

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

Release of Islamophobic Rapists Sparks Global Outrage

ICWP COLLECTIVES IN INDIA CALL ON WORKERS TO UNITE AGAINST THE CAPITALIST RULERS

DELHI (India), August 22— Masses greeted with disbelief and disgust international headlines about the release of eleven convicted Islamophobic rapists. They had taken part in the massacre of over a thousand Muslim people in Modi's state of Gujarat in 2002.

Billkis Bano, a Muslim woman, was 21 and pregnant when she and 24 other women, men, and children were forced to hide in the aftermath of the massacre led by Modi's fascist BJP. They survived underground for a week with the help of Hindu neighbors but were eventually betrayed. Bano's husband was separated in the commotion. Hindu fascists mobbed the others. Bano was gang-raped and left for dead. The fascists murdered fourteen family members, starting with her 3-year-old child.

Even the fascist-ruled Modi governments couldn't avoid convicting the eleven men in four different court cases. They were sentenced to life. Last week the courts released all of them. The fascist BJP gave them a hero's welcome.



Young Women Communists Lead

The news of the released Islamophobic rapists infuriated masses, including two young women comrades of the International Communist Workers' Party, one born to a Hindu family and one to a Muslim family. The first comrade met ICWP eight months ago after fleeing Ukraine. "Communism is the only solution to growing worldwide fascism and war. It means ICWP must spread everywhere," she declared.

The second comrade joined ICWP about two years ago after renouncing identity politics and deciding to mobilize the masses for communism.

These two young women have taken a leadership role in our party collective. They are determined to spread our communist commitment to the workers and to deepen our ties with the working class.

Our collectives in Delhi and a newly formed collective in Bihar wrote a leaflet urging workers to unite and turn their anger against the capitalist

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PORT ELIZABETH (SA), August 22— Law enforcement officers, together with private security companies, have been raiding abandoned mines and arresting so-called "illegal" miners (Zama Zamas) for four weeks. More dangerous for our class are the openly fascist and xenophobic attacks on workers. Groups have attacked these undocumented miners, killing some and burning down at least one settlement.

These arrests and attacks follow the appalling gang rape of eight women who were part of a filming crew that was shooting a music video in an abandoned Krugersdorp mine. The rapists were highly organized, likely by a criminal syndicate. This is a clear example of the sexist ideas and practices that are part of this rotten racist capitalist system—especially in the mining camps. It's a set-up!

South Africa: Capitalists Use Sexism and Xenophobia to Divide Workers

COMMUNISTS UNITE THE WORKING CLASS AGAINST FASCIST ATTACKS

The gang rape has been the pretext for the bosses to arrest and blame more than one hundred undocumented workers who are also "illegal" miners. They are charged with illegal mining, illegal immigration, possession of explosives and firearms, attempted murder—but not of rape.

People are angry! And well they should be! But they should be angry at the whole capitalist system. That includes how the racist mining industry set up these camps that separate male workers from their families and promote a violently sexist culture and ideology.

The politicians who now condemn the rapists are the same bosses who have done nothing but profit while South African women suffer high levels of sexual assault, low pay, high unemployment, and discrimination in the

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ANSWER GLOBAL CAPITALIST CRISIS WITH THE RED FIST OF COMMUNIST WORKERS' POWER

“The hidden hand of the market will never work without the hidden fist. The hidden fist that keeps the world safe for Silicon Valley’s technologies to flourish is called the US Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps” —Thomas Friedman, New York Times, Feb. 24, 2001

War is central to capitalism. Over half of its discretionary spending goes to the military. That’s how it could bomb workers in other countries 46 times a day (on average) for the past 20 years.

The US-led NATO war on the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s launched 34,000 bombing raids in 78 days. The attack was aimed at intimidating the whole of eastern Europe. The military performs a major economic function.

Capitalists closed plants in western Europe and opened them in the east. Soon lower-paid East European workers were making one in four cars sold in Europe. By 2004, NATO had expanded into ten East European countries, setting the stage for a more direct US attack on Russia via Ukraine. Why?

Because capitalism – as a world system – is in a period of general crisis. The productive forces have developed so much that they can no longer return profits sustainably for their capitalist owners. That sharpens conflicts among the biggest imperialists.

For example, the main section of the Chinese ruling class (capitalists all) are building a massive new worldwide system of railways, highways, coastal ports, and airports. They have the capital to invest in this “Belt and Road Initiative,” the political agreements, the skilled workforce, and international monetary systems capable of collecting its profitable returns.

China produces 60% of the world’s concrete. This directly threatens giant US engineering firms like Halliburton and Bechtel. It limits their ability to attract capital, raw material, or contracts in the world’s civilian markets. Similar rivalries exist in many industries.

“China,” declared US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, “is the only country with the economic, diplomatic, military and technological power to seriously challenge” the US-led global status quo.

The massive growth of the productive forces

means that any major imperialist bloc must dominate both world markets and the world’s working class. This requires them to confront both their fear of defeat by rival imperialists and their fear of the working class. The first fear pushes them to world war, but the second makes them hesitate.

Fear of imperialist rivals pushed capitalists into World War I, which ended with the communist-led Russian revolution for workers’ power. The same fear pushed them into World War II, which ended with the Chinese communist-led peasant and working-class revolution. That history holds back today’s imperialists from launching a full-scale World War III.

