**Orange Shirt Day**

By Will Hodgkinson

United American Indians of New England (UAINE), the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) and their allies took over the entrance of Boston’s Basilica Church Sept. 30 to commemorate the “National Day For Truth and Reconciliation” in so-called Canada.

Commonly known as Orange Shirt Day, Sept. 30 commemorates the tens of thousands of Indigenous children kidnapped and imprisoned by Canadian settler authorities in residential “schools.” The U.S. government also operated a murderous system of boarding “schools,” where settler authorities forced kidnapped Native children to “assimilate” into white settler culture.

Phyllis Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc citizen of the Stswecem’c Xgat’tem First Nation and a residential school survivor, led efforts to establish Orange Shirt Day. Webstad tied the suffering and trauma of other Indigenous children to an experience she had as a 6-year-old child, when residential school staff stripped her of her clothing, including the orange shirt her grandmother had bought her for her first day.

Stressing the importance of Orange Shirt Day, Mahtowin Munro, co-leader of UAINE, said: “We are here to support our Indigenous family across Turtle Island who have suffered trauma as a result of residential schools that tens of thousands of Indigenous children were forced to attend. In truth, we should not call these institutions ‘schools.’ Schools should not have graveyards and be places of horror for generations of children.”

The Catholic Church ran many of these institutions where staff beat, abused and murdered Indigenous children. Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission has estimated that at least 4,000 Indigenous children died at residential schools, but the real figure is likely much higher.

**Week 3: Historic auto strike expands**

By Martha Grevatt

The dynamic auto strike — the first time in the UAW’s history that workers at General Motors, Ford and Chrysler are on strike at the same time — is now in its third week. On Sept. 29, UAW President Shawn Fain announced on Facebook that workers at two assembly plants, Ford’s Chicago Assembly and GM’s Lansing Delta Township, would join the strike that day at noon. Now about 25,000 workers are on strike at five assembly plants of the three companies and all of the parts warehouses at GM and Stellantis. Stellantis, the fourth biggest auto company in the world, was formed by a merger of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and PSA Peugeot.

The union has made progress on some of its 10 core demands, which have included a sizable pay increase, elimination of pay and benefit tiers, restoration of the cost-of-living allowance (given up in the 2009 bankruptcy), a raise in pensions, pensions for all future retirees and a shorter work week (32 hours for 40 hours pay).

Workers not yet on strike are engaged in the contract struggle in a variety of ways, from collectively refusing voluntary overtime to solidarity rallies and car caravans to red shirt days in the plant. Many of these activities have been initiated by rank-and-file activists, local union leaders or the grass roots caucus Unite All Workers for Democracy.

UAW led the campaign for a new, militant leadership — the Workers United slate — which gave reformers a majority on the UAW’s International Executive Board. This includes President Fain, the first president elected directly by the rank and file. Members wanted a change from the class collaborationist leadership of the past who had been giving up concessions to the companies going back to the first government bailout of Chrysler in 1979.

New York City activists held a solidarity picket line and rally on Sept. 30 outside the GM building in Manhattan. The action was sponsored by the December 12 Movement, Workers World Party, Teamsters Local 808, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and others. Speakers included

**Editorial**

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*New York City solidarity rally, Sept. 30, 2023.*

*UAW Local 3309 President Jeff Purrell, whose local is on strike at a Stellantis parts warehouse in Tappan, New York; CBTU New York City Chapter President Charles Jenkins; and Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes. Solidarity messages are pouring in from U.S.-based and international unions. Mexican autoworkers have said they will not accept overtime if any of the auto companies shift work to Mexico to break the strike. The working class around the world is in solidarity with this historic struggle to win back gains that workers have lost over the past few decades.*

Martha Grevatt is a UAW retiree.
Make the firebombs boomerang:

Make the firebombs boomerang: Take Cuba off ‘terrorist’ list! It’s already out of the headlines. But its message still holds. We’re discussing the incendiary devices terrorists threw at the Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C. The message is obvious: There is something off-kilter if the world’s most dangerous rogue state — headquartered in Washington — can put Cuba on the list of “terrorist” countries, since Cuba extends more humanitarian solidarity per capita to the rest of the world than any other country. This contradiction is a point to ponder, especially for anyone who dwells within the belly of the beast. Those who do live in the U.S. are subject to a Niagara of pro-imperialist propaganda, fogging their vision, depriving them of air to breathe and room to think. They might miss the point.

So those who got the message have the duty to repeat it, to share it with others.

No one representing socialist Cuba has done anything different in any way related to a terrorist act, that is, an armed assault against civilians to achieve a political goal. Socialist Cuba does offer trained and dedicated medical volunteers who have served in all corners of the world where disasters have occurred, sometimes at the risk of their own lives. Cuban medical workers have treated nuclear poisoning at Chernobyl, rescued victims of earthquakes and floods in Pakistan and Haiti and assisted with care for COVID-19 patients in many countries including Italy, and in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. They have saved the lives of thousands. With catastrophic operations they have restored the sight of more people throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Compare this with the acts of the U.S. government, working through the Pentagon and the CIA. This regime has invaded or terror bombed, without provocation, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya — in chronological order, tearing these countries apart, killing millions and sowing misery and chaos. And this is but a partial list.

