

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



Ghor Province, Afghanistan, July 10— Hundreds of armed women march against Taliban as US forces withdraw from Afghanistan. See page 4

Capitalism Murders Factory Workers in Bangladesh

COMMUNIST CLASS SOLIDARITY WILL SMASH ALL BORDERS

BENGALURU (India), July 10— “As long as these profit-hungry monsters rule the world, workers’ lives mean nothing to them,” reported a *Red Flag* reader and long-time friend about the fire that took the lives of scores of workers in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. “They are disposable. We need to bury this system of profit.”

At least 52 workers were killed, many of them children, and more were injured as flames raged through the six-story Hashem Foods factory where key exits were locked. Eight factory officials have been arrested for murder. Capitalism’s relentless drive for profits creates deadly working conditions in factories in Bangladesh and elsewhere.

Our collective of garment workers in Bengaluru contacted this comrade. A comrade from Delhi who also speaks Bengali helped to host our

garment collective with our friend in Bangladesh.

Six comrades in Bengaluru participated in the meeting with the comrade from Delhi and a comrade in Dhaka. This meeting was smaller than usual because many comrades and their friends and family are still facing the menace of coronavirus. However, this group represented many more as we are continuing the distribution of *Red Flag* and a summary of the ICWP manifesto “Mobilize the Masses for Communism.”

“This is an attack on our class brothers and sisters, we must help them in whatever way we can,” said a comrade garment worker. All the comrades agreed. Our regular *Red Flag* network was put in action immediately.

We went door to door in the extremely impoverished area where we live. We went with pictures of the Bangladesh fire and a sign saying, See **BANGLADESH FACTORY FIRE** page 3

NEW COMRADE TALKS ABOUT COMMUNISM WITH CO-WORKERS ON THE JOB

LONDON (UK)—I work in a drugs manufacturing unit and have begun to introduce *Red Flag* and Communist ideas to my comrades at work.

A group of us workmates went out for lunch when the weather was good. During our chatting one of my workmates was talking about how the rich always get richer. I decided to introduce to her a copy of the latest *Red Flag*. I said, “Take a read of this, it’s very informative”. She asked who produced it, and I told her about the ICWP and how we fight for revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and that anything short of that is no good.

The next week, while we were working at the bench in our manufacturing unit, I asked her what she thought.

“I really like the article about bitcoin. It was very interesting,” she said. The discussion went on about money and she said, “Money isn’t really real anymore. We don’t really need it. Why do they keep using it?”

I explained that capitalism requires exchange of goods for money and enslaves us workers through the wage system so they can grab our surplus labour.

She said it seemed like Communism wanted to go back to aspects of our past when we had no money.

I said that is true, but we have no intention of going backwards. We want to go forwards. We can develop technology with cooperative communist relations and would require no money or exchange of commodities. People would get what they need and we could enhance human life and health.

She agreed that even with the technology today we could already eliminate poverty and disease. She said she thinks Communism is really

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Deadly Heat Shows Capitalism's Climate Emergency

COMMUNIST MASSES MUST TURN THE WORLD AROUND

July 9— Sebastian Francisco Perez died of heatstroke while working in record high temperatures on an Oregon farm on June 26. The farm owners have been cited three times since 2007 for failing to provide water to the workers and for failing to post information about pesticides and emergency medical care.

Capitalism has many ways to kill us. An increasingly important one is the drastic climate change that it caused and can't control. That alone shows the urgency of mobilizing for communism, the only fundamental alternative to capitalism. We can't wait!

During the first week of July 2021, people in the Pacific Northwest region of the USA and Canada saw some of the worst effects of climate change. A phenomenon called a "heat dome" caused a pressure system that created and sustained record-breaking temperatures. In Oregon, 65 people died from the heat. Nearly as many died in Washington State, where temperatures rose to an astounding 115 °F (46 °C).

The mainly-indigenous town of Lytton, British Columbia suffered Canada's highest-ever temperature of almost 50 °C (121 °F) for three days in a row. Then it burned down. A *Red Flag* reader commented, "As usual, colonizers [imperialists] cause the problem and indigenous people suffer."

Meanwhile, a chain of tropical storms and hurricanes, like a string of beads, lashed the Caribbean islands and the coastal areas of Florida and neighboring US states.

The negative effects of climate change in the US are far from the world's worst. Droughts, fires, rising sea levels and floods threaten homes and food supplies from Cape Town to Kerala, from southwest Asia's Fertile Crescent to Brazil's Amazonia. They increase the ravages of diseases and aggravate the devastation of war.

Communism Will Liberate the Masses to Answer Climate Crisis

Capitalism's Industrial Revolution took off 200 years ago, powered by fossil fuels (mainly coal). Working-class districts soon became dirtier, the air almost unbreathable. The capitalist rulers didn't care about that or working conditions or anything else except maximizing their profits. They still don't.



Back then, nobody knew the more serious effects of dumping all that carbon into the atmosphere. Oil and later natural gas seemed "cleaner" than coal.

But now scientists have known for almost half a century that these, too, would turn Earth's atmosphere into a "greenhouse." That cities like Karachi and Mumbai could become literally too hot for humans to survive.

That global average temperatures would rise and that melting polar ice would increase sea levels. That Pacific island nations like Tuvalu and Kiribati would sink into the ocean. That coastal cities like Kolkata (India), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Guangzhou (China) and Miami (USA) would be swamped.

Humans don't have to keep pouring carbon into the overheating global greenhouse. Alternative energy sources already exist and we can create more. In communism we will! There are a million ways we can stop wasting energy. We can redesign communities to make better use of the land that remains livable and cultivable.