China and the US are fighting proxy wars on military fronts (Ukraine, Ethiopia, Yemen) and political fronts (Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Taiwan). As NATO’s expansion accompanied West Europe’s industrial penetration of East Europe, the Shanghai Cooperation Agreement (a military alliance) accompanies China’s Bridge and Road Initiative.

China is now in a stronger position than the US following US defeats in Iraq and Afghanistan. With crucial military support from Iran and China, the Ethiopian government has pushed back the US-supported Tigray Liberation Front. In Yemen, China is poised to be the strongest force in any negotiated settlement. If the US is fighting Russia in Ukraine to the last Ukrainian, China is fighting the US to the last Russian.

No worker anywhere should support any capitalist or imperialist power! Our war is for communism, nothing less. From all according to ability and commitment, to all according to need!

We do not welcome the carnage and mass destruction of present and future imperialist war. But we expect and plan to build our new communist world on the rubble and ashes of the old.

The Soviets built war communism amidst a bloody counterrevolution. The insurgent Chinese Red Army practiced a communist “supply system” during its protracted People’s War. In Poland at the end of World War II, with Nazis still controlling half of Warsaw, communists organized masses to rebuild the other half without wages or



markets.

The huge political error of 20th century communists was preparing the masses to fight for national liberation or socialism, but never for communism itself. When things stabilized, they intentionally handed power back to capitalists (Poland) or put themselves in charge of a new state-controlled system of wages and markets. In the Soviet Union and China, communist parties became the new capitalist classes.

Today, the capitalist crisis has put masses in motion from Sri Lanka to Sierra Leone and beyond. The youth especially see a future of climate crisis and increasingly deadly wars. Those young people, won to communist politics and enlisted in the bosses’ armed forces, are key to turning imperialist war into revolutionary war.

The International Communist Workers’ Party must sharpen our work everywhere, as comrades are already starting to do in South Africa, El Salvador, and India.

Let’s build stronger collectives to concentrate our efforts.

Let’s discover in practice what it means to lead communist class struggle.

Let’s find more ways to build communist ties with young people in the military.

Let’s develop a broader network of communist relationships that will help us all to see more clearly the potential of the communist world that’s coming.

Let’s raise the red fist, hidden no longer, of the international working class!



August 22— Dock workers shut down the UK’s largest port in a strike over wages that might last more than the eight days originally announced. Capitalists fear further disruption of their supply chains, already hit by an ongoing series of rail strikes. They fear even more the day when industrial workers will turn from reformist strikes to the revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist system.



August 18—Tea plantation workers in Bangladesh began an indefinite strike demanding a wage increase from the current 120 taka per day (US\$1.26 or 20.40 Rand or 100 INR). Their only escape from this brutal wage slavery is communist revolution.

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SRI LANKAN GARMENT WORKER “LOOKING FOR COMMUNISM” FINDS ICWP

BENGALURU (India), August 8— Comrades in the garment factories here read the story in *Red Flag* of Geetha, who works in the garment industry of a Free Trade Zone in Sri Lanka. They decided to reach out to her.

“I came five years ago from a small village to look for work in Bengaluru,” said Asha. “I was 15 years old. My parents worked as seasonal farm workers. I had to support them and three young brothers. I can see Geetha as if she is in front of me.

“It took me four years to find out that without communism we will live in perpetual poverty, Asha continued. “Now Geetha is looking for communism. We must do everything to help her.”

Asha and Geetha’s story of struggle is key to building more communists of ICWP. Our collective in Bengaluru distributes *Red Flag* in our neighborhoods and factories. Geetha’s story was very powerful in reaching out to more people. There are thousands and millions of workers like her. They all dream of a day when they will not be wage slaves of the bosses. The bosses survive and thrive by creating more misery for our work-

ing-class.

Our collectives in Bengaluru and Chennai are communicating more frequently and struggling to meet our needs in Sri Lanka. We have formed a group of comrades in both areas to be in touch with Geetha and other comrades in Sri Lanka. This way, we can minimize the problems of different languages. We are seeking ways to translate *Red Flag* into Sinhala.

Comrade Geetha was elated when she heard from our comrade in Bengaluru. She said that she would continue to circulate *Red Flag*. In a future article, she will tell us about her conversations with other workers.

The struggle with Geetha and the collectives in India has focused on the crisis in Sri Lanka and its possible revolutionary impact on the region. Faced with rebellious masses in Sri Lanka, the capitalists have temporarily accepted some severe measures to alleviate the hardships the masses face. They have eased the fuel restrictions, and food supplies are more consistent. However, this is how the rulers prepare to counterattack the working class when the mass move-

ment retreats in the face of temporary reforms.

The new rulers of Sri Lanka face mounting debt and they are expecting workers like comrade Geetha to pay for it. This shows that no reform will solve our problems.

Twenty of the richest capitalists in Sri Lanka control everything from mass media to commerce and the banking system. They are positioned to negotiate with IMF to bail out Sri Lanka. Dhammika Perera, the richest man in Sri Lanka, is working on a shadow government to revitalize capitalism. These local capitalists are trying to get maximum advantage of the strategic location of Sri Lanka to make deals with the US, the European Union, China, Russia, and India.

The rulers are amassing more troops in Free Trade Zones because they know that the hugely profitable garment industry will face massive rebellion. Our task is to recruit more comrade workers like Geetha, as well as the soldiers, to join in the fight for communism. Her joining our party is an important step toward building a mass International Communist Workers’ Party.

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rulers who offer the masses only extreme exploitation, hunger, and starvation. We explained that the bosses will literally get away with murder while they can divide us by religion, gender, caste, and nationalism.

