

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

**FRANCE
EXPLODED IN
REVOLT AFTER
RACIST POLICE
MURDERED
17-YEAR-OLD
NAHEL MERZOUK
ON JUNE 27.
SEE PAGE 8.**



Trade Cartels: Exploitation & War Preparation

COMMUNIST STRUGGLE AGAINST APEC CAN CHANGE CONSCIOUSNESS

SEATTLE (US), July 10 — “Look at this paper,” said a young activist, Sally, pointing to a pile of *Red Flags*. She and two friends were checking out “left-wing” papers and notices at a coffee shop. “It’s right up front about communism,” she declared. “It’s awesome!”

“There’s really been a change in consciousness lately,” Sally told comrade Paul.

She remembered talking to Paul on May Day. She introduced her friends. They began reading about the upcoming fight against the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) trade cartel. They are coming to the People’s Summit and the demonstration against APEC.

The damage inflicted by all capitalist trade cartels reaches beyond this one battle. It doesn’t matter which imperialist dominates. Every new trade association subjects the global working class and broader masses to intensified climate disaster, poverty, inequality, and war.

Political economy explains the social relations of production and the system built on them. Trade means buying and selling what workers

produce, exploiting workers’ labor. Capitalist political economy underpins every trade cartel. It guarantees the spread of capitalist horrors.

In contrast, communist political economy is built on collective production to serve the needs of our global working-class family. Profits, markets, commodities—even money itself—will not exist. We will recruit and develop a party of masses to make this a reality.

New communist relationships will guarantee the distribution of what we produce to wherever the masses need it. Global distribution according to the need will replace buying and selling of goods and services. There will be no need for trade, let alone trade cartels.

Comrades aim to expand and strengthen communist consciousness in the anti-APEC struggle. The communist revolution we need requires such a change in consciousness. We are sharpening the struggle against reformism, socialism, and other ideologies which only support capitalism.

A communist revolution is the only way to
See STRUGGLE AGAINST APEC, page 4

COMMUNIST ORGANIZING AGAINST WORKPLACE RACISM, SEXISM, AND HAZARDS

GQEBERHA (South Africa), July 10— “As an ICWP member, I realize I am not alone in this struggle against racism and sexism,” said a comrade factory worker. “We work in collectives to recruit new comrades.”

She described her workplace:

At the top it’s mostly white people. Supervisors are mostly Coloureds. Team leaders include a few Blacks. On the floor it’s mostly Blacks and Coloured people.

I trained a Coloured woman and showed her everything. When an older lady resigned, they placed the lady that I trained in my position. That wasn’t fair.

Some females are more experienced or know most of the jobs in a department, but bosses would rather consider a male, even if he knows less. I’ve worked the men’s department, pushing extra hard. But the pay rates of males and females are still not the same. Males get more, even if the ladies work extra hard.

Being a Black person, you have to push your-

See COMMUNIST WORKPLACE
ORGANIZING, page 3

SEE INSIDE

**IMF AND
CHINESE
IMPERIALISM,
PAGE 2**

**COMMUNIST
ORGANIZING IN
EL SALVADOR,
PAGE 5**

**AFFIRMATIVE
ACTION
AND THE
U.S. MILITARY,
PAGE 6**

**COMMUNIST
SOLIDARITY
VS.
IDENTITY
POLITICS,
PAGE 7**

DOWN WITH THE MONEY SYSTEM! DEFEAT ALL IMPERIALISTS!

“In decades past, the International Monetary Fund was the only source of cash for nations that struggled to pay their bills. China has since emerged as a major lender for countries from Asia to Africa to Latin America” – New York Times, June 26, 2023.

The US created the IMF after World War II and still dominates it. But Chinese capitalists now play a growing role. The struggle between US and Chinese imperialists is sharpening within the IMF as well as in the South China Sea.

They fight over which will suck more blood from the international working class. But both China and the US, through the IMF, are fully complicit in IMF attacks on workers worldwide. And the IMF cannot keep functioning as it has for 80 years as a front for US imperialism.

We need to get rid of all Imperialists.

CHINA? IMPERIALIST?

After 1949, the Chinese Communist Party fought over the “capitalist road” versus the “communist road.” By 1978, capitalists had won.

Industrial capitalism boomed. State-run monopolies cornered domestic markets. Industrial capital linked with finance capital (banks). Huge amounts of workers’ stolen labor piled up. Opportunities to invest profitably within China shrank. Chinese capitalists looked overseas.

First, direct investments in factories and mines. Then investments in infrastructure (the “Belt and Road Initiative”). Now loans to governments overwhelmed with debt.

Chinese imperialists currently have the world’s largest standing army and navy. They have the second-largest active combat aircraft fleet.

This is typical imperialist development. Newer Chinese imperialism is “rising” to challenge older US imperialism. Both are deadly for our international working class.

This conflict can’t be resolved without war. It’s either imperialist war for profits, or workers’ revolution for communism.

IMF: UNITY AND STRUGGLE OF OPPOSITES CREATES GLOBAL INSTABILITY

Pakistani capitalists asked Chinese, Saudi, and Emirati capitalists for loans in 2018. Only then did they negotiate with the IMF. They have since borrowed \$billions from China. Mainly this is for infrastructure. And \$billions more from the IMF. This is mainly to pay interest on previous debt. The masses pay for this with cuts in subsidies and services, higher prices and unemployment and taxes.

Suriname is one of many nations squeezed by the war in Ukraine, the pandemic, and the rulers’ greed. Its currency tanked. Prices soared. Its economy almost collapsed. It was at the mercy of imperialist loan sharks.

The IMF demanded drastic budget cuts in return for new loans to make interest payments



Workers have gone on strike at 130 factories in China so far this year. That’s triple the number for all of 2022. Most are in factories that make electronic devices for export. (Pictured is a Foxconn strike last December). The rest are mainly in the garment, toy, and automotive industries.