It's only capitalism that stands in the way. Capitalism, and the angry masses' still-limited ability to imagine the communist world we need. Comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party must share our vision and plan for communism more broadly, more deeply and more energetically.

Take profits out of the picture and the direst predictions for the rest of this century don't have to come true. The masses, organized on communist principles to produce and share sustainably for our own collective needs, can turn the world around.

WOMEN WORKERS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNISM

In many agricultural areas, it is the women who create and cultivate gardens to feed their families and to participate in a local economy. Traditionally, women have contributed by growing and selling food, caring for animals and by producing handmade goods, such as baskets or clothing. These women, who contribute so much, often with unpaid labor, are disproportionately affected by climate change.

An estimated 80% of people displaced by climate change are women and their children. After "natural" disasters, women face higher rates of sexual violence and health problems. They are the primary gatherers of water, food, and fuel. They are the main subsistence farmers, the main cleaners and caregivers. Environmental damage and rising temperatures affect their daily lives and work.

A young woman farmworker in Jacobabad, Pakistan explained, "Even when it's 52 °C to 53 °C (126-127 °F) we work."

We shouldn't be surprised that women and girls are in the front lines of the fight against capitalism's climate crisis. Fighting government land giveaways to oil companies in Ecuador. Stopping the Dakota Pipeline in the US. Blocking a dam in Honduras that threatened indigenous communities.

From Bangladesh to Sudan, from Nicaragua to Fiji, women are organizing among the masses to create local solutions. Researchers assure us that "women tend to think for the collective whole rather than themselves. Women are shown to make more decisions that support the public good ... and encourage honest and ethical behavior."

That is: Women doubly oppressed by the sexism of class society, and often triply oppressed as members of Black, Indigenous or other marginalized communities, are already living out communist values.

But they need to set their sights higher: beyond protests and reform demands to the revolutionary transformation of society. To the creation of a communist world in which we will together make all decisions for the public good, the collective whole.

A communist world without profits or money to stand in the way of honest and ethical behavior. Without sexism or racism, borders or nations, bosses or exploitation. And, once we have mitigated the capitalist climate disaster, a sustainable world where all can thrive.

We need to redouble our efforts to get to know women and girls like these. And to convince them to join and build the International Communist Workers' Party.

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good but asked, "Aren't some people just too greedy and would ruin it for the rest?"

I explained that the culture under capitalism has induced this competitiveness and greed and that it is not human nature. However, she was correct to be concerned that these ideas would

persist. The revolution would have to continue after the working class takes power. I told her about the Cultural Revolution in China and how Red Guards fought against this cultural baggage which prevented them developing a communist society.

This demonstrates that workers are interested in Communism and can see it is the future. Other

"leftists" refuse to engage in the workplace and never talk about Communism or revolution. If they do believe it at all, they think it is some secret that belongs to an elite that workers can't understand. The International Communist Workers' Party will prove them wrong.

New comrade in the UK



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COMMUNIST GARMENT WORKERS FIGHT FEAR BY SPREADING RED FLAG

EL SALVADOR, July 8— “We are afraid to get involved with the Party because of the repression by the bosses and the police, who are always there at the factory exit,” said the young woman in a worker couple.



“We have to organize ourselves,” a comrade answered. “There are more of us, and what we need is communism. We can succeed in overthrowing fear and the system that oppresses us.”

We met these former co-workers during the visit and distribution of *Red Flag* at a maquila factory in the center of the country. We had a moment to talk with them.

The young worker continued, “Yes, I remember how you and the *Red Flag* help the workers in the factory. We are going to take the newspaper. We’ll read it at home.” This conversation took place while other comrades continued distributing *Red Flag* to more women and men workers.

A group of five comrades returned to this factory and we distributed 190 newspapers. The plan to distribute *Red Flag* and the ideas of the International Communist Workers’ Party to other communities of workers in the factories is consolidating. We had talked about this before but, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had not been able to carry it out until now.

Some asked us, “Do you come from the FMLN? Because the letters on the front of the newspaper are red.”

We had the opportunity to explain to these workers, “We are a communist, internationalist Party that is fighting in several parts of the world. Our main base are the women and

men workers, as well as the soldiers.” They took the newspaper, starting to read it immediately.

We distributed the newspapers very quickly. We didn’t have enough. But we are getting an idea of the times workers leave work and the number of *Red Flags* that we can distribute.

It was an excellent experience because almost everything turned out as we expected. Only this time there was a bigger police presence, and they requested reinforcements, since they always protect the bosses. Even so, we were able to complete our mission.

“To answer more repression, more struggle” is a slogan that we workers have. That day we put it into practice. That obstacle was not going to stop us. We carried it out, and everything went according to plan.

Now we hope that this work that we have started will yield good results. A telephone number was placed in the newspaper so that contact can be established. The plan is to spread this practice to other areas of maquila factories in the Salvadoran capital and in the west of the country.

After a meeting to evaluate this day of struggle, we visited and coordinated with other comrades who had marched this May Day for the first time with ICWP. They said, “Of course we can support this. We are going to join this work of distributing the Party’s ideas, through *Red Flag*, at the factories.”

RACISM BAKED INTO BOEING CULTURE FROM DAY ONE

SEATTLE (US)— The Boeing Company founder, Bill Boeing, was a disgusting racist. Boeing Aerospace bought land that Bill Boeing turned into a neighborhood restricted to whites only. From day one, white supremacist ideology was baked into the company culture.