Several dozens of ICWP comrades and supporters went to the working-class neighborhoods. We crisscrossed streets and towns around Delhi and Patna. We armed ourselves with thousands of leaflets, *Red Flag*, and a condensed version of

Mobilize the Masses for Communism.

We spent time with the workers in their homes. Some comrades stayed with the many workers who were impressed with our ideas of communism.

Learning How to Mobilize Masses for Communism

These activities built on our history of mobilizing the masses during the massive 2019-2020 Shaheen Bagh sit-ins against anti-Muslim citizenship laws. During the fascist anti-Muslim pogroms of Delhi in 2020. During the monumental farmer and farmworker protest encampments

in 2020-2021. The Covid crisis.

We are learning that we must mobilize the masses to take on the fascist forces and confront them. The bosses use tear gas, water cannons, and military to protect the interest of the wealthy capitalists like Ambanis and Adanis.

As our relationship with the masses deepens, we are organizing our forces for different methods of actively expanding our recruitment. We have established three safe areas from where *Red Flag* will be printed. We are looking at two other locations.

The young comrades in Delhi are determined to recruit workers and youth to our International Communist Workers’ Party in large numbers that will eventually end capitalism with a communist revolution. We are striving internationally to deepen their connections with the rest of our party.

From Delhi to Port Elizabeth, among garment workers from El Salvador to Sri Lanka and Bengaluru, from Chennai (India) autoworkers to MTA transit workers in Los Angeles (USA) to Boeing workers in Seattle (USA), we are fighting for one class, one party, and one goal – communism.



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Criticism and Self-Criticism Helps Advance the Struggle for Communism

EL SALVADOR—We are living the horrors of capitalism just like our fellow workers in maquilas (sweatshops) in all parts of the world. We understand your problems and we see many protests and mobilizations that become opportunities to organize for our International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

As ICWP we know that our line is to put the fight for communism first. Even so, there are days when the situation inside the factory has meant facing attacks from the bosses and union leaders who are their allies.

A threat from the bosses led us to make the decision to confront the bosses in their offices (*Red Flag*, Vol. 13 #9). As communists we must be on the side of the workers. But this action is not what defines us as ICWP organizers. We are defined by our permanent fight to recruit more workers, create new party cells, develop more *Red Flag* readers.

We were strongly criticized, perhaps it’s better

to say given very objective observations. They said that we do not have to throw ourselves like this to the capitalist lions.

I have read the letters from the *Red Flag* editorial collective and the comrade in Canada regarding the action we took. “No labor code or bill of rights protects workers.” In this they are right. But it is also true that we need to show the workers that we are not going to be passive in the face of repressive measures. The action served to bring other workers closer to the Party.

But from this action we learn that we need to make collective decisions, and not rely on bourgeois democracy.

Committed to the Party, we opened a cell meeting (which we hold every week at the end of the working day) with the delivery of the *Red Flag*. Then we opened the discussion, returning to the issue of workers’ struggles: how to mobilize more workers for communism without forgetting that a reform struggle is not the solution for the working class.

We have said in our weekly cell meetings that

we must have a short-term goal (to recruit more members) and a medium-term goal, already having a broader and stronger base, to create strategies of communist struggle with which we can abolish wage slavery.

—Comrade in the Maquilas



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Communist Solidarity with Workers' Struggles in Honduras

A communist greeting from El Salvador to the thousands of workers of the Gildan maquila in Rio Nance, Cortés, Honduras who are carrying out a work stoppage to protest low wages.

They demonstrated against the company union, against obligatory increases in production loads, and against the company's threat to close due to the textile workers' demands. They are calling for the formation of a union that would represent them, since the existing one is organized by the employers.

We believe that this is a great opportunity for the party and each one of us to see the reality that our class suffers day by day worldwide. Clearly, in this capitalist system the workforce is not valued as every worker deserves.

That is why it is more than necessary to organize ourselves to defeat the capitalist monster and no longer work only to generate profits, as today, but work based on our needs. We want to tell workers in Honduras that they are not alone. We are with them, and it would be a great political advance to be able to bring them *Red Flag*.

A worker in Honduras receives a monthly salary of 8,000 Lempiras (US \$326 or 5550 Rand or 26000 INR), equivalent to the minimum wage in the maquilas in El Salvador. Nowhere is this enough to cover the needs of a family.

This exploitation and repression that our comrades suffer in Honduras are the same as in El Salvador, India, South America, South Africa and in any business in the world. They reflect the capitalist crisis.

Faced with this, the working class is mobilizing throughout the world against the capitalist system.

It is urgent to spread communist ideas with more energy. It is not a union that can free workers from the capitalist yoke, but the organized struggle for communism under the line of the International Communist Workers' Party.

Comrades, these demonstrations that are taking place in various regions of the world are



Honduras, 2019: Gildan workers on strike say "We Don't Want the Bosses' Union"

an opportunity to win the masses to the fight for communism.

We need to share communist ideas with the coworker next to us, with the friend, the neighbor, and our family, to form more communist cells.

Let's cross the borders and share *Red Flag* with these workers. Let them feel the communist solidarity and that they are not alone.

We form a single class, the working class. Together we will fight for a classless society through communist revolution.