The main issue is money. Many factory managers respond to a business slowdown by finding ways to avoid paying workers. Just as in El Salvador, South Africa, and other places. Late paychecks. Layoffs (redundancies) with no severance pay. Finding loopholes in labor laws. As in the US, Chinese bosses call workers “independent contractors.” The capitalists who run China call themselves “communists.” But one day, masses of workers led by real communists will overthrow them and their money system. And build real communism.

on previous Chinese infrastructure loans. But it also demanded that Chinese banks restructure those loans.

Suriname – like many other countries — was caught between rival imperialists.

The Chinese yuan has been an IMF reserve currency since 2016. Many Chinese bank loans go through the IMF. That’s why the US can use the IMF to make demands on China. But that also makes the IMF itself a battleground.

Almost every country belongs to the IMF. Their voting power depends on the “quota” each pays. For example, El Salvador has 0.09% of the votes.

The US has the largest share: 16.5%. It can block votes on important changes, which require 85% agreement. Japan, with 6.47% of the votes, is next. The major European Union countries together have about 12%. The US and its closest allies can block other votes requiring 70% agreement.

China, with 6.08%, has the third-largest share. The BRICS bloc (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) has altogether 14.15%. That’s almost veto power. Indonesia (0.98%) or a few smaller countries could make the difference.

The IMF quotes Harvard’s Jeffrey Sachs: “The situation is out of hand...It defies logic to believe the small group of 1,000 economists in

Washington should dictate the economic conditions of life to 75 developing countries with around 1.4 billion people.”

IT’S TIME FOR COMMUNISM

No capitalists should dictate the conditions of life of billions around the world. But every country on earth today is a capitalist dictatorship. No matter if it is “authoritarian” or “democratic” or calls itself “communist.”

We can and must change that. We can’t live the way things are now. And the climate crisis, the economic crisis, and widening wars are rapidly making things worse.

A real communist society will have no dollars, no yuan, no money at all. No imperialists, no loan sharks. Communism won’t need loans to rebuild our new society on the ashes of the old. We’ll need our collectively organized labor.

Our labor creates everything of value. In communism we’ll produce and share everything we need. Read this paper carefully to learn more about how the International Communist Workers’ Party organizes to mobilize masses for communism today. Ask questions. Discuss it with friends. Help make ICWP massive enough, in enough places, to lead the communist revolution we need. As soon as possible!

Volume 14, Number 9 July 12 to August 2, 2023

Join the International Communist Workers’ Party
www.icwpredflag.org — Twitter @RedFlagBandera

E-mail: icwp@nym.hush.com

Instagram: @icwprf Facebook: icwpredflag

Phone: (323) 315-8884

Write to: P.M.B. 362

3006 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90007, USA



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

Red Salute from India Revolutionary Greetings!

We have a world to win. A world free of oppression, racism, and sexism, where there will be no borders. Under capitalism, freedom is a commodity. We will fight for a world where freedom is for everybody. Nationalist movements cannot lead to that world. We need to get rid of the disease of nationalism and become true internationalist revolutionaries.

The world is ours. We make it run. And we will reclaim our world from a handful of greedy capitalists. In our world, everybody will have a home. Education and healthcare will be public responsibilities.

In semi-feudal and semi-colonial countries

like India, capitalism has well incorporated the old brutal hierarchical caste system. Growing Hindu fascism is projecting Muslims as the enemy as in the time of Hitler's Germany.

We need to educate, agitate, and organize the masses for communism. Parliamentary left parties have lost their credibility. They have no appeal to the masses. They are responsible for the rise of fascism in India.

The Indian state, in cooperation with the imperialist powers, is waging war against people's movements. It is suppressing democratic rights. Innocent peoples are being killed in fake encounters. Thousands of innocent poor Tribals and Muslims are in jail without any legal help.

The whole system is rotten, my comrades. We need to build a new one. We need to organize masses for communism. I know all the comrades from ICWP are fighting in similar conditions in different parts of the world.

Comrades, you give me hope that victory will be ours. The struggle is long. We will stand with each other in solidarity. A revolutionary is driven by feelings of love. No powers in the world can defeat that. Lots of love to all the comrades of ICWP. I hope to meet you all one day.

Long live humanity! Long live ICWP! Long live revolution! Lal salaam. Red Salute!

— Comrade in India

Life Without Money

I didn't understand before. So, I didn't explain ICWP to anybody. Now I feel confident to raise politics with anybody. I have debates about communism and capitalist society. I look for discussions. I will ask somebody, "What do you think about South Africa today?"

A friend said, "If I ever became President, I would demolish money."

I asked, "What do you mean?"

"Money is the source of all problems: crime, corruption, power," he replied. "If we get rid of money, we won't have these issues."

"That's interesting," I responded. "At our last meeting, we talked about how money is the major problem. The rich want to be richer. Why

do we have people living under a bridge while others live in mansions? The President owns a mine!

We need to share everything. That will be possible if we can all be one. This won't happen in a day. But it will happen!"

South Africa is divided into provinces. Let's say we are in the Eastern Cape, divided into groups. We demolish money and live collectively. We work together. Not to make the bosses rich but to meet people's needs.

If a group can farm, they can grow food to share. For those who can sew, it's the same thing. They can make clothes for everyone.

The same with doctors and nurses. They can help us without charging money because they

know their needs will be provided for. They won't need to buy food, clothes, or housing—they will get all that from other workers. Gas stations will also run without money and without profit.

What do we need money for if we have food, clothes, and houses? We won't need money. We will have a peaceful world and a healthy environment.

We need to spread the word with *Red Flag*—practicing, not just preaching. We need to invite people, and visit them in their homes, not just in meetings.