Boeing is not alone. Every capitalist company must use racism—as well as sexism and xenophobia—to divide the working class and secure profits from racist super-exploitation.

Communism, on the other hand, relies on cooperation to produce for our collective needs. Profits don’t enter the picture. Ideologies like racism, sexism and xenophobia weaken the might of the working class. They are the deadly enemies of our future communist society.

Party Members Learn from Longtime Boeing Worker

Just recently, an old friend invited comrades to a social gathering. There were many family members and former co-workers in attendance, including five retired Boeing workers.

Not surprisingly, a spontaneous political discussion broke out, revealing different hopes and fears about the future. One Boeing worker

thought Biden would change things “a little bit.” A comrade thought change would instead come from young people.

Another friend, who worked at Boeing for many years, agreed with the comrade. He cited the massive demonstrations last summer that included people of all races in a concerted fight against racism. Others also commented on the distinctive nature of those demonstrations.

This friend made a point of talking to the comrades as the party was ending. He thanked them for coming and encouraged them to attend more of these extended family and friends’ social activities.

He then recounted some of his experiences fighting racism at Boeing. He tried to get Boeing to be more humanitarian but couldn’t. He wanted the comrades to know he wasn’t part of the company “team.”

Then he dropped a bombshell. He had researched the life of the company founder, Bill Boeing (1881–1956). Bill Boeing made most of his fortune as a racist real estate developer. His biggest development was the restricted residential community of Innis Arden, just north of Seat-

tle.

The Boeing company bought timber land on the shores of Puget Sound for Bill Boeing’s housing development. It would eventually include 500 homes and his own mansion. He infamously entertained the arch-racist, pro-fascist Charles Lindbergh at this mansion. The neighborhood remains an enclave for the super-rich.

Restrictions that Bill Boeing wrote into the neighborhood’s bylaws prohibited selling, conveying, renting, or leasing in whole or in part to any person or persons not of the White or Caucasian race. No person other than one of White or Caucasian race [is] permitted to occupy any property [in the development]. There was one exception: Black or Asian domestic servants could live in rooms of their employer’s property.

Not surprisingly, the friend who told us all this was interested in *Red Flag* articles on Boeing racism. We agreed to continue talking and advancing the struggle.

He took initiative. He’s not the only one. Our next article will focus on what our party collective must do to turn initiative into communist organizing.

BANGLADESH FACTORY FIRE from page 1

“Capitalism kills, we need Communist Revolution – ICWP.” People opened their wallets with whatever they had. Not a single family refused contribution, they felt it was touching their heart.

This action built tremendous solidarity with the workers in Bangladesh. Bangalore workers related to this because it happens in their lives every day. Our comrade in Dhaka was more committed and he decided to take extra *Red Flags* to his coworkers. He promised to write about the condition of the workers in Dhaka, many of whom work in garment factories.

A comrade talked in the meeting about the importance of the *Red Flag* and how we can grow quickly. She said that the bosses are constantly

creating opportunities for us to advance and build a solid base for communism. The coronavirus pandemic has devastated the working class. Millions of our class family have lost jobs. Capitalist hospitals have become killing fields. The masses are fearful and angry at the same time.

Another comrade said that in her factory, she has met an NGO that is an umbrella group of garment workers in the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand. This is a liberal group, but she met some workers directly in those countries and has started distributing RF. She met a textile worker in Durban, South Africa, where a devastating fire destroyed many workers in May 2021.

We are learning that in a small but significant way, we are smashing borders that have kept the workers divided. Communism will have no borders and no nations. Workers themselves will control the workplaces and guarantee their safety. When an emergency arises, we’ll go directly to help them or send the actual resources they need without money being involved.

The struggle to smash borders is essential in our fight for the communist revolution because all other groups in one way or another push nationalism. We believe that mobilizing the masses for communism must be our number one priority. We are starting a regular study group and will reach out to our friends in several garment factories.

HOW CAN COMMUNISM WORK WITHOUT MONEY?

A good friend asked this question after reading a recent *Red Flag* article about Bitcoin and the society without money that is essential to a communist world. They wrote:

I don't believe a cashless society would work out at all and the transition would be a nightmare. Without cash how would we purchase anything?

I replied: You are not alone in asking about this. It can be hard to imagine a world without money.

People would be motivated not by the prospect of individual gain, but by the possibility of living in a true communist society. Relationships would be totally different. Cooperation, collectivity and sharing will be primary. These relations will then inform all other decisions.

Capitalism celebrates “rugged individualism.” In communism, collectives will organize all aspects of life and struggle to overcome any obstacles. There won't be bosses or the threat of being fired, being homeless or going hungry.

I imagine that by now you may be scoffing at the possibility of anything like this ever happen-

ing. But let me give you some historical examples:

During the civil war in Russia, the Bolsheviks organized society on an emergency basis under what they called “war communism.” They requisitioned food, jump-started production and bypassed currency. However, they eliminated money only as an emergency measure. They didn't believe that the masses were ready for this long term. This huge mistake was key in the Soviet Union becoming a (state) capitalist society.

During the Chinese revolution, millions in the Red Army lived under the communist “supply system” as they fought for power. Officers and regular soldiers received equal treatment and shared the same hardships. A captured Catholic missionary wrote, “I was treated like everybody else: \$3 a month with food and clothing. All commanders and soldiers dress alike, eat the same food and have the same living conditions. The women from the Sanitary Corps, who scrubbed the floors of the hospital, received the same as I did.” He was not happy about this.

But the soldiers were! Former soldiers return-

ing to villages throughout China helped start the mass mobilization for communism that became the People's Commune movement in the late 1950s.