Long live the working class in resistance!
—Comrade in the maquilas of El Salvador

Awaken to the Need for Communist Revolution

The most recent issue of the Seattle (US) Boeing Machinist Union newspaper features an editorial by the union president entitled "The Awakening of the Labor Movement." He boasts that the Machinists are ready to "support the next generation trying to change the world." He touts the Boeing union as now one of the most diversified and inclusive unions in the labor movement. For instance, he says, the Boeing union now includes "workers who help homeland security take care of this country (the US)."

He says the new generation of organizers at Amazon and Starbucks are learning from the solidarity of the Boeing defense workers in St. Louis. A Filipino activist at an ICWP collective

meeting asked if this "solidarity" included struggle against Boeing's continued production of weapons that enable the bombing of Muslims on Mindanao.

Hours after this editorial appeared, a Machinist called a long-time Boeing comrade. He had just left the union hall after a futile effort to get a three-month paid paternity leave promised by Washington State law.

He can't! The contract that the international headquarters

rammed down the workers' throats ten years ago takes precedence over state law. The contract lets the company get off without paying a dime. This is not the first time the union carried water for the company. Each time this happens, our friend takes a few more *Red Flags* to distribute to his co-workers.

The president ends his self-congratulatory editorial by quoting Isaac Newton: "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

"The Machinists are the giants now," he concluded, "lifting up the next generation of union leaders."

His view of "solidarity" is poisoned by hubris, nationalism, and imperialist ideology. He can boast all he wants, but he bows before the altar of U.S. capitalism/imperialism.

That is the nature of trade union, reformist politics. It teaches each worker to put their immediate economic needs above the collective welfare of our global family.

Communist solidarity is the opposite. Capitalism cannot be reformed in a way that serves the world's workers. The ICWP is one international party, not a coalition of allied national parties. Its aim is to mobilize the global working class for communism.

The awakening we need is to grow the party and build for communist revolution.

—Retired Boeing comrade, Seattle (USA)

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job market.

In the process of Mobilizing the Masses for Communism we will defeat sexism and put an end to exploitation and attacks on women.

Capitalism Forces Miners to Risk Their Lives

"Illegal" miners take huge risks to go underground where their chances of returning are very slim. These are abandoned mines and they lack necessary equipment. Miners take these extreme risks because they need money to survive and feed their families.

There are many players involved in this trade. In fact, it's a syndicate that exploits the "illegal" miners who go underground to mine the mineral resources.

There are the owners of spaza shops who sell to the miners at ridiculous prices. Two litres of

drink that cost R15 (US \$0.88 or 70 INR) is sold for R100 (US \$5.89 or 470 INR). A loaf of the cheapest bread that cost R7 is sold for R50.

There are the security guards who alert the miners of danger, whom the miners must pay when they go underground and must also give a share of the mineral. Then there are those who buy the minerals below the market price since they know the miners, undocumented immigrants, are forced to accept anything.

These people are the ones who really benefit from the hard and dangerous work of these miners. These bosses include politicians, members of law enforcement, and mining bosses who know what to do with the minerals so they reach the same destination as the ones mined legally.

The main beneficiaries are the big capitalists.

The bottom line is that the illegal mining and these arrests are not helping the working-class in any way. Rather they are enriching the capitalist

class. It is important to struggle with the working-class to know that blaming foreign nationals, especially the undocumented immigrants, is a bosses' tactic to separate the working class, to keep us from uniting, because a united international working-class is a danger to them.

Therefore, this united working-class must struggle and fight for a communist society without bosses, poverty, and exploitation. A classless and non-sexist society where there is no work designated for males or females. Where we organize society based on mutual respect, and no sexist violence will ever be permitted.

That can only be achieved if the organisers of the International Communist Workers' Party intensify the struggle to recruit the international working-class to join the party and fight directly for communism.

Destroy Liberal Anti-Communist Lies

HOUSING CRISIS SHOWS URGENCY OF COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES (USA), August 12—People without homes and other activists disrupted LA City Council meetings to protest increasingly repressive laws against homeless people. When a council member tried to lead the patriotic Pledge of Allegiance, audience members booed.

Council President Nury Martinez outrageously compared the protesters to the fascists who invaded the US Capitol in Washington, DC on January 6, 2021.

“As if making the poorest people ‘go away’ is a solution,” declared a comrade. “Comparing them to the privileged ARMED mob is ridiculous. Blatant attempt to demonize the most harmed population!”

Worldwide, some 150 million members of our working-class family are homeless. As many as 1.6 billion lack adequate shelter.

This crisis is 100% manufactured by capitalism’s relentless pursuit of maximum profits, whatever the cost to the masses. Communism will solve it.

Capitalism drives wages down and housing costs up, forcing more and more workers – many with jobs! – into the streets from Egypt to Honduras and beyond.

Capitalist-imperialist proxy wars from Syria to Somalia to the Central African Republic displace growing numbers from their homes.

No worker anywhere is safe.

Millions in LA are a paycheck away from homelessness. Over fifty thousand children and youths in Los Angeles County have no stable home. The LA City Council’s response to the massive housing crisis is to outlaw homeless encampments near schools and daycare centers.

It’s already illegal to be unhoused near libraries, freeway overpasses and other locations. Democrat-run LA is approaching the fascist former Filipino president Duterte’s infamous “war on loitering.”

This housing crisis is a racist attack on the whole working class. Black people are 8% of L.A.’s population and 34% of the unhoused. But 25% of all those experiencing homelessness are white workers and youth.

The obvious cause of rapidly increasing homelessness is an estimated shortfall of half a million affordable homes in LA County. Less obvious is that investors keep tens of thousands of units off the market on purpose – more than enough to house everyone in need.



Finance capitalists own two-thirds of all LA residential units. “Thousands of luxury units are empty, owned as second homes or pure investments. ... Over 22 square miles of vacant lots are owned and kept vacant by corporate entities.” (The Vacancy Report)

This illustrates the law of capitalism that Marx described whereby increasing concentration of wealth in a few hands drives production away from workers’ necessities into luxury goods. Capitalists like those behind the LA City Council pass laws protecting the wealth they have stolen from the labor of their wage slaves—us.

The groups that produced The Vacancy Report only offer reforms (like a non-occupancy tax). What workers need is communist revolution.

The January 6 fascist coup attempt has given insurrection a bad name. “Rule of law! Electoral process! Peaceful Protest! Protect Democracy!” Thus cry the liberal news media and even some calling themselves Left.

It’s the old lie that falsely links communism and fascism although, historically, communists have been the fiercest anti-fascist fighters. It’s a lie that tries to hide the real-world class struggle (workers versus capitalists) behind an abstract and mechanical opposition of “extremism” and “moderation.”

Which side of the class struggle are you on? The January 6 insurrectionists stormed the Capitol in support of Trump’s capitalist faction. In

contrast, those who disrupted the LA City Council meeting fight on the side of the working class. But without a communist outlook and organization, they can’t win.

Communist revolution will destroy all records of property “ownership” and the capitalist state power that enforces them. Workers with homes can stay in them without paying another dime to landlords or banks.

Small-holding former landlords won’t suffer from losing rental income because nobody will need money for anything. We’ll produce and distribute everything based on need, not exchange.

Party-organized neighborhood committees will inventory unused or underused dwellings and allocate them based on need. We’ll organize masses to provide the labor to repair and build housing. We’ll design new housing to foster community rather than individualism.

None of this can happen peacefully or legally under capitalism’s rule of (property) law. But past communist-led revolutions – despite their tragic errors – show how we can do it.

Let’s not ask the 1.6 billion inadequately housed members of our international working-class family to wait for capitalism to meet their most basic needs. It won’t.

Let’s ask them – and all our friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family—to join the ICWP in mobilizing the masses for communism.

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Capitalism’s Racist Practices: Material Basis for “Race” Concepts

Red Teacher’s letter (last issue) explained the crucial point that “the whole concept of ‘races’ is a social construct created by the capitalists to divide us and maximize profits.”

A biologist puts it this way: “‘Race’ cannot be biologically defined due to genetic variation among human individuals and populations.” Since scientists sequenced the human genome twenty years ago, this is rock-solid established science.

But we are social beings. Saying that ‘races’ are a social construct doesn’t mean denying their reality. How society racially identifies someone massively impacts their life. Where they can live or work. What schooling or health care or even food they can get. How others treat them.

Because it’s not just the concept of ‘races’ that the capitalists created. They also created, institutionalized, and sometimes wrote into law the

practices of racism. This is the material basis of racist ideology. It’s “divide and conquer,” yes, but more accurately it’s “divide, super-exploit some while exploiting all, and conquer.”

Crucially, capitalism’s wage system – growing side by side with its enslavement of Africans and their descendants – was the root of racism. It was the reason and the basis for capitalism’s social construction of the concept of ‘races.’ It still is.

So I think it’s misleading to say that “Racism is a byproduct of the idea of races itself.” It’s true that individuals’ racist prejudices and actions wouldn’t exist without the capitalist-created “idea of races.” But that idea is a byproduct of capitalism’s racist practices.

Why does this matter? Because racism is a deadly social reality, even though race has no biological reality. Because we must understand how dangerous it is when some well-meaning people say they are “color-blind” or “don’t see

race.” What they aren’t seeing is racism.

It matters most of all because we can’t destroy the capitalists’ socially constructed concept of “races” without destroying the capitalist class itself through armed communist revolution. During and after that revolution, constructing communist society means continuing to mobilize masses to identify and attack every remnant of capitalism’s racist practices.

By the way, there’s no human “race” either. Modern humanity is the species *Homo sapiens*, the only remaining species in the genus *Homo*. There were earlier human species: *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus*, *Homo floriensis*, *Neanderthals*, *Denisovans*, and more.

Were they “fully human”? Are we today “fully human”? Can we even imagine what it is like to be “fully human” until we build and consciously inhabit communist society?

—Another comrade in Los Angeles (USA)

“RIGHTS” AND “NEEDS” IN COMMUNISM

In the last *Red Flag*, Lily and Maisie were discussing “rights.” Maisie had insisted that women have the “right” to make their own decisions about health care, including having abortions or not. Lily had responded that talking about “rights” emphasizes individuals, fighting for and winning limited freedoms within an oppressive society.

“As communists,” Lily continued, “we fight for power for the working masses and an end to class oppression. We’ll build a society where we work together to meet our needs, rather than working to make bosses rich. We’ll be able to live in a new way, making decisions together about everything.”

“But there will still have to be a decision-making process, and an organizational structure,” responded Maisie. “Planning and organizing any system involves assessing how much effort we can ask from the folks involved. For instance, asking ‘What’s the value of a parent having time with their children, versus an artist having time for their art, versus kids having enough food?’

“Is it a real or a semantic difference to talk about ‘the rights of parents,’ ‘the right to self-expression’ or the ‘the right to food?’” Maisie wondered.

What’s the difference between “rights” and “needs”?