—Comrade in South Africa

COMMUNIST WORKPLACE ORGANIZING from page 1

self three times harder than the Coloured people. But even if you do, you wouldn't be recognized. The bosses or supervisors are creating that racism, that division, between the workers.

If I didn't know about *Red Flag* and ICWP, I would have said, "That lady I trained took my job." But it wasn't the lady that took my job. She was placed there by the big bosses. They knew very well that I am the one who is well-trained for that position.

They would rather choose her than me because she is Coloured. And I would be second best. If she ever said no, or found other work, then they might consider me. Or they would find someone else from the outside.

It's unfair and difficult. Racism and sexism are not yet over. We need to fight these things.

Capitalism Puts Workers' Lives at Risk

They place me in difficult and hazardous jobs that Coloured people don't want. Recently they have been placing me to do the ends, work normally done by males. But I had to do it.

I had to do eight sides a day, going up and down on a step ladder, sometimes holding two. The materials go through the overalls and leave

marks.

When I get home, first I have to take a hot bath. You can't just change out of the overalls into other clothes.

It irritates, even at the nostrils. It's very bad. If I don't get to wear puffy gauze, it sometimes goes through the mask. Sometimes my mucous has a little bit of blood. I have to drink warm milk every now and then just to keep myself safe. Because I can easily get pneumonia or TB.

The workplace is dangerous. They don't care; they just want you there. If a Coloured person says "No, that job is too difficult or dangerous," they just place them somewhere else.

The glasses they give us don't fit perfectly so the insulation goes over them. It's dangerous for your eyes, your chest, and your skin. Our gloves are not so protective. Protection over the overalls would be much better.

But they don't listen to us. Those are the conditions that we work under each and every day.

Workers Embrace the Communist Solution

"In my neighbourhood, three women came to an ICWP meeting," this comrade reports. "They are asking questions about sexism. They tell me that the rich bosses are the problem. They help care for my two children when I go to ICWP meetings."

Six ICWP members recently distributed *Red Flag* at a concentration of factories. They distributed *Red Flag* to a white worker who was sharing his experience with a Black worker on their lunch break.

Another 22-year-old worker was excited when we said that socialism is a form of capitalism, and only communism will bring real democracy. He said he wanted to join ICWP now. He took extra copies of *Red Flag* for other workers.

These activities and our struggle in collectives

bring new workers to our party. We must carry them out regularly. Our membership will increase if we put communism as the only solution to our problems.

We aim to bring dozens of comrades to our next May Day. Eventually these dozens will become thousands and millions. Our goal is to eliminate capitalism by mobilizing the masses for communism.

In communism, work would be much easier, and also rewarding. We won't have to endure racism or hazardous conditions. Eliminating money will create a peaceful, happy, collective environment. Let us recruit more workers now!

"I AM A VIRGO": ANTI-RACIST, ANTI-CAPITALIST, BUT NOT COMMUNIST

"Life means being critical. My country uses Big-Bang Burger manipulation of the media to prevent organizing for social justice. No system of the rich will achieve more than communism will," concluded a *Red Flag* reader after watching Season 1 of "I Am a Virgo" on Amazon Prime. She liked it very much.

This series is billed as anti-capitalist. It makes some good points, though sometimes in a roundabout, chaotic way.

"Virgo" exposes how advertisers push racist stereotypes about Black men. It shows them demeaning Cootie (13 feet tall) as a commodity to sell products.

The character Jones is an unapologetic self-declared communist.

FOR THE REST OF THE REVIEW, SEE
<https://icwpredflag.org/wp/wordpress/>



South Africa 2023

NO TRADE IS FAIR! LET'S ABOLISH THE TRADE, MONEY, AND PROFIT SYSTEM!

Some capitalists say “free trade” will lift the poor out of poverty. Some union and NGO officials say “fair trade” will lift workers and small farmers out of poverty.

These are both lies! “Trade” is buying and selling goods and services that workers produce. Workers are paid only a small part of the value those products sell for. The rest goes to the bosses as profit. This robbery is the basis of capitalism.

Trade agreements guarantee profits for the

biggest capitalists and imperialists—and poverty for the workers.

Take NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement). Mexican workers were promised that it would raise their wages and bring up their standard of living. Instead, real wages went down.

NAFTA eliminated Mexican tariffs on US corn. Two million Mexicans involved in farming lost their land because US corn flooded the Mex-

ican market. It drove Mexican farmers out of business.

Many were forced to come to the US to seek work as undocumented workers for the lowest wages.

No trade agreement will protect workers from capitalist exploitation. We need to build ICWP all over the world to mobilize for a communist world where the masses produce only for their own needs—not for money or profit.

Accelerated US Military Expansion in Asia-Pacific Raises the Stakes

I read some source materials on APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) from its inception in 1989 to now. Things have changed significantly with the rise of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The UK and the US demands in APEC led to substantial tensions and economic sanctions against the PRC. Nothing that could start a war, but they could disrupt economies that sided with the PRC.

After President George H.W. Bush, the US presented new and more vicious military, political and economic campaigns. Under the reigns of Trump and Biden, the US flaunted its military and economic capability in the Asia-Pacific re-

gion. This prompted the PRC to do the same.

This inter-imperialist rivalry, heightened by China's economic and political rise, has increased the threat of war.

The US has accelerated its military expansion from the Philippines to Taiwan. This includes new and upgraded military facilities and the placement of tactical nuclear weapons in Australia and possibly Taiwan. The stakes have risen dramatically.

A few months back, a military consultant at the US Department of Defense predicted with certainty an armed conflict with the PRC and/or its proxies by the end of the decade.

Short-term economic sanctions and reforms by APEC hurt and kill workers every day. A direct military confrontation between the PRC and its proxies against the US and UK would

be even more devastating for the working class.

Many working-class people have responded to left and reform political leadership regarding APEC policies. However, workers have mostly not had communist leadership. The exception is the International Communist Workers' Party.