Then, because despite its declining power, this same rogue state not only blocksade Cuba, has it the unmitigated gall to place Cuba on a list that prevents other countries from trading with Cuba, thus making ordinary Cubans suffer.

It’s a crime that firebombs can be thrown against the Cuban Embassy. It is an admission of official U.S. participation in this crime that no one has been caught. But it’s hardly the worst crime U.S. imperialism has committed against the Cuban people. To blockade the Cuban economy, to slander Cuba as “terrorist” is a far worse crime.

Last year when the United Nations General Assembly voted on whether to lift the blockade of Cuba, lifting the blockade won, by 185-2. Only Israel joined the U.S. to vote against Cuba. Two rogue states. And the governments in the other 183 countries are convinced that it’s nonsense to call Cuba a terrorist state.

So if the attack on the Cuban Embassy has brought wider attention to the blatant lie used to make Cuban people suffer, let’s use that attention to mobilize to get Cuba taken off the list. There is already a petition to demand just that. It has gotten more than a third of the way toward the goal of one million signatures. To sign and learn more of the effort, visit letcubalive.info.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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 never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, on im/migrants, misogynist, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1939, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

National Office
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0183
atlanta@workers.org

Bay Area
PO Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02119
617.517.1488
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richardson Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2354
buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)
centralgulfcoast@workers.org

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Houston
PO Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.501.2633
houston@workers.org

Minneapolis
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
PO Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19118
610.951.2615
phia@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
to 709.678.1348
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle
seattle@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

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Workers World
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: wwp@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

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The liberated space of Palestine Writes Festival
By Nicki Kattoura
Philadelphia

This slightly edited article first appeared in Mondoweiss, Sept. 28. The Palestine Writes Literature Festival, Sept. 22-24, was a liberated space for Palestinians to speak and dream freely. It was an unequivocal display of love for a land and her people, their history and their future. The author, a Palestinian writer and editor based in Philadelphia, was a volunteer at the festival. Workers World was a sponsor of the festival.

During the second Palestine Writes Festival this past weekend in Philadelphia, two floors of Irvine Hall, a rotunda-shaped building on the University of Pennsylvania’s campus, were crowded with vendors selling knifefyehs, embroidered dresses, and bags, notebooks, shirts, jewelry and olive oil, among other things.

Of course, a vast selection of books, in both Arabic and English, were piled high on tables and available for perusal and purchase. The selection was diverse in genre, from memoirs, poetry, and children’s stories to essays, novels and translations.

Two hallways were lined with rooms that were packed with images and artifacts that made one pause in silent respect as they witnessed, in both Arabic and English, discussions, interviews, panels, lectures and readings.

The festival points to a location on a giant map of Palestine on 29.5 feet in height and 10 feet in width, the map was populated with the original names of Palestinian villages. Children and adults crowded around it, pointing to which village they were from, finding others from the same place, and exchanging last names in the hopes that there was perhaps some shared ancestry or imagining what life in those small communities would have looked like before Israel.

Unlike the oft-cited David Ben-Gurion quote that falsely assumed the “old will die and the young will forget,” Palestine Writes was a ritual of remembrance and a presentation of a beautiful history that is often victim to Zionist erasure.

In the middle of Irvine Hall, organizers displayed a map of Palestine, 29.5 feet in height and 10 feet in width, the map was populated with the original names of Palestinian villages. Children and adults crowded around it, pointing to which village they were from, finding others from the same place, and exchanging last names in the hopes that there was perhaps some shared ancestry or imagining what life in those small communities would have looked like before Israel.

Unlike the oft-cited David Ben-Gurion quote that falsely assumed the “old will die and the young will forget,” Palestine Writes was a ritual of remembrance and a presentation of a beautiful history that is often victim to Zionist erasure.

During the weekend was the almost immediate sense of kinship between all festival goers. Whether illegal Israeli checkpoints, and “without criticism or challenge, the Palestinian-led liberation movement that made Palestine Writes so powerful, and what made it such a threat to Israel, and its Zionist supporters.

While the subject matter was vast and the speakers were from all around the world, a singular undercurrent existed that bound all of Irvine Hall together; a deep love for Palestine and an unshaken commitment to her freedom.

Zionist backlash
Despite the event being met with the all-too-familiar racist, Zionist backlash in the form of false accusations of anti-semitism, Palestine Writes was a beautifully moving success. Setting out to celebrate anti-colonial, cultural resistance, and the long, rich, multi-faceted history of Palestine, the festival delivered a forum to confront, in the words of Edward Said, the “culture of power with the power of culture.”