Masses of peasants mobilized to build irrigation systems. Communes organized cafeterias where all members could eat and did not pay for food. Many aspects of communist relations were implemented in large areas all over China.

During the civil war in El Salvador in the 1980's, the soldiers fighting the fascist government did not carry money. The organized masses sustained the armed struggle. They didn't use money for many years. Groups of supporters produced what was needed to survive.

These are some examples of how the masses have figured out a world without money. Organized as communists, we will have an even clearer picture of how to make this work, as we will be motivated to struggle and to produce to meet the needs of our global family.

Perhaps other comrades and friends would like to continue this conversation.

Comrade in Seattle

FACTORY WORKERS FIGHT FOR A SOCIETY WITHOUT MONEY

EL SALVADOR—“I feel happy because I see that the red flag has not been lost, that there are comrades who are still fighting and don't let it fall,” said a worker attending a meeting of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) for the first time. He was invited by a worker comrade.

In the meeting, after the greeting, it was explained what ICWP is, where there are collectives, and that our goal is a communist society. Four workers attended for the first time.

A comrade worker leader said, “No one is going to leave this meeting thinking the same as before. Our task is to mobilize the workers for communism.”

Two friends who were attending for the first time, a woman and man, participated in this year's May Day march with ICWP. A couple of workers from another area pledged to continue fighting for communism.

We talked about society without money. Currently with the approval of the new Bitcoin law here, there are many questions about it, and also concern. Governments invent a law tailored to their needs, to benefit economic groups.

Historically, money has taken different forms and workers haven't benefited from any of them. Past civilizations used Cacao as currency. They chose it because they considered cacao as a drink of the gods. That's because money has always been equated with something of value as a

backup, as with the dollar and gold.

Later, with capitalism, the Spanish introduced the Real in Central America. The macaques and morlacos were pieces of silver. They appeared as a kind of brass coins on fincas (farms), with the name of the farm. Bosses used them to pay the workers, who in turn had to use them to buy food in the bosses' stores, furthering the exploitation.

Then they created the Colon, which was later replaced by the US dollar. Today Bitcoin arrives. Approximately 500 years have passed since cacao was used, and the working class continues to generate the wealth that a few bosses keep. In communism there will be no currency. It will be a classless society. We will not work for money, but to meet the needs of humanity.

ICWP teaches that things will change if we organize and struggle for a society without money.

The best examples of how the working class is exploited are lived by the men and women work-

ing-class comrades. They have understood the value of human labor power. One told of the 9 or 10 hours a day that he has to work to earn the minimum wage (\$270). He works overtime to earn a little more, sometimes only one dollar more.

“We need to contact more workers, so that they join the struggle of ICWP. We will take 150 *Red Flag* newspapers to distribute and recruit contacts,” said a comrade who participates in the workers' collectives. A plan was made to visit another factory.

“This encourages the collective to continue trying to make our political base active, to invite more family groups to this type of political gathering,” said a worker leader. This comment was made after eating chicken with rice prepared by workers' hands, in front of a swimming pool where children of our class were happily bathing, in whom the values of the International Communist Workers' Party are being instilled.



ONLY ARMED STRUGGLE FOR COMMUNISM CAN END SEXISM IN AFGHANISTAN

July 10—Hundreds of women organized and armed themselves and marched in the streets of northern and central Afghanistan. They are determined to resist the Taliban religious fascists, who are gaining ground as US imperialism withdraws in defeat from its 20-year war and occupation.

In Taliban-controlled areas, women are forced at gunpoint to cover themselves with the restrictive burqa. The Taliban kicks women out of jobs and public life.

“I don't want the country under the control of people who treat women the way they do,” said a young woman journalist. “We took up the guns

to show if we have to fight, we will.”

“Many more [of us] were ready to go to the battlefields,” declared another marcher.

The fight against traditional sexist oppression and gender segregation advanced in Afghanistan in the 20th century through the 1970s.

But these gains quickly disappeared amidst the Soviet occupation, the coups and the civil wars from 1979-1996. The low point was under Taliban rule (1996-2001).

But things didn't get much better during the US occupation. If Chinese and Pakistani capitalists move into the current vacuum – extending the “Belt and Road Initiative” – the masses of

Afghan women and men are unlikely to benefit, either.

Neither the US government nor its Afghan puppet politicians dared to organize women to fight, even as they lost to the Taliban on the battlefield.

Now that armed women are organizing themselves, will their fight be for “democratic rights”? Or will they see that capitalism (whether secular or religious) is the material basis of sexism? Can we find ways to convince some that their armed struggle must be for communist revolution?

Mass Protests Against Genocide of Indigenous People

FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST FUTURE WHERE EVERY CHILD MATTERS

July 1—Ten thousand people marched in Montreal, Canada in solidarity with First Nations, Métis and Inuit people. This followed the tragic discovery of more than 1505 bodies of indigenous children out of the 150,000 missing in genocidal boarding schools between 1870 and 1997. Tens of thousands more marched in other cities throughout Canada.

When Europeans first invaded North America in the early 17th century, the indigenous people lived in societies based on sharing, cooperation, and collectivity. These were settled communities with both farming and hunting. They were egalitarian without private property. Women were respected and children were raised collectively. Abundance was shared and no-one went hungry. Marx's collaborator Frederick Engels learned about pre-class communism by studying such societies. Communists today have much to learn from them to help point our way forward to scientific communism.

Schooling for Capitalist Genocide

The discovery of hundreds of children's unmarked graves in residential schools illuminates the role of schooling in the imperialist genocide of indigenous people.

The first 250 years of English, Canadian and US conquest of indigenous people was a series of genocidal wars and broken treaties. By the 1870s, "Indian policy" in both countries shifted toward assimilation. The US and Canadian ruling classes ripped most indigenous children from their families and kept them captive in "residential schools."

These schools, often run by churches, were part of a larger policy of destruction of the collective way of life of Native Americans/First Nations people in the growth of North American capitalism.

The US Army and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police rounded children up and sent them to the schools. Once there, children's hair was cut and their traditional clothing taken from them. They were punished for speaking their native language, and for helping each other. The curriculum was centered on training them to be laborers and domestic servants.

"Self-reliance"—rather than collectivity—was

part of the curriculum. Policy makers talked openly about conforming to white civilization, breaking up tribal relations, destroying "socialism," and about teaching selfishness as the value essential to "civilization."

The treatment of the First Nations/Native American children and youth that these murders exposed could hardly be called education. We call it capitalist schooling.

Capitalist schooling always exists to mold children and youth into what the capitalists need them to be.

These boarding schools had several related purposes:

*To steal the land of the indigenous people for capitalist agriculture, settlement and railroads.

*To destroy the collective and cooperative social relations of Native Americans/First Nations people.

*To drill racist ideas into indigenous children so that they would see themselves and their families as inferior to their white bosses. So that they would accept racist super-exploitation as farm laborers and domestic servants.

Over a hundred thousand children died in these schools. Canadian doctors estimated that one-fourth of the schoolchildren were dying of tuberculosis. They were so undernourished that they became subjects in "scientific experiments" to see how little food they could survive on. They were subject to sexual abuse, corporal punishment, and the psychological abuse of being removed from their families and communities.

There was always resistance. Children risked punishment to seek comfort from each other and demonstrate solidarity. Thousands ran away from these schools. Some died of exposure and misadventure along the way. Others were able to



find their way home.

And there is resistance and anger amid the grief and mourning now.

The solution is not the appointment of indigenous women as Governor General in Canada and Secretary of the Interior in the US while capitalism continues its genocidal exploitation at home and abroad.

Neither is it in transforming the remaining First Nation/Native American schools into centers of ethnic nationalism to keep students focused on their separate culture instead of uniting with exploited workers of all "races" and ethnicities.

Indigenous and non-indigenous workers, students and others marched together in Montreal and across Canada this summer. Workers of all "races" marched together around the world last summer in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd. They marched to demand a new future, one where Black Lives Matter and where Chaque Enfant Compte (Every Child Matters).

That new future requires us to learn from the collective traditions of our ancestors on every continent. This will help us build the communist world that we all need, where every child will be safe and valued by the whole community. To achieve this, we'll have to overthrow our capitalist oppressors with armed revolution.

That's what ICWP is working for. Join us.

CUBA REBELLION: SAY "NO" TO IMPERIALISM AND SOCIALISM, "YES" TO REAL COMMUNISM

July 12—The largest rebellion in decades is rocking Cuba. Masses are outraged – as they are elsewhere – by the government's response to Covid-19, by intensifying poverty and hunger and by police violence. Last year, the Cuban government suppressed protests that had been planned after police shot and killed an unarmed 27-year-old Black man, Hansel Hernandez. They couldn't stop them this time.

The US imperialist press and anti-communist Cuban expats are trying to exploit these protests. They have been fomenting unrest for decades, trying to restore a pro-US "free market" capitalist government.

But the masses' grievances are real. Their anger is justified. Cuban socialism does not and cannot meet their needs. Its ruling "communist" party is actually a new state-capitalist ruling class.

The US rulers, Republicans and Democrats, have tried for sixty years to destroy Cuba's economy. One official wrote in 1960 that "every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba. ...to bring

about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government."

But Castro's Cuban state-capitalism betrayed the masses' interests by tying itself to global markets. Workers were exploited, first mainly in sugar and now mainly in the tourist industry, by this profit-driven policy.

What masses need is real communism: a system of production and distribution that will meet people's needs without money. Without relying on any imperialists, Russian, US, Chinese or European.

Cuba and other Caribbean islands supported huge indigenous populations (mainly Taino) be-



fore the imperialists invaded and enslaved them. Food was abundant, and nobody went without. We can do that again, and better, now.

The Cuban rebels must break with imperialist anti-communism and the Cuban leaders who falsely call themselves "communists." When they seize the *Red Flag* of communist revolution they will once again electrify the world.

REBELLIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA: YOUNG COMRADES STEP UP TO GIVE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP

SOUTH AFRICA, July 13—Riots have broken out around the country, sparked by the jailing of the popular former South African President, Jacob Zuma. No political party is leading this. The real causes were already there. Zuma's jailing was just the spark.

Once a significant part of the population, especially young people, is out of work, there will be consequences. Officially, youth unemployment is around 40%, but the number is much higher since that does not include those who have given up looking for work.

On top of that is the lockdown, with no plan in place for people to get basic services delivered to them, like food parcels. The government simply expects people to lock themselves up while they and their children go hungry. This ticking time

bomb is the reality of capitalism during the pandemic.

You see by the level of looting that people are hungry. Retail shops are looted because people need food. Some take televisions to sell for money for basic necessities.

In some instances, there are tribal divisions between the Zulus and the Xosas, but this is largely a national event. It has spread to other provinces, to Pretoria, and even the Eastern Cape.

The army and the riot police are deployed to try to enforce some so-called "law and order." They have not been able to control the many thousands of young people who are desperate and have no alternative.