Communist leadership must continue organizing in the contested regions affected by APEC. Political struggles led by worker leadership organizations like ICWP are the only way to successfully organize workers around communist principles and revolution.

The answer to this inevitable drive toward war can only be communist revolution.

—Comrade in New Jersey (USA)

STRUGGLE AGAINST APEC from page 1

end capitalism's global destruction.

Capitalist Myths

Sally and her friends agreed that the more people are willing to accept communist alternatives, the more the global ruling classes lie.

The Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is a prime example. She claims the world needs capitalist trade to overcome climate change, poverty, inequality, and war.

She says trade for profit will shift people and resources into more productive work in manufacturing, services, and agriculture. She fails to mention that forced displacement is how capitalists drove destitute workers to sell their labor power to begin with.

Today, imperialism is expanding its attack on workers and its fight for profits globally. The WTO and every trade cartel accept that strategic competition is unavoidable today.

“In the three-quarters of a century since the world first embraced multilateral cooperation on trade, the trading system has underpinned rising—if still uneven—global prosperity,” asserts the WTO Director General.

That is, the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. This is because the world is really based on wage slavery, markets, and robbing the working class to maximize profits.

Policy, Power, Politics and the Economic Base Are Forever Inseparable

A Portland comrade was not about to fall for the WTO Director General's gobbledygook about trade cartels being a force for equity and poverty reduction. Nor does capitalist trade bolster the fight against climate change, sexism, racism, and xenophobia.

“But how are these cartels connected to war?” he asked.

Imperialism is a distinct era of capitalism. It divides the world among capitalist powers.

The relative strength of the imperialist powers is constantly changing. This is an example of uneven development. The frantic pace of formation of trade cartels reflects the sharpening contradictions between the US and China and their move towards war. China's relative strength has skyrocketed over the last few decades.

These cartels can no longer even pretend to foster stable, peaceful trade that can benefit the working class anywhere. They are now platforms to gather alliances in preparation for war.

Trade wars are the prelude to shooting wars, as China and the US compete for the allegiance of various capitalist nations.

Communist revolution is the only way out of this catastrophe. This month, the APEC battle is our platform to struggle for more communist consciousness in preparation for communist revolution.

CAPITALIST TRADE IN SERVICES INTENSIFIES SEXISM, RACISM

July 2023—The WTO Director General's new catchword is “reglobalization.” She says her trade plan would reduce poverty in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. She brags that it will draw in smaller and woman-owned businesses, striking a blow to sexism and racism. These small businesses will benefit, she claims, if they have access to markets in “the most dynamic sectors of the global economy.”

Trade in services is expanding faster than trade in manufacturing. Chief among these services is finance (capital).

Similar financial ruses have been around for decades. The most notable was microfinance. Huge banks made small loans to small business. Like all profit-driven schemes, the workers ended up losing out.

Poor workers and subsistence farmers were soon drowning in debt. Meanwhile, microcredit banks built an industry worth hundreds of billions. The Gates foundation, Clinton's global initiative, Hillary Clinton, and various movie and pop stars sang the praises of microcredit.

An estimated 20% of small business capital in Sri Lanka comes from microcredit loans. Over 200 suicides have been recorded among Sri Lankan small business owners who could not pay off their debt. Some say thousands took their own lives worldwide. Others were forced to sell their land and homes. Many ended up in prison or starving.

“Trade has long been a powerful force for poverty reduction” asserts the Director General. The truth is that capitalism's institutions—like banks, markets, and trade—guarantee just the opposite.



THE COMMUNIST FIGHT AGAINST FACTORY CLOSINGS AND LAYOFFS

EL SALVADOR, July 9— “It is a real fear due to the factory closures and dismissals. My husband and I both work in the maquilas. Despite this we continue in the communist struggle. We cannot stop gathering in the bus and reading the *Red Flag* newspaper,” said Comrade M.

More than 12,500 maquila workers, men and women, have lost their jobs in the last six months. The entire working class is affected. A system change is needed. We need a communist system where there is no money and where no worker will be unemployed.

The workers are outraged. They are looking for solutions corresponding to their salaries, benefits, and compensation.

On June 6, a factory closed in the San Marcos “free zone.” Approximately 770 workers were laid off. *Red Flag* had been there.

ICWP comrades work nearby. They comment that “the employer uses the examples of closing these factories to subject workers to even more

exploitation.” It is also a threat to those who complain or get involved in unions, or to those it has identified as belonging to ICWP.

On top of this harsh economic crisis hitting the working class, the entire state apparatus uses its power for the benefit of these capitalist bosses. It thus increases their profits. But despite everything, workers have an option to fight for their human dignity and for their lives by organizing for Communism.

“We see the ability of the Bukele regime’s propaganda machine to selectively silence what is not convenient for them,” says C. “They are so efficient in silencing the working class that they have managed to make these problems invisible, through their power.”

R expresses that “foreign investment escapes justice due to this fascist capitalist political system. It supports these owners of the means of production as long as they are sympathetic to the regime. They simply leave the country with impunity.”

Many of these factories hide behind the fact that they have closed operations due to the economic impact of the United States. They say that orders have decreased. This has led to stagnation that generates bankruptcy. They cannot continue operating. This is just a smoke-screen to disguise their failure to meet their obligations to the

working class.

The capitalist system of the exploitative bosses, factory owners, implicitly or explicitly threatens the working class with layoffs. This is a strategy to subdue them with the fear of being replaced.

Our struggle takes place under fascist conditions imposed by the government, the “emergency regime.” To denounce it, exercising “freedom of expression,” becomes a crime that leads to jail. We are fighting to inform, denounce, and organize through this *Red Flag* newspaper.

We are fighting to continue building and strengthening communist political relationships. It is necessary to build this kind of unity and political struggle among our comrades, neighbors, and friends to advance our goal of mobilizing the masses for communism.