In his essay on the role of culture in Palestinian liberation, Mohammed El-Kurd questions how cultural workers, specifically those with “mobility and access ... can transcend symbolic identity gestures.” And while there isn’t a singular answer to this question, quoting Basel al-Araj, El-Kurd reiterates that to be “an intellectual is to be engaged.” (The Arabic word for “engaged” here has a much more militant connotation.) Perhaps this is what made Palestine Writes such a crucial political event.

El-Kurd writes, “collective struggle should be informed by the collective” and “without criticism or challenge, the dialectical relationship between the artist and the ‘street’ cannot be maintained or interrogated.” Palestine Writes revolved around engaged intellectuals, writers, and cultural producers — those whose artistic practices are what many of us for liberating Palestine — often running parallel to other forms of organizing.

With over 1,000 Palestinians present, ideas around our identity, oppression, and strategies against occupation were exchanged, debated, critiqued, reshaped and rearticulated. It is precisely this engagement and the space we took to foster and tend to the Palestinian-led liberation movement that made Palestine Writes so powerful, and what made it such a threat to Israel, and its Zionist supporters.

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Liberated space for Palestinians
In August 1967, Israel illegitimately institutionalized Military Order 101, denying Palestinians the right to free assembly by criminalizing unpermit ted political gatherings of more than 10 people. Unsurprisingly, Israeli-issued permits for protests against Israeli occupation are incredibly difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. Fifty-six years later, and still Palestinians cannot gather, cannot raise their flag, and are criminalized for any way they choose to struggle.

Although this order only applies in the occupied territory, the backlash to the festival represents these statutes are often enforced against Palestinians worldwide — those of us who struggle to find the space and opportunity for political community. Palestine Writes was a threat to Zionists just by virtue of uncompromisingly gathering Palestinians from all around the world to talk about our shared condition and freedom dreams.

The festival provided a liberated space for Palestinians to speak freely on their condition. No time was wasted on defending our human ity and right to live with dignity, and no one (during the conference at last) had to apologize or be held to account for fabricated accusations of antisemitism from Zionist discontents. Coming into the space together with a shared understanding of what it was meant to allow us to reflect on where the movement stands, what its strengths and weaknesses are, and where it goes from here. A gathering of Palestinians as intimate as this one doesn’t come often. Elders and 1948 survivors, academics and intellectual als, young activists and thinkers, children and siblings, filmmakers and journalists and poets and writers and tai lors and cultural producers of all kinds congregating, collaborating, and connecting was a powerful show of solidarity and a culmination of a long, arduous, continuing struggle against Israeli occupation.

While Zionists may be convinced that the festival was designed to spew hate, anyone in attendance would know that it was unequivocally one of the most beautiful, fastest ways of looking not just at a land and her history, but for her people and their future.
El histórico Festival Palestine Writes triunfa sobre la oposición

Betsey Piette
Filadelfia

La resistencia suscitada por un asalto sionista al Festival Palestine Writes este fin de semana del 22 al 24 de septiembre en la Universidad de Pensilvania convirtió el evento de lo que ya habría sido un marcado éxito en un triunfo desafiantemente sionista. Los participantes, en su mayoría de la comunidad palestina, produjeron un ambiente pro-Palestina, un ambiente en el que se representaron los derechos de la comunidad palestina.

El festival comenzó el viernes 22 de septiembre con un intento difamatorio de detener el evento. Inventaron llamadas, amenazando con hacer frente a los participantes. Las primeras inscripciones superaron las 800 personas. Pero los sionistas llevaron a cabo una vitriólica campaña de ataques durante varios días. Conjuraron un camión de carteleras digitales móviles por el campus de U Penn y hicieron llamadas, amenazando con detener el evento. Inventaron un intento difamatorio de relacionar el festival con un supuesto ataque a la organización Hillel del campus. Y finalmente exigieron que el festival renunciara a algunos oradores claves, entre ellos Roger Waters, antiguo miembro de la banda de rock Pink Floyd.

Incluso antes de que se abriera la puerta el viernes 22 de septiembre, la inscripción había superado las 1,500 personas, y siguió creciendo durante el fin de semana. En respuesta a los ataques, muchas personas y organizaciones se movilizaron para defender el acto, entre ellas más de 36 profesores de la UPenn, varios grupos de estudiantes de la UPenn, Jewish Voice for Peace y otros. Incluso periodistas de medios de comunicación corporativos, como The Philadelphia Inquirer, exhibieron positivamente el evento.

En el interior del auditorio Ivanhoe, el presentador Marc Lamont Hill, 24 de septiembre de 2023. Israel de la periodista palestina Shireen Abu Akleh, con la participación de sus compañeros de trabajo, presentada por Amer Zahr, el organizador del evento.

Todo ello contribuyó a hacer de este festival una victoria de resistencia al sionismo y abordar anteriores a la Nakba de 1948, se expuso inicialmