54th National Day of Mourning demands:

‘Land Back, from Turtle Island to Palestine!’

By Workers World Boston bureau

Plymouth, Massachusetts

Over 2,000 Indigenous people and their supporters — with thousands more in attendance via live stream — shut down business as usual in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on Nov. 23 to commemorate the 54th National Day of Mourning (NDOM). Here — where millions of tourist dollars depend on the origin myth of the Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom, landing on an apocryphal rock as advertisement for the U.S.’s most sanitised of holidays — protesters filled the blockaded Main Street business district with demands to “Free Leonard Peltier!” and “Free Palestine!”

Following an opening ceremony at noon on Cole’s Hill, leaders of United American Indians of New England (UAINE) rallied the swelling crowd overlooking Plymouth Harbor. Kisha James (Aquinnah Wampanoag and Oglala Lakota), UAINE co-leader, opened by recounting the history and significance of NDOM, founded in 1970 by her grandmother Wamsutta Frank James.

James explained the racist “thanksgiving” legend at the center of U.S. settler-colonial mythology. Far from seeking refuge from “religious persecution,” the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonists were participating in a commercial and military venture — spelled out in their “Mayflower Compact” — which resulted in the genocide of the Indigenous peoples of the land, including the Wampanoag, and theft of their lands.

Nor did the first “thanksgiving” take place in 1621, as bourgeois historians and mass media continue to falsely claim. Rather, it took place in 1675 when Governor John Winthrop proclaimed the first official “day of thanksgiving” to celebrate the massacre of over 700 Pequot women, men and children on the banks of the Mystic River, nearly 100 miles from the Plimoth Plantation.

James said: “Our very presence on this land frowns this land from the lies of the history books and the mythmakers. We will remember and honor all of our ancestors in the struggle who went before us. We will speak truth to power as we have been doing since the first National Day of Mourning in 1970.”

James vowed that the NDOM tradition will continue until all oppressed peoples win liberation from the racist, patriarchal, homophobic and transphobic system of capitalist settler colonialism that began with the Pilgrim invasion.

James declared: “We are not vanishing! We are not conquered! We are as strong as ever!”

Palestine: Struggle for Indigenous sovereignty

Mahtowin Munro (Oglala Lakota), co-leader of UAINE, called attention to the worsening climate catastrophe, which disproportionately affects Indigenous peoples, who protect over 80% of global biodiversity. As Munro stressed, neoliberal “green” energy plans are not genuine solutions to this crisis. “Eco-corporatist” projects — such as wind turbines built without consent on Aquinnah Wampanoag territory off the island of Noepe (Martha’s Vineyard) and the Peehee Mu’Huh (Thacker Aquinnah Wampanoag territory off the island of Noepe (Martha’s Vineyard) and the Peehee Mu’Huh (Thacker

Munro said: “What we are witnessing is the resurgence of the ongoing, barbaric violence of settler colonialism there. Palestinians have been subject to being killed, imprisoned, assaulted, tortured, starved and denied access to water for years. Right now, a second Nakba, or catastrophe, has been happening. And if you believe Land Back is necessary here, then you need to be demanding it also for the Palestinians, all children under age 19 and women held in Gaza since Oct. 7. In return, the Israeli state will release 150 Palestinians, all children under age 19 and women, from among the 9,000 prisoners long held hostage in Israeli prisons, many without being charged.

Resistance forces voiced demands, both before and after the Oct. 7 Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, similar to those in the agreement. Thus Hamas and its allies in the Palestinian resistance and Gaza’s courageous people have already achieved a victory. Despite the merciless bombing, the resistance has moved toward its stated goals, with its global mass support, while Zionism and U.S. imperialism face the world’s condemnation.

Slanderers of the Al-Aqsa Flood: propaganda fails

The corporate media’s rush to categorize Al-Aqsa Flood with the worst insults, including slandering a popular resistance as terrorist, is aimed at obscuring the demands attached to the operation. These demands, all legitimate, include the release of political prisoners, an end to Israeli impunity for crimes against Palestinians in the West Bank and at Al-Aqsa Mosque and the lifting of the siege on Gaza.