We must provide the alternative. This kind of anger resonates with mobilizing to end capi-

talism with communist revolution. It also shows that people will really rise up against this system. We see young people fighting back against police around the world. But they need communist leadership.

As the International Communist Workers' Party, we need to have a presence on the ground so we can give leadership around our com-

munist ideas. Now there are just riots with no political direction.

Now it's no longer about releasing Zuma but about the lockdowns. Governments are acting like feudal kings—telling people on national TV what to do, and what not to do.

Capitalism and its democracy are a dictatorship of the minority over the majority. This has to change. The majority, the working class, has to dictate its own terms. We need to be more proactive in organizing here for communism.

Even in Port Elizabeth there have been some instances of looting. The situation is tense. We plan to organize at the taxi rand and other places to distribute "Mobilize the Masses for Communism" and *Red Flag* directly to the masses. This needs to happen wherever we can. Unfortunately, we don't have a presence in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, where the riots started.

Most young people are hungry for our ideas. We have seen this often, like in the march about Palestine, where we distributed 150 *Red Flags* in a short time. We need to show more agency in our organizing, to focus on young people and also industrial workers. Everything is on standstill. It's mostly workers who are on the street. Most of them have been recently retrenched or laid off because of the pandemic.

As a collective we will do our utmost to take advantage of this capitalist crisis. It's not just about Zuma, but legitimate grievances by young people and the working class who are rejecting the status quo. People are calling for change. We need to present young people with communism as the only solution to capitalism's attacks.



LEARNING FROM THE ANTI-APARTHEID STRUGGLE: YOUTH NEED COMMUNISM

CAPE TOWN (South Africa), June 16 – The June 16 celebrations symbolise a very important day in the history of the apartheid struggle. Thousands of youths from schools across the country revolted against oppressive education by the white racist capitalist government. Most notable was the Soweto uprising, the result of students' and youths' mass struggle and consciousness.

These events made history, but the struggle failed to meet the masses' aspirations of eliminating oppression and exploitation. However, it gives us communist lessons

This June 16, comrades had youth day celebrations, including the collective here. We hosted the meeting with two comrades and one old comrade who relocated to Cape Town. The meeting discussed the historical events of the day and the lessons from it, and also organizing the collective activities going forward.

The Soweto revolt failed as a result of the wrong ideology of black consciousness in combination with narrow reformism, even though such reformism was covered in revolutionary rhetoric. Ultimately the uprising was fuelled by capitalist racist oppression, but it was organised under the ideology of black consciousness, with a narrow focus on reforming Bantu education. This education under apartheid mandated segregated, inferior schools in the segregated areas where black people were forcibly moved.

Black consciousness advocated for African socialism. It didn't advocate for dismantling of the entire capitalist society, which is needed. It was based on the ideas of nationalism and socialism, which really meant the dangerous illusion of trying to make capitalism serve the oppressed masses.

However, we take lessons and inspiration from the experiences of the 1976 youth. Their courage and ability to organise show the possibility and the role young people can and must play in revolutionary change.

As a young collective, we must deepen our commitment and intensity mobilising the masses for communist revolution today. Only communist revolution can end racism, unemployment, miseducation and all exploitation of the masses.

We face the great challenge of recruiting other young people and workers. This is a long-term struggle, with no shortcuts. Struggling with new comrades' contradictions and wrong ideas takes time. Some new comrades pledged to join and be active members of the party, then reversed their commitment.

We do not give up on those comrades. We know from dialectics that development and growth are not linear. We know change is not always visible when it's in the process of happening. We are struggling with contradictions that new comrades usually have, who are fed up by capitalism, particularly about reform ideas.

We understand the importance of youth, especially in South Africa, where high unemployment can turn youth to crime, drugs and gangsterism. The lessons from the June 1976 uprisings show that with intensity and commitment we can re-



cruit these youth towards revolutionary change.

Socialism and reform failed to meet the masses' needs. Inequality has left millions of young people in poverty.

That means we recruit directly for communism, a society with no money, profit or exploitation. We plan to utilize the opportunities represented by capitalist contradictions.

The mood for a revolution is there. Young people are burning and rioting in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, riots spreading nationwide. We plan to join them to put forward our message of a communist revolution and rejecting the reformism which resulted in the failure of the 1976 Soweto uprising.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM

ICWP Can Count on Me

EL SALVADOR — I am going to identify as Ch. I send a fraternal greeting of struggle to comrades of every gender. For several years I have belonged to the group of comrades who discuss *Red Flag* in the capital.

In the factory where I work, I heard about the *Red Flag* group. That they had meetings, debated communist issues, among others. A comrade invited me to attend a meeting. Between doubts and fear because of what was said about the group, I responded with “count on me.”

I attended the meeting. They talked about the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) and about *Red Flag*. I saw with surprise that there were many women and men workers from the factory and that inspired me to have much more confidence.

I was invited to return to the next meeting and that’s how I became part of the collective. I committed to invite more co-workers to join the struggle. Personally, it has been good to participate and learn more about communist ideas, struggles and debates.

In the June meeting, I was amazed to hear and read that *Red Flag* had an article which has related to me for a long time: the fight against homophobia. Currently we call it the fight against HOMOLESBOBITRANSPHOBIA to include all gender identities and expressions at once.

Seriously, I got a very good feeling of happiness that the collective to which I belong was including worrying issues that are slow, silent killers of the community to which I belong. To start reading the article with comrades gives you a little more understanding or clarity about homophobia to be

able to answer questions about it.

I have experienced homophobic attacks in my family circle to the point of becoming independent at a young age. I have also experienced homophobic attacks since I can remember in the course of my academic training and also in society in general. It is frustrating to be made to feel different or to be labeled this or that without knowing that psychologically it damages a person’s self-esteem.

Because our virtues, skills and abilities are just like that of any productive human being. Filling my circle with people who accept the “different” has made me give myself the courage of life and strength to fight my day-to-day struggle.

We have to understand and learn to accept that we are in the XXI century a quite OPEN, DIVERSE world; and be happy in this world as it corresponds to each one, in their circle without seeing, or judging, or labeling the one we believe “different.”

We respect the heterosexual world; I don’t see why the heterosexual world cannot respect the LGBTI world because we are also productive and contribute to social development. I invite the world to be or try to be tolerant and accept that we are in a diverse world.

Fighting for communism we also fight against HOMOLESBOBITRANSPHOBIA all over the world.

Worker in El Salvador

Slavery and the U.S Constitution

Slavery was legal the United States from its beginning as a nation, having been practiced in North America from early colonial days.

Twelve U.S. presidents enslaved people. Eight while in office (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, James Madison, Andrew Jackson, John Tyler, James Polk, and Zachary Taylor). George Washington kept 300 bondsmen and -women at his Mount Vernon plantation. Approximately 130 enslaved people lived on Thomas Jefferson’s plantation at any given time. James Madison enslaved hundreds of people on his Virginia plantation. Four presidents owned slaves at some time in their lives, but not while in office (Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, Andrew Johnson, and Ulysses S. Grant).

The Constitutional Convention took place in Philadelphia in 1787. Of the 55 convention delegates, 25 were enslavers; six of the original thirteen colonies were slave-owning colonies. There was no diversity of color, class, or gender. Only white men who owned property were eligible to vote in elections and to be convention delegates.

Slavery was never mentioned in the 1787 constitution, but 11 clauses alluded to it. Ten of those 11 clauses protected slavery and the power of slaveholders.

The 3/5 compromise clause enabled Southern states to count slaves among their population totals. It gave the South extra votes in the House of Representatives and Electoral College. Thomas Jefferson would have lost the 1800 election if not for the 3/5 clause.

On May 29, 1790, the Constitution became law when it was ratified by Rhode Island, the last of the 13 original colonies.

History shows that the hallowed U.S. Constitution originated as a slave document.

Bay Area (CA) Comrade



July 8—Haitian workers and youth protest in front of a police station in Port-au-Prince after the assassination of hated Haitian president Jovenel Moïse.

Haitian capitalist politicians had been divided over Moïse’s demand for another year in power. In March, mass demonstrations denounced his

rule and intensifying poverty amidst the pandemic. Increasing gang violence has driven over 13,000 people from their homes in the last six weeks.

The Haitian capitalists and their imperialist backers can no longer rule in the old way. “Simply put, there is no one with any real authority in position to run the country,” editorialized the *US Washington Post*.

The *Post* editors wanted “swift and muscular international intervention.” The last time this happened was 2004-2017. That UN “stabilization mission” brought with it epidemics of cholera and rape.

The Haitian masses have long struggled against the worst inequality in the region. Over

60% live in dire poverty. Over 96% are endangered by earthquakes and increasingly hazardous hurricanes and floods due to global warming.

And they fight back. Even the Catholic Archbishop warned Haitian leaders in October 2019 that the people “cannot go on any longer.”

A revolutionary situation would exist in Haiti today if a true communist party was there mobilizing the masses and building a base to fight directly for communism.

It’s not enough to point out that the change so urgently needed cannot happen through capitalist elections. Or even that capitalism and imperialism are the problems.

The brave and angry masses need to become part of the process of envisioning and fighting to create a communist world. We ask all *Red Flag* readers to help carry this message and organize collectives of the International Communist Workers’ Party wherever you can.

COMMUNISM NOT REFORMS from page 8

care of NHS soon began to show its limitations.

After the war, the British government encouraged workers from places it had colonized to migrate to Britain to staff the NHS, among other public institutions. Many came from the Caribbean, were given the lowest paid jobs and were subjected to other forms of racist discrimination. In nursing, Black women were pushed into midwifery and other lower-paid jobs.

The British ruling class joined its US partners in attacking Korea, while the Labour government secretly began the British atomic weapons programme. This cost hundreds of millions of pounds, a phenomenal sum, with the country in the grip of post-war austerity and food shortages. The Labour government admitted this was to finance the slaughter in Korea. As a result, free eye

care and dentistry were removed from

the NHS. This is still the case today. The ruling class likes to use the NHS as a symbol of ‘Britishness’. Some reformists tail this nationalism, calling for saving ‘our NHS’ from ‘foreign corporations’. One placard on the demo read ‘Keep American greedy corporate hands off our NHS’, a chauvinist response.

But it makes no difference where the corporation or organisation is based. It is all capitalist and based on international imperialism.

While the reformists just call for more spending, ICWP has a vision of a communist society based on common ownership and cooperative relations without commodities or wage labour.

Instead of “National Health Service,” we need International Communist Revolution!



HEALTH WORKERS FIGHT FOR REFORMS LET'S FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST HEALTH CARE

LONDON, UK, July 3— Health care workers took to the streets on the seventy-third anniversary of the National Health Service (NHS). They demanded a 15% pay rise for NHS staff, improved patient safety and an end to the privatisation of NHS services.

This is as far as the union activists go. They don't challenge the capitalist relations of production which remain at the heart of the Covid crisis and all public health issues. Neither do the

pseudo-leftists (actually moderate reformists) chanting for the Tory government to resign.

Communist political leadership is required—and ICWP was there. The pseudo-leftists ridiculed *Red Flag's* slogan 'Mobilize the Masses for Communism'. But others were keen to read *Red Flag*, including a Belgian student on his way for a vaccine and several other young people.

Bosses Created National Health Service Because They Feared Working-Class Revolution

The working class created its own 'free' health provision in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In South Wales and elsewhere, workers formed 'friendly societies' to provide medical care. In Tredegar, South Wales, the Miners and Steel workers formed the Workmen's Medical Aid Society. They would provide their own free health care where the government and mining companies would not.

The National Health Service was founded in 1948 by

the Labour Government. It was partly an attempt to ensure that the wage slaves were healthy enough to work. It also mimicked some aspects of these friendly societies. Capitalists aimed to stop the working class from forming its own organisations of welfare, which would by their nature run into conflict with capitalist relations.

The idea of universal health care, free at the point of use, was becoming acceptable to members of the British ruling class. They feared revolution, seeing the popularity of the Soviet Union and that many workers who were conscripted, now possessed and were trained in arms.

Older people remember that when, during World War II, Stalin or the Red Army appeared on the newsreels, cinema audiences would give a standing ovation. The British government even celebrated 'Red Army Day' during the war years to gain the support of the masses.

Dominant sections of Britain's ruling class saw the benefits of having a healthier work force and armed forces for the continuation of capitalism. The Labour Party was a good vehicle for maintaining illusions that capitalism could be beneficial by slowly reforming it. But the 'free' health

See [COMMUNISM NOT REFORMS, page 7](#)



ONLY COMMUNISM MEANS GOOD HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

USA—Millions die preventable deaths every year. It's not just lack of access to healthcare. It's because capitalist healthcare, like capitalist everything, is built to serve the bottom line – profits. Medical research, distribution of medicines, our understanding of how our bodies work, access to healthy, safe food and decent shelter – and certainly our wage labor – all serve the capitalists' profits.

Racism and sexism mean that people of color and women suffer disproportionately from the ravages of capitalist healthcare. That includes not only reduced access, but also horrors such as the sterilization of Indigenous women, the US Public Health Service syphilis experiment at Tuskegee, higher death rates of people of color from COVID-19, the shortage of primary care physicians in areas where more Black people live, and on and on.

No reform of capitalism will solve these problems. We need communism.

Medicare for All is no solution

Most countries have some kind of national health service that provides publicly-funded healthcare with minimal charges to patients. Medicare in the US is a form of national health insurance, but only for citizens 65 and over or with disabilities.

"Medicare for All" has become popular in the US. Many people believe that somehow capitalism dosed with a bit of "socialism" can provide

decent healthcare for all Americans. But this capitalist reform will continue racist, sexist, anti-working-class healthcare rationing. It won't end capitalist health care or capitalist relations of production that put profits above human life and well-being.

A segment of the US ruling class is pushing "Medicare for All" because they want to calm the concerns of the US masses. Many are angry that outrageous health care costs are making a few people billionaires while good health care is more and more out of reach.

One healthcare worker declared, "Medicare is not free! The average senior pays \$2000/year excluding copays and uncovered expenses. The government is always recommending that seniors should save approximately \$250,000 for non-covered expenses. Medicare often does not cover very basic medications, causing seniors to choose between food, rent and meds.

"Pretty pathetic that this is their solution. With Medicare you are battling the same profit-driven health care system but with a government-run insurance laced with private insurance."

Communism, not socialism, is the solution

Some think that Medicare for All is a step toward socialism, which they believe will solve this problem. But socialism maintains wages and will always lead back to capitalism.

The Russian and Chinese revolutions brought dramatic advances in the health of the masses.

The Chinese National Health Congress in 1950 adopted the basic political tenets of Chinese health care policy: Medicine should serve the workers, peasants, and soldiers. Emphasize prevention. Integrate Chinese traditional medicine with Western medicine. Mobilizing masses should be an integral part of China's health care.

These leaps gave a glimpse of what masses mobilized for communism can do. A million "barefoot doctors" were trained soon after the 1949 revolution. Workers in rural China, selected by their workmates, received six months of

medical training each year. They spent the other six months working with their crews. Soon they were teaching certified MDs how to treat agrarian workers, who numbered in the hundreds of millions.

However, these gains were limited and then reversed because these revolutions instituted socialism, not communism. Socialism promoted collective responsibility, but its material basis – wages and commodity production – undermined collectivist ethics.

Through the 1970s, the main income source of barefoot doctors was from their villages' collective economy. But the program largely fell apart when the central government provided less financial support and the country's emerging capitalist system began forcing farmers to pay for their health care.

Communism will completely eliminate money and exploitation. Collective social relations will replace market relations. We will constantly be struggling to end racism and sexism in all aspects of our lives. We can win these struggles because we will eliminate the wage system, the material basis of racism and sexism.

Health Care in Communism

All science, including biology and medicine, will become the property of the masses—who will advance them. We will share responsibility for everyone's mental and physical health:

In healthcare institutions everyone will help diagnose and treat disease as well as clean up. Everyone will learn and teach. Communism will unleash humankind's vast potential.

There will be no lack of health care workers since many will be trained in preventing, detecting, and treating diseases. Every production center will include such and the equipment needed to deal with emergencies.

Important parts of good health are food, housing, meaningful work and relations with others; these can only be guaranteed with communism.

The time has come finally to end the ravages of capitalism. For the health and life of the working class, we need to mobilize the masses for communism.