“It goes back to the question of who’s in charge,” answered Lily. “Everyone needs healthy food and human bonds (and kids need specific age-appropriate close human bonding and nurturing). Everyone needs to be able to contribute to society and to express their feelings and desires in creative and appropriate ways. Together we will build a society that recognizes those needs.

“Class society is based on exploitation, oppres-

sion, and division. To survive, every oppressed person must defend themselves. Communist revolution will resolve that contradiction and set up a classless society.

“The contradiction between the individual and society will be transformed. Everyone, of course, will still be both an individual and a part of society. But communist society will develop cooperative and collective social relationships. We’ll be able to be more fully human because we will work together to fulfill our needs. Without a market of buying and selling labor and commodities, cooperation is the only way we’ll get things done.”

“Sounds great,” said Maisie. “But there will still be racists and male chauvinists that want to continue the same old ways. It’s going to take a long time to get rid of that. And in the meantime, we’ll have to defend ourselves—and our rights.”

“It will take a fight,” said Lily. “Nothing disappears overnight. Just as we’ll need to organize in a mass party to defend the revolution until the last capitalist bites the dust, we’ll need to organize ourselves to defend each other from the racists and male chauvinists. Organizing production based on needs and not profit will require listening to each other and learning to work together.

“I think we can build a mass party that overthrows capitalism and leads society to build cooperative and collective social relationships. A society where we understand that we all have needs, that we must work together to fulfill those needs, that nobody gets seconds until everybody gets firsts, and that nobody is more worthy of



love and respect than anybody else.

“A communist perspective emphasizes that WE will have the power to determine our own destiny. There will be competing needs, and we’ll have to struggle together to resolve those contradictions.

“And we must do that now. The social relations we build inside the party and with our friends today will develop the skills, habits, and commitment to build a communist society when we do take power. There’s really no alternative. We must fight for communism because capitalism is killing us. And we must be communists today as we build that fight. That’s the life and death struggle we’re involved in. Not a ‘fight for our rights’ but revolution!”

“Sounds good,” said Maisie. “I hope I live to see it.”

“Me too,” said Lily. “This discussion has been, for me, part of the process.”

“This is so inspiring,” Maisie concluded. “I’m glad to belong to ICWP.”

ONLY COMMUNISM WILL END FOUR-HUNDRED YEAR BATTLE AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA IN THE PHILIPPINES

SEATTLE (US)—“Massive amounts of resources have been pooled into a special department in the office of the Philippine president,” reported Daniel, an ICWP friend at our last collective meeting. It’s called the National Task Force to End Local Armed Communist Conflict (NFT-ELCAC). The United State has provided funding for these modern-day SS troops since its founding in 2018 under the Duterte regime. Duterte handed the leadership of the task force to the new president, Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

The NFT-ELCAC soldiers operate throughout the Philippines, especially in the southern island of Mindanao. Ninety-three percent of the country’s over 6 million Muslims reside there. The task force has labeled all Muslims as terrorists. It provides an ideological excuse for anti-Muslim attacks.

Daniel has worked with a campaign to halt US arms sales to the Marcos Jr. regime. The Biden administration has responded by reaffirming there will be “no restrictions” on arms sales to the Philippine military.

The Duterte-Marcos regime is most worried about civil unrest. That’s why they have launched a program to bolster the Philippine arms industry to guarantee a domestic supply of the weapons necessary to attack rebellious workers. The task force conflates anti-communism and Islamophobia to justify brutal slaughter.

Meanwhile, civil war and imperialist proxy wars are spreading. Exploitation of farm, industrial and service workers intensifies in the Philippines and around the world. Racist, sexist, and Islamophobic murders increase. There is only one

solution. We must build ICWP communist collectives focused on reaching out to the masses everywhere.

There are differences in development among countries, but the need to end the horrors of capitalism with international communist revolution is universal. Hence the necessity of building one international communist party: the ICWP.

Capitalist wage slavery pits worker against worker. It provides fertile ground to nourish Islamophobia and other divisive ideologies used by the capitalists.

Communism relies on collective production. The motto is “From each according to their ability and commitment, to each according to their needs.” This economic base provides the soil from which will grow mass campaigns led by our party that will finally destroy capitalism’s poisonous ideologies.

We Aim to End Centuries of Islamophobia

Muslims in Mindanao have resisted Spanish, US, and Japanese rule for over 400 years. In 1968, Muslim recruits to the Philippine armed forces mutinied when they realized they were being used as counterinsurgents against a communist-led People’s War. In the Jabidah Massacre that followed, Philippines Armed Forces training cadre massacred paramilitaries of Filipino Muslim descent.

From 1972 through 1976 a ferocious war between Muslim separatist rebels and the Philippine military raged throughout the southern Philippines. An estimated 120,000 people died in the fighting, which also created one million internal refugees and caused more than 100,000 Philip-

ICWP COLLECTIVE PLANS TO MOBILIZE INTERNATIONALLY AGAINST ANTI-MUSLIM ATTACKS AND FOR COMMUNISM

The Seattle ICWP collective proposes that comrades from around the world who have been fighting Islamophobia promoted by capitalists in the context of civil war and fascism, should get together online to share their experiences. Some friends who recently visited Mindanao would like to participate.

These comrades will prepare for a broader meeting. The objectives are to advance the fight for communism, grow the party, expand our influence by developing communist relationships among the masses, and help develop the next generation of international communist leadership.

pine Muslims to flee to Malaysia.

The present government is taking advantage of this vicious history of Islamophobia. It has waged a deadly campaign of extrajudicial killing of Filipino Muslims, particularly those who have organized against capitalist oppression and exploitation.

The ruling classes will undoubtedly create more death squads like NFT-ELCAC, but they are no match for mobilized masses determined to build our communist future. We’ll end the deadly legacy of nationalist, religious, racist, sexist divisions within the international working class with communist revolution.

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

Let's Organize Communist Class Struggle in Industrial Concentrations

ICWP's guiding principle is "mobilize the masses for communism and nothing less." Our strategy to avoid the trap of reformism is organizing communist class struggle.

Class struggle is either reformist or communist. All previous communist Parties relied mostly on reformist class struggle to mobilize the masses of workers, soldiers and youth for socialism, national liberation, democracy, and so forth.

Communists must consciously organize communist class struggle. The old communist movement didn't do this consistently.

What is communist class struggle? Let's define it as anything we do to mobilize the masses to fight directly for communism and nothing less.

This has two distinct but interrelated levels. One is the ideological struggle to win workers to the Party. The other is the ideological struggle to mobilize Party members and their base to organize the masses to respond to capitalism's attacks or to go on the offensive against capitalism.

This includes mass actions: discussions, confrontations, demonstrations, work stoppages, strikes and eventually armed insurrection. We don't push reformist solutions or demands, only communist solutions and slogans.

Through these actions communist revolution becomes a possibility and eventually a reality. As Marx wrote, "Theory becomes a material force when it has gripped the masses." It is the only force capable of destroying capitalism and building a communist world.

Both levels of struggle are indispensable and complementary. However, once we have recruited a certain number of comrades, recruitment on a massive scale can only advance by getting these and their base to mobilize masses to take concrete actions against capitalism. This is mainly what we mean by communist class struggle.

Mass communist class struggles will lay the material and ideological basis for building massively the indestructible communist social relations – between us and the masses, and among the masses – crucial for making revolution and building communism worldwide.

Struggling to mobilize masses around our advanced political slogans will advance everyone's ideological understanding. It will create the basis for advancing our political line with direct mass participation.

Today we recruit and mobilize the indispensable ones and twos. They will organize and lead the massive communist class struggles necessary to mobilize and recruit the millions needed to make the communist revolution. It is the only way to mobilize masses of workers, soldiers, and youth under our direct leadership, especially in our concentrations.



August 24—Thousands marched in Pretoria, Durban, Johannesburg, and Cape Town during a nationwide strike called by two of the largest trade union federations in South Africa. Workers are fed up with rising costs, frequent load shedding, high unemployment, escalating gang violence, and xenophobia. ICWP comrades distributed a leaflet to workers in Port Elizabeth. It explained why only a communist revolution can end this scourge of the capitalist system that values only money and profits.

Going to workers' strikes and demonstrations to massify communist ideas is necessary, but only doing this is not enough. It de-emphasizes our main strategy of mobilizing the masses at Party concentrations in industry, the military, and among youth.

We participate in reformist class struggles on the job, but we do not organize or lead them even if workers ask us to do so. We go out on strike with them, do picket line duty, and fight with them against the scabs and police. We are there physically to develop the ties that will allow us to fight against their reformism and win them to communism.

We continue to recruit the ones and twos, but we get them and their base to organize short-term mass actions now – compared to our more long-term goal – to help build a mass Party which will then mobilize even bigger masses for communist revolution.

—Comrades in California (USA)

Militant Fights for Concessions Versus Communist Class Struggle

A letter (last issue) distinguished between "concessions" and "reforms." It saw "concessions" as things like air-conditioning on a sweltering day. It contrasted this with demanding union representation on a health and safety committee. Demanding concessions, it says, is not reformism like demanding union seats on a committee. It says that communists should lead fights for concessions but not reforms.

I don't think this is helpful. Of course we don't lead fights for union representation on the bosses' committees. We show how union leaders work hand in hand with the bosses already.

But what about demands for wage increases? They would be "concessions," but the

letter doesn't address the contradiction between fighting for higher wages and fighting to end the wage system. Many (if not all) "concessions" would raise similar issues.

When I was in college years ago, the left-wing group SDS led a massive anti-war and pro-worker student strike around "eight demands." Those concessions included ending Army officer training for the Vietnam war and stopping university expansion into working-class neighborhoods. Liberal students and faculty opposed SDS by organizing a "Committee for Radical Structural Reform."

At first, I thought that committee sounded more ... radical. Clearly the university needed more fundamental change than the "eight demands." But "radical structural reform" soon proved to be a diversion. The SDS demands for "concessions" at least exposed both the US and the university as imperialist.

But does this example support the letter? No. SDS and its communist (PL) leadership grew rapidly and built a mass base. But its emphasis on fighting militantly for demands pushed communism (and even socialism) into the background. Out of thousands that PL led and the dozens it recruited from that struggle, only a handful (if that) identified as communists five years later.

What might have been a communist class struggle instead of a reform struggle led by communists? A popular poster showed a red fist over a litany of student grievances: "Strike for the eight demands. Strike because you hate cops. Strike because classes are a bore. Strike for power. Strike because they are trying to squeeze the life out of you" and more.

What if it had ended: Strike for the communist future we need! What if communists had linked all these grievances to racist capitalism-imperialism? And explained how communism will meet the students' aspirations?

A popular slogan back then was "Dare to struggle, dare to win!" Our party collectives today must dare to lead communist class struggle in our concentrations as best we understand it. The results will be uneven – as development is always – but that's how we will win a clearer understanding and a sharper line.