The ICWP fights directly for communism. We struggle to recruit young workers, the entire working class, and soldiers to become part of the party and join its communist cells.

We collectively fight to develop communist leaders to make our ICWP mass. Only with a communist society will we live in a common good where everything belongs to everyone and for everyone.

We invite you to read and distribute our *Red Flag* newspaper to strengthen and unify the masses.

The communist revolution is achieved by fighting.



NEW COMMUNIST COLLECTIVE IN WESTERN EL SALVADOR

“The best way to organize to reach our goal is to engage the interest and effort of each one. We have to add one more friend, day after day. That is, we need all readers of *Red Flag* to achieve the goal,” said worker comrade E. “I promise to be part of that. I am in the Party, and I will take another step forward in this work.”

“My family and I are clear that organized struggle is the key to organizational success,” said comrade J. “Because where I work, we have already spent more than three months working and they always withhold our salaries. We are tired of seeing how this government is not interested in the working class,” J con-

cluded.

These comments opened up a discussion in a new collective of the International Communist Workers’ Party of how we can organize the masses for communism. We were meeting to plan the political work of organizing the masses for communism that we are starting in the west of El Salvador.

We believe that we have to give more support to the comrades of this area, where the ideas of the ICWP are now arriving.

Two comrades travelled to the capital on their day off to attend this meeting. They left their family days off to follow up on the Party’s ideas.

We looked at how we can distribute *Red Flag*

to more workers. We talked about doing clandestine work hidden from the bosses while being open with the workers. That is, to be more open with the ideas of the Party without losing the perspective of recruiting workers and soldiers. We also want to find a way to organize in the communities where the workers live.

“Capitalism only brings misery, repression, and death to the workers. With its lying discourse it seeks to deceive and dominate the population. Most of all, we need more than leading a life of misery and extreme poverty. We will continue to organize and spread communist ideas,” concluded Comrade E.

—Red Comrade in El Salvador

HOW CAN COMMUNISM END CRIME?

GQEBERHA (South Africa), June 11— Our collective reading of an article from India triggered a lively discussion of this question. It described women athletes who were brutally assaulted by police after being subjected to sexual abuse by Brij Bhushan Singh, a leading member of the fascist BJP.

“How do we plan to deal with the likes of Bushan Singh and other criminals in a communist society?” asked a comrade. “Under capitalism, they open prisons as money-making schemes and exploit some prisoners as unpaid workers.”

Another comrade replied, “We won’t have crime in a communist society because we won’t have money. If we don’t have money, there won’t be any reason to commit crime.”

“In a communist society most of us will be communists but not everyone 100% will be a communist,” replied another new comrade. “How will we deal with those if they commit crime and other selfish acts?” she asked.

“There are reasons why people commit crime: unemployment, poverty, capitalist ideology,” an-

other answered. “We will need to have a continuous struggle. For instance, in the Soviet Union, they had programs where they re-educated criminals and won them towards socialism. Most ended up contributing positively after some struggle.

“We will need to have something similar and win them through education towards communism. Those who commit heinous crime we will have to eliminate permanently,” he concluded.

This idea of eliminating those who commit violent crimes is not as radical as it sounds, a comrade remarked. “Even now there are death penalties under capitalism. Even in our communities and townships when someone is found to have committed a heinous crime like raping a child, the community often resorts to killing that individual, knowing that the police are useless.”

We will not need police under communism because the police are there to protect private property and capitalists.

“In communism, the community and collectives will be responsible for their own security. We have seen even now when the community to-

gether takes a stand, they often reduce these petty criminal acts,” added a comrade. “Just imagine a whole South Africa under communism with this outlook.”

One comrade pointed out that we can’t wait until after the revolution. He said, “We have crime now and it affects us, what can we do?”

A comrade replied, “Now we are a small number but if we use the *Red Flag* to mobilise where we live and win over the community towards communism and ICWP, we will then collectively deal with crime and criminals.”

“Yes,” another agreed. “We must win the masses to our party. We can even recruit some of the police because we grew up with some of them, they live in our neighbourhoods. With enough numbers we can deal with criminals. Some work might even be done underground. We will win people once we effectively start doing that.”

However, it is the *Red Flag* and talking and fighting for communism that will advance the struggle. We must use it to win the community and working-class where we live.

US SUPREME COURT BANS “AFFIRMATIVE ACTION” — EXCEPT MILITARY OFFICER TRAINING

LOS ANGELES (USA), July 10— “If the US military is going to give guns to Black soldiers, they want to be sure they are loyal to the system,” said a comrade US veteran.

That’s why the Supreme Court exempted military academies from its ban on race-based affirmative action.

The officer corps has a disproportionately small number of ethnic minority officers. The Department of Defense states that 19% of enlisted personnel but only 8% of its officers are Black. Without affirmative action, there would be even fewer ethnic-minority officers.

This is a problem for US imperialism’s war preparations.

Affirmative Action: Another Reform That Couldn’t End Capitalism’s Racism

The history of affirmative action shows how the government tries to manage the racism baked into their capitalist system. It was introduced in the 1960s. Public consciousness of racial inequality was peaking as the Civil Rights movement spread.

Masses around the world were rising in anti-imperialist rebellions. They were turning their backs on the openly racist USA.

Affirmative action promised opportunities mainly to Black and Hispanic workers and youth. They had been historically excluded from schools and jobs under a racist capitalist system. Affirmative action mandated that schools and corporations set aside seats in universities and jobs for minoritized people.

Fast forward 60 years. Now the bosses are striking down affirmative action to make it seem like times have changed. They claim that things are better, and everyone has the same opportunity. The truth, of course, is the opposite.

Affirmative Action has always been controversial. California banned it in 1996. Voters refused to lift the ban after the George Floyd protests in 2020.

“Students for Fair Admissions” sued Harvard University and the University of North Carolina in 2014. The suit claimed that college admissions discriminated against Asians in favor of Black students.

The US Supreme Court decided that case on June 29, 2023. It voted (6-3) to declare it unconstitutional to consider race as a factor in college admission.

Opportunities have never been equal under capitalism. They will never be equal for the working class, with or without affirmative action. The capitalist educational system is based on competition in order to perpetuate capitalism. Affirmative action has no effect on this essential structure of capitalism.

US Military Says “Diversity” Essential for “National Security”

Military bosses must control their troops to prepare for future wars. Military leaders defended affirmative action in their academies because they fear another Vietnam debacle.

Demonstrations and rebellions broke out during the US war in Vietnam on many US army bases, navy ships and inside Vietnam. Soldiers shot officers. They lobbed fragmentation grenades under officers’ tents. They refused orders to risk their lives engaging the Vietcong fighters.

Black soldiers and sailors led most of these rebellions. They were angry at the racism of the brass and the US bosses. That was their main enemy, not Vietnamese liberation fighters. Many white and Latino troops joined them.

Facing an unreliable US fighting force, the determined Vietnamese forced the US government to withdraw.

The US military then had almost no Black or Latino officers. Now they hope that Affirmative Action in their military academies will mean that troops will

fight loyally for US imperialism.

That’s why US rulers are happy to have Gen. Lloyd Austin, who is Black, as Secretary of Defense. But having more Black cops has not stopped mass rebellions against racist police terror.

Soldiers and Sailors: Essential for Communist Revolution

Soldiers and sailors have the opposite interest from the bosses. With communist ideas, they will see that their interests and future lie with joining their working-class brothers and sisters in fighting for a world without racism or wars for profit. A communist world that meets their needs and those of workers everywhere.

There are always more enlisted troops than officers. Most come from among the most exploited communities. These are our working-class siblings. The ruling class is right to worry about their loyalty.

Soldiers, organized by a revolutionary communist party and allied with workers, are crucial to the victory of a communist revolution. Wars around the world are rapidly developing into a world war.

Our Party’s work inside the military has given us the confidence that we can recruit soldiers to play that key role in turning imperialist war into communist revolution.



LOS ANGELES (USA), July 5— Comrades from the International Communist Workers’ Party took our political line to hotel workers’ picket lines. Strikers demanded a wage increase. Although the ICWP does not fight for reforms, the strikers received us well. Our political line of “a communist world without money” generated discussions with those who were interested. These strikes give us as a party an opportunity to be close to other workers and do political organizing work.

Read our pamphlet:
**Soldiers, Sailors,
Marines:
Crucial for a
Communist Workers’
Revolution**

Available at:
icwpredflag.org/mpe.pdf

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

Workers Need Communist Education, Not Affirmative Action

Media pundits have focused on The Supreme Court Affirmative Action decision as eliminating “unqualified” Blacks from college admission and the promotion of diversity.

The ruling class long has used affirmative action for its propaganda purposes. It pushes the lie that this policy has given unqualified Black and Latinx students unfair advantages over overqualified White and Asian students.

Does Affirmative Action affect admission of applicants who are not Black?

Harvard received 43,330 applications for the class of 2023. It admitted 2009 for an acceptance rate of 4.69%. Do the math: Affirmative

Action is not a downside for white and Asian students’ admission. Any applicant’s chance for admission to Harvard is like winning the lottery.

Does Affirmative Action promote diversity?

A 20-year-old Harvard Black student told Rolling Stone, “When you’re on campus, you can feel the legacy and wealth compared to the number of Black students. I’m no stranger to people thinking I’m only here because I’m Black.”

A Black student at Harvard, or any elite university, soon discovers that, like winning the lottery, the promise that your life will be changed for the better is a lie.

Education in the US, elementary through col-

lege, is capitalist schooling. It serves the interests of the ruling class. It prepares the children of the rich to be the bosses. It prepares most children of workers to be workers and soldiers.

We need Communist education that will expand relationships of equality and cooperation, not inequality, exploitation, racism, competition, and privilege.

We must work now for Communist class awareness and consciousness of education. Read our pamphlet, “Communist Education for a Classless Society” and *Red Flag*.

Join an ICWP study action group or book club. Join us in the fight for a communist world.

—Bay Area CA Comrade Retired Teacher

FIGHT RACISM WITH COMMUNIST RELATIONS, NOT IDENTITY POLITICS

LOS ANGELES (USA), July 11— “As a young Black /Latinx LGBT individual, I was always encouraged to see myself through the lens of identity politics. I read Che Guevara and the autobiography of Malcolm X in high school. I began to develop a consciousness of revolutionary Black-Brown unity,” said a comrade.

“Then I met ICWP through a teacher. It changed my thinking. I now see working-class unity as the only way to end racism by destroying capitalism and building a communist society.”

A class-conscious line protects the working class from the venom of identity politics. The main division in capitalist society is workers versus bosses. You either own the means of production or you have only your labor power to sell.

This remains true whoever you are or wherever you come from. Racism is the main way that the capitalists divide the working class.

Identity politics is deeply ingrained today, especially in academia and among working-class youth. Universities encourage students to see racial identity as the main aspect of who they are.

Many liberal Americans admire Barack Obama as a person of color who became US President. This ignores that he did exactly what the ruling class needed.

That included deporting more immigrants than any other president. It included continuing the US imperialist agenda of sending working-class men and women of all colors to Afghanistan. That war was to protect the capitalists’ profits. Obama started the “Pivot to Asia-Pacific” to prepare for war against China.

Mainstream media uplift racial and ethnic ties as a “revolutionary” statement. This helps keep the masses divided. Competition for jobs places different groups against one another. Capitalism promotes the lie that workers should “look out for your own.” They mean that you can only relate to people who look like you or come from

the same place.

Representation: Only Skin-Deep

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a Nigerian economist, has served as the Director-General of the World Trade Organization since 2021. She is the first woman and the first African in this position. The WTO’s trade policies continue to totally undermine the lives of workers worldwide.

“Many people I talk to think that it would be great if countries were just run by women or by people of color rather than white men,” commented a comrade. “Well, here is a Black woman who is a fellow of multiple US ruling-class institutions, so definitely a class enemy.”

Being a particular gender, race, or nationality does not automatically make someone a friend of the working class.

Another example of identity politics is the Black Student Achievement Plan (BSAP). The Los Angeles Unified School District approved it during the 2020-21 school year. It aims to “increase Black students’ academic achievement and create a positive cultural identity to address the historic and ongoing social and economic conditions experienced by Black people.”

Programs like this assume that the problem is students’ “negative cultural identity.” And that identity politics is the solution.

In fact, the problem is capitalism. It’s the racist and exploitative conditions the capitalist rulers consciously construct. The real solution is working-class unity to overthrow the capitalist system.

Programs like BSAP divide our school communities. A teacher denounced “Black Students’ Graduation and field trips only for Black students to visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Atlanta. These show how the school I work for indoctrinates students into racial divisions.”

Racial/ethnic-based “equity plans” exclude

students. They divide us and weaken the solidarity that we need.

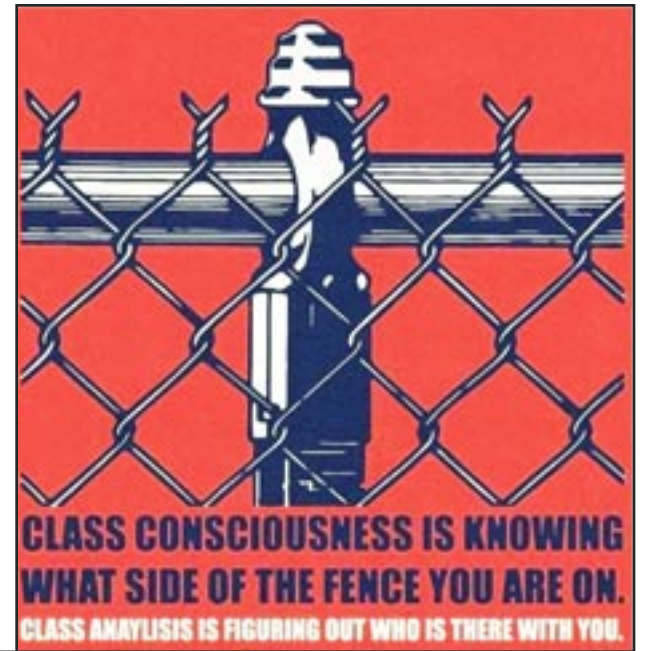
The Path Forward

Liberalism teaches us to “honor our cultural roots.” It says to preserve the memory of horrors capitalists have inflicted on a particular group. This divides workers by telling them that atrocities towards “their people” are far greater than anyone else’s.

The true division in this capitalist world is workers and bosses. Workers must sell their labor power for survival at a price the bosses set. By design that’s to protect the bosses’ interests. No one group can overcome the oppression by capitalism and racism without the mass mobilization of the entire working class.

Class consciousness is knowing which side of the fence you’re on. Class analysis is figuring out who is there with you to fight against oppression.

In that fight we learn to trust each other. We create the possibility of a communist world. Communism will eradicate the material basis that capitalism creates to build distrust among workers. We will work together to build our new world.



US AEROSPACE MECHANICS STRIKE “GAINS NOTHING” – WORKERS NEED COMMUNISM

July 10 — Last month’s strike of 6,000 mechanics of Spirit AeroSystems shows the need for the world’s working class to end capitalist exploitation through a real communist revolution!

The weeklong strike started on June 23. It ended with union ratification of a new contract. A 13-year employee who voted “No!” said, “We haven’t gained anything.”

Spirit AeroSystems, based in Wichita, Kansas (USA) is the world’s largest independent supplier of airplane structures. Its 11,000 employees manufacture fuselages and other components for Boeing’s 737 Max, the Dreamliner, and the Airbus A220 series.

The strike surged as Boeing continues its struggle for global dominance. It’s desperately trying to sell more aircraft than its rival, Europe-based Airbus.

Spirit has a long-term relationship with Boeing, which acquired this production sector in 2005. When the strike started, Boeing unconditionally supported Spirit exploiters.

Machinists have a history of defying their bosses. When they were on the same contract as Boeing’s Seattle-area plants, both IAM locals held strikes that lasted almost 60 days in 2008 and 69 days in 1995.

The Boeing rulers and the US imperialists are setting up a scenario for World War III with their

rival China and its allies.

Their aim to increase production in both commercial and military relies on these workers. They will eventually recruit children of the working-class to fight wars to protect the rulers’ interests.

China is eager to increase manufacturing and sale of airplanes through the state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (Comac). It hopes to compete with the West. Comac exploits Chinese workers just like their brothers and sisters experience in the US and Europe.

After a week, CEO Tom Gentile claimed (with union officials’ support) that Spirit had listened to their employees and offered a fair and competitive contract.

Not all Spirit workers agreed. A mechanic with 43 years on the job noted that the new contract doesn’t cover inflation. Another worker said he couldn’t support it because Spirit denied extra pay on the defense side.

Workers across the world struggle for better

living conditions. They fight for temporary reforms that don’t satisfy their need to survive in a savage system. These only prolong the suffering.

Industrial workers are crucial in a communist revolution. Their skills will be shared among other workers to continue producing airplanes and all essentials according to the needs of everyone!

The working class must break free from the bosses’ chains and build a collective world. ICWP encourages Spirit workers to keep their fighting stance and join our party to destroy capitalism!



Wichita Spirit workers throw contract back at union officials

Mass Anti-Racist Rebellions in France

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM, WILL END RACIST POLICE TERROR

July 10—France exploded in revolt after racist police murdered 17-year-old Nahel Merzouk in the Paris suburb of Nanterre.

Nahel, like most Nanterre youths, was of north African descent. For over a week, crowds marched in neighborhoods in and around Paris, Bordeaux, Marseille, Lyon, and other cities. They attacked hundreds of police stations and government buildings. In places, they drove police out.

“We are here to support the revolt in memory of Nahel,” three youths said. “But also, because we’ve had to put up with police repression for too long.”

Nahel’s murder sparked rebellions in former French colonies from the Caribbean to the Indian Ocean. Systematic racism in France is an ongoing legacy of imperialism. “Even if you were born in Paris, if your grandparents came from Algeria, you are still ‘Algerian,’” said an Algerian friend in the US.

The French government deployed 40,000 police to suppress the masses. It told educators to promote “peace.” It arrested thousands. But protests continue.

“We risk being attacked and arrested. But, in any case, as racialized people, we risk all that all the time, demonstrations or not,” said a Black 17-year-old Muslim marcher. “So we don’t give a damn about bans.”

She was in an annual July 8 march remembering Adama Traoré, led by his sister Assa Traoré. Cops murdered Adama seven years ago. This year the government banned a march in the working-class neighborhood of Beaumont-sur-Oise. It stopped trains from going there.

Organizers planned to go instead to the Place de la République in central Paris. That was also banned. But thousands marched anyway! They broke through police lines twice: first to get into the Place de la République and then to march.

“Marches and press releases are useless,” said a Paris organizer. “We’ve been doing it for years, and it hasn’t changed a thing - they’re still killing people.”

Marches are only useful to the extent that they

let us feel our strength and create opportunities for communist organization.

Years of token “anti-racist” reforms have gotten us nowhere in France, the US, and South Africa. It’s time for revolution.

Capitalist Crisis Is Behind Racist Murder, Fascism, Unemployment and War

Workers around the world remember our brother George Floyd. US cops publicly executed this African American worker in 2020. Mass anger then, too, boiled over into multi-racial rebellions.

Racist police violence everywhere is part of rising fascism. The capitalist rulers are terrified of the masses they exploit to make their class rich. They try to divide us with racism. They use their cops to keep us living in fear.

Their capitalist system is in crisis. It can’t give us jobs, it can’t even feed or house us all. Worldwide, it’s increasingly at war. It needs young workers to fight and die for their profits.

In France, this provoked mass protests of the Yellow Vests in 2018 against economic inequality. This year, anti-worker pension reform brought millions into the streets for months.

Now, the French government’s fascist crackdown is shaking even some reformist left-wing union officials and politicians. They were condemning the anti-racist rebellions just a few weeks ago. “What’s happening is the banning of your freedoms, as a woman, as an ecologist, as a trade unionist,” one declared.

At the same time, French fascists are seizing the opportunity to attack the working

class and build more racism.

Fascist capitalism can’t be reformed. We need to overthrow it and build communist society without rich or poor or exploitation. Without racism, police, war, or borders.

The rulers should be afraid of us! When workers unite, we can liberate our class. Younger and older, employed, and unemployed, women and men, in France and everywhere.

We can win. When we see that workers produce everything. That we don’t need bosses. That we can organize ourselves to produce and share everything we need, without money. That is communism.

Nahel worked in events management. He was training as an electrician. He could have been you or me. There is no “justice” that will bring him back. There is no “peace” for the masses as long as money rules.

Let our anger defeat fear! Our urgent task is to organize to bring down this racist system of capitalism and fight for the communist world we need. Let’s build the International Communist Workers’ Party!



FRANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA: STAND TOGETHER AND FIGHT

The story of Nahel is really heart breaking. It reminded me of the late 16-year-old Nathaniel Julius, who had Down Syndrome. In 2020, during the coronavirus peak, he went to the shop here to get some biscuits. The police asked him some questions, which he couldn’t answer because he had Down Syndrome. They said he posed a threat and they shot and killed him!

It really shows that police are not trained to protect us but to be against us. How many times must the law treat us like our lives don’t really matter? All this behaviour comes from the Capitalists.

If we can stand together and fight against the corruption and bullying that we endure each day from the “ones that are supposed to protect us,” we can win this fight. Let us stand as one, be united, and fight this capitalist system.

In a communist society we will live peacefully in a world full of love and warmth. But this cannot be overcome by an individual. We need everyone to stand as one. Let us stand up and fight for our FREEDOM.

Red salute!

—Another Comrade in South Africa

US STUDENTS DISCUSS FRENCH REBELLION, RACISM, AND COMMUNISM

Comrades distributed the *Red Flag* leaflet about the anti-racist rebellion in France outside a high school in the United States. Some students brought it into their classroom.

The teacher started a discussion about social justice and police brutality. The students made a circle. The teacher read out loud statements including: “I have been stopped by the police” or “I’ve heard about the riots in France.” Students who agreed with a statement were asked to step forward in the circle.

Two students had heard about the French rebellions. After that day, everybody knew.

All the male students and one female student had been stopped by police.

When the teacher read “I believe racism can end” and “I believe that we can stop police brutality,” no one stepped forward. This opened a discussion about why is it that all students genuinely believe that we are destined to live in a society with racism.

“I believe we can end racism, but with one prerequisite,” the teacher shared. “It is clear that in order to end racism, we must end this capitalist system in which we live.”

The discussion was rich because it exposed how even our youth are realistic about living in this system. Of course, racism will always exist since capitalism continues to rule our lives. Therefore, we must envision a completely new society in which to live, and that is a communist society that our youth desperately need.

“It is obvious,” the teacher reflected, “that I must organize these students so that we can instill the hope of a communist future for all of us. Our discussions will continue to be rich.”