Beyond ‘Cease-fire now’

By Richie Merino and Sara Flookners

On Nov. 21, the world media announced a four-day cease-fire in Gaza, a pause in the Israeli genocidal assault on Gaza’s people. Should this cease-fire take place as announced, the movement of overwhelming global solidarity with and support for Palestine, including within the United States, must adjust its stance to a new period beyond the demand for cease-fire now.

According to a Nov. 21 Hamas statement, the agreement includes entry of hundreds of the blocked truck convoys carrying humanitarian aid, relief supplies, medical assistance and fuel to all regions of Gaza. It also includes an exchange of prisoners. The resistance will release 50 women and children held in Gaza since Oct. 7. In return, the Israeli state will release 150 Palestinians, all children under age 19 and women, from among the 9,000 prisoners long held hostage in Israeli prisons, many without being charged.

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By calling the Oct. 7 events “terrorist,” the Zionist state tried to hide its historical context: a settler-colonialist state imposing a 75-year campaign of ethnic cleansing. It was the Israeli regime’s attempt to present extermination as the only option, to manufacture consent for a genocidal war against Palestinians in Gaza.

Israel’s propaganda has fallen flat. Its military objectives remain unachieved,
Beyond ‘Cease-fire now’

Continued from page 1

Despite the cost in civilian lives in Gaza, that Gaza’s armed resistance has survived and even prevailed with its guerrilla battles and ambushes in northern Gaza has smashed the Israeli military’s image of invincibility.

An advance for Palestine

The four-day pause marks a step forward for the Palestinian cause. It may save many lives but in itself, is no guarantee—yet—of Israel’s genie’s release. Previously, the Zionist government had announced plans to drive Palestinians into the Sinai desert, rejected prisoner exchanges and declared the intention to continue its harsh, illegal occupation after its ill-fated war on Oct. 7. All were returned. The skill and bravery of the armed Palestinian resistance and its continued support from the embattled people of Gaza have forced an agreement.

Escalate global solidarity with Palestine!

The victory is not in one battle. Israel’s war on Palestine continues. Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and within Israel’s 1948 borders can still be murdered during the cease-fire, and Israel has intensified its attacks on Lebanon. Remember that Gaza’s destruction had and has full U.S. political and diplomatic support, supplied by U.S. weapons, backed up by aircraft carriers and taxpayer dollars.

Beyond cease-fire now: Full liberation

A recent demonstration at the United Nations by the Bronx Antwwar Coalition sought to shine a spotlight on the historic Palestinian position of full liberation from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. The Nov. 12-16 international delegation to Cairo to call for the release of supplies through Rafah was one of many actions going beyond demands for a cease-fire.

We urge the movement to act in complete solidarity and salute this accomplishment of steadfast Palestinian resistance and address the root cause of the conflict: Zionist settler colonialism. Supporters of Palestinian liberation should join with the Palestinian Resistance in advocating for a single Palestinian state with Al-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital. The struggle to dismantle the Zionist state of Israel, the release of all political prisoners held in occupation jails and the total liberation of Palestine must remain at the forefront of the movement.

While the four-day truce provides a temporary reprieve, the murder of Palestinian civilians continues, despite the declared cease-fire. A permanent cease-fire only freezes in place the continued apartheid regime.

We urge the solidarity movement to embrace the popular call for a “Free Palestine — from the river to the sea.” We must escalate our protests and solidarity. It is essential to always include the demand: End all U.S. aid to Israel. Only when the Israeli occupation ends, all Palestinian prisoners are freed, all Palestinian land is returned to its rightful owners — and when, Palestine and the world are liberated from Zionist fascism — can we desist.

We urge the movement to act in complete solidarity with and salute this accomplishment of steadfast Palestinian resistance and address the root cause of the conflict.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future.

