing Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. It is part of a larger struggle for control of critical energy resources as well as a developing shift of global power. French, Turkish and Russian capitalists are competing for control of pipelines and jockeying to fill the imperialist vacuum left by the absolute decline in US power.

### The New Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline

The South Caucasus is a crucial artery for gas and oil moving from Azerbaijan into Turkey and on to Europe and other world markets.

Existing pipelines go from Baku, the Azeri capital on the Caspian Sea, to Georgia and on to Ceyhan on Turkey’s Mediterranean coast. These pipelines are crucial for Azerbaijan, and strategically important to the US and Europe. They directly compete with Russia for the European natural gas market.

Recent plans for an underwater pipeline from Turkmenistan to Baku would enhance the strategic importance of Azeri pipelines. They would also allow Europe and Turkey access to energy resources from Turkmenistan’s gigantic gas fields. Turkmenistan currently only sells that gas to China and Russia. The Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline would strengthen Turkey’s influence in the region and lessen Chinese and Russian influence in Central Asia.

### Turkey and Russia: Unity and Competition

Turkey has aggressively armed and encouraged the Azeri bosses. Russian artillery based in Armenia is destroying Turkish-made drones being deployed by the Azeri military. But Russia has sold arms to both sides. Its support of Armenia is limited. Its mutual defense agreement with Armenia does not include Nagorno-Karabakh, which, under international law is part of Azerbaijan.

*Red Flag* reported, a year ago, about the US troop withdrawal from northern Syria, and the unstable peace brokered between Russia and Turkey along the Turkey-Syria border. The US was already increasingly irrelevant in the region, while strategically pivoting to Asia.

Now the irrelevance of the US is even clearer. An October 26 US-brokered peace deal, which Trump claimed was an “easy job,” lasted barely an hour.

Both Armenia and Azerbaijan were Soviet Republics until 1991. They have remained within the Russian sphere of influence. Russia co-chairs the Minsk Group, with France and the US, created in 1994 to resolve territorial disputes between Armenia and Azerbaijan,

Turkey, excluded from that discussion, has increasingly pushed for regional influence. It backs the Azeri rulers, diplomatically and militarily. Turkey is sending Syrian fighters on Azerbaijan’s side, the same ones it has deployed inside North-east Syria.

In Libya, oil revenues are also an important factor in the involvement of Russia and Turkey on opposite sides of the civil war. Turkish president Erdogan plays a major role in propping up

the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Libya. This government is in an ongoing conflict with the Russian-backed insurgency known as the Wagner Group. The fighting in Libya risks involving Egypt as well as other north African states.

In November 2019, Turkey signed an oil drilling deal with the GNA which would cut across the drilling rights of Greece and Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean. Turkey has risked European Union sanctions by sending military-backed exploration ships into Greek and Cypriot waters.

While Turkey and Russia jockey for influence, they are not on an inevitable path to all-out war. Just this summer, Turkey agreed to buy a second shipment of S-400 defense missiles from Russia. This 2017 arms deal created a crisis in US-Turkey relations, but Turkey did not submit to US pressure.

**The absolute decline of US imperialism has destabilized a large part of the world.** The Minsk group, especially without regional powers Iran and Turkey, has limited prospects of brokering a stable peace.

Imperialist and regional powers continue to sacrifice the lives of workers in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Libya, Syria and elsewhere for the sake of profitable and strategic energy resources. Broader wars are the future.

But the working class will not allow itself to be sacrificed forever. We must speak to its disillusionment with socialism with a clear vision of communism. When capitalist-imperialist rulers mobilize masses for their wars, they create more opportunities for the communist revolution we so desperately need.