—Older comrade

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Ayotzinapa, Mexico: Capitalist Crime

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL END BOSSES' MASSACRES

August 23— On September 26, 2014, in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, Mexico, 43 students, mainly indigenous youth from the Raúl I. Burgos Rural Normal School, were arrested, kidnapped, and disappeared. They had demonstrated for educational improvements in the school and had taken some buses (as was customary) to go to Mexico City to participate in a march commemorating the 1968 student massacre in Tlatelolco.

The 43 students had expressed their anger against the racist governments that attack indigenous peoples and the poor. They joined over 100,000 who had “disappeared” since the government began its fight against drug trafficking.

Thousands of people internationally took to the streets to protest the attack on the 43 students. Many accused the Mexican government of being responsible for these disappearances, something common in Mexico and many other countries. ICWP participated in the demonstra-

tions in support of the students and their families, calling for communist revolution.

In November 2014, the Attorney General of the Republic, Murillo Karam, with the approval of then-president Peña Nieto, claimed he had resolved the case with “historical truth.” He accused members of the Guerreros Unidos cartel and a few municipal police officers of being responsible for the disappearance and death of the students. The families and millions more did not believe his story.

This year, on August 19, a federal judge in Toluca, Mexico ordered the arrest of former prosecutor Murillo Karam. The judge charged the former director of the Criminal Investigations Agency (now a fugitive) Tomás Zeron and 83 others, including high-ranking military officers, administrative and judicial authorities of the State of Guerrero, with the disappearance and death of the Ayotzinapa students. A deadly state combination of armed forces, bourgeois politicians, judges, and drug cartels.

This is part of a fight among the Mexican capitalists. On one side, those who have been in power for generations (PRI-PAN) enjoying the wealth squeezed from the labor of millions of Mexican workers. On the other, capitalists who came to power recently (MORENA party and others) who want to obtain those joys of deciding how to take more advantage all the wealth produced by the working class.

The supposed “transparency” of the current government is meant to renew the illusion that



future elections will bring improvements for the population and to maintain the status quo of the capitalists.

López Obrador, current president of Mexico, said of the army's role in the massacre that “the actions of bad public servants does not mean the bad behavior of an institution.” And that, “The truth does not weaken the institution, but rather strengthens it.”

Capitalism works like this. From time to time they throw some individuals under the bus to pretend that there is “justice” and that we must trust the system.

But the reality is different. Wage exploitation continues its course. Sexism and racism continue to kill the working class.

Today as we commemorate the eighth anniversary of the 43 Ayotzinapa students, we must redouble our efforts to build a communist society without disappearances, racism, sexism, and exploitation. The international working class that will organize the communist revolution will do justice to the 43 students and millions more and will organize society based on the needs of working people. Join our fight!



“It was the state”

Fighting Racism in El Salvador:

UNITING THE WORKING CLASS TO END RACISM AND ALL OPPRESSION WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

EL SALVADOR—The struggle known as the peasant insurrection of 1932 was led by indigenous people including Feliciano Ama. It was a fight against racism, dispossession, and extermination by the economic elites.

This oppression happened to people of African descent as well as to the indigenous population. Reports from various Salvadoran governments to the United Nations Racial Convention denied its existence. But historical records show that African people entered the country in the sixteenth century as slaves. They were forced to do the hardest work such as in gold mines and indigo mills.

The government's refusal to recognize the existence of the Afro-descendant population is a way of naturalizing racism. Often people think that racism happens only in other countries like the United States, where the problem is more visible.

The insurrection of 1932 is a historical legacy for the new struggles that the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) now wages against racism internationally.

One of the main promoters of racism in El Salvador in the 20th century was David J. Guzmán. He had considerable influence in liberal political

decision-making. Fifteen years after the peasant uprising, he wrote the Prayer to the Salvadoran Flag.

“Beware those who are paid honors,” said a teacher. She unmasked Guzmán as a racist, misogynist guy who is honored to this day with prayers every Monday of the school year in every school.

Guzmán was educated in European universities. He argued that there were superior and inferior “races,” recognizing the white “race” as predominant. Guzmán referred to Indigenous and Black people with highly offensive adjectives. He documented all of this in the “Blue Book” he wrote for commercial purposes to attract foreign investors.

The long official denial of the existence of Black Salvadorans is nothing less than manifest racism. It has led hundreds of people who consider themselves Afro-descendants to organize and fight for proposed amendments to the constitution of the republic in recognition of their origin.

Racism and oppression originate in the capitalist system. Racist ideology is an imposition of capitalism to divide and super-exploit the working class, an imposition that will be defeated with

the fight for Communism.

Self-critically, as a party we have not yet approached the organization of Afro-descendants to try to bring them our communist line and our *Red Flag* newspaper. But it is an advance for us to be addressing this point now, because for years many have believed the lie that racism does not exist in El Salvador.

The international working class has never been passive. Our organized class has won great struggles and revolutions. But we must make a qualitative leap and fight directly for Communism.

After the communist revolution triumphs, we will continue fighting to eliminate all the remnants of capitalism and build a society without classes, without racism. The fight against racism will continue, since there will be sectors of the working class that will have more needs due to the legacy of the racist oppression of rotten capitalism.

The uprising of thousands of peasants and indigenous people against racism inspires us to continue organizing peasants and industrial workers to lead the masses in a new armed struggle to fight directly for communism.