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◆ In the U.S.
54th National Day of Mourning, 10/7, 10/8, 10/9

◆ Around the World
Beyond ‘Cease-fire now’, 10/7-10/10

Palestinian struggle and women, 10/10-10/11

Online articles

◆ In the U.S.
Leonard Peltier: ‘We are victorious’, 10/10

Court blocks union vote to support Palestine, 10/11

No letup in solidarity with Palestine, 10/12

Red Cup Rebellion at 200+ Starbucks stores, 10/12

Protest at U.N.: Restore historic Palestine, 10/12

Carrying on tradition of Day of Mourning, 10/13

Philadelpha: Week of actions for Palestine, 10/13

◆ Around the World
Hamas’s message to world movement, 10/11

Open Rafah border for aid to Gaza, 10/11

Settler colonialism’s ongoing barbaric violence, 10/11

PFLP: Calls for ‘unified Palestinian stance’, 10/11

French unions demand cease-fire in Gaza, 10/11

Palestine’s resistance has already won in Gaza, 10/11

◆ Tear Down the Walls
Joyous reunions for Palestinian hostages, 10/11

Ongoing coverage of Palestine:

www.workers.org/tag/palestine

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Palestinian struggle reflects strength and solidarity of women

By Monica Moorehead

Nov. 25 marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, proclaimed by the United Nations in 2001. And this year the U.N. is launching a "UNITE" campaign which will include 16 days of activism starting on Nov. 25 and ending on Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day. What the U.N. is projecting and what these 16 days will look like is anyone’s guess. It’s doubt full that whatever activities the U.N. campaign organizers will make will make any real difference in the lives of women and girls, regardless of their age, gender identity or sexuality. The U.N. has proven itself to be a non-democratic body where any votes taken by the 193 members of the General Assembly can be overridden by the 15-member Security Council, with its five permanent members, including the United States, which can veto any decision.

There is no other world development today that more clearly highlights the need for the elimination of violence against women than what is happening in occupied Palestine, especially Gaza. Even since the events of Oct. 7—truthfully since Israel was established in 1948—Palestinian women, along with children have borne the brunt of a genocidal war by the terrorist Zionist state of Israel.

According to the Government Media office on the Resistance News Network, over 20,000 Palestinian civilians have been slaughtered since Oct. 7, including over 4,000 women and 8,000 children. And there are more than 7,000 accounts for being buried under the rubble of bombed residential buildings, homes and other structures. These horrendous numbers do not include those murdered by the Israeli Occupation Forces in the occupied West Bank.

Since Nov. 24, when the temporary truce went into effect between the Palestinian resistance and Israel, many Palestinian prisoners released or scheduled to be released are women. Many of them were detained as teenagers and spent years in prison for the “crime” of being Palestinian. They experienced beatings, physical and mental torture, sexual violence, lack of healthy food and hygiene and much more. Three heroic women include Fawda Hamada, Isra’ Ja’abish, Sourouq Dhiyayat, Maysoon Al-Jabali, Aisha Al-Afghani, Yasmeen Tayyis, Abdulla Shaaban, Nufuz Jad Afed Hammad and Itaf Yusuf Muhammad.

Al-Jabali, who was imprisoned for over eight years, states, “Resistance must continue, all forms of resistance. Of course, there will be a cost. We will be imprisoned and martyred on the path to liberation.”

“As women prisoners, we always confront the prison administration. Our spirits are high and always return high even if we break. The occupation is happy when we look downcast, we replace and stay strong.”

“We want to thank all those who worked for the deal: the resistance, the Gazan people, all the Palestinian fighters and all the foreigners who protested and opposed Israel’s oppressive positions, especially those who defended the resistance.”

“There is no occupation that lasts. ‘Israel’ will fall, and we will stand as one people.” (Resistance News Network, Nov. 27)

Solidarity: another form of resistance

This particular phase of the Palestinian resistance has inspired an unprecedented level of global solidarity in the Global South and Global North. Massive protests have brought out millions of people into the streets. In the U.S., thousands have participated in protests at the White House, in malls during Black Friday, on college campuses and at high schools and more.

Every sector in U.S. society has been impacted to one degree or another by the genocide in Gaza. This includes the film industry.

While a growing number of celebrities have called for a cease-fire, two women actors took high-profile stands in the film industry.

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Girls, regardless of their age, gender identity or sexuality.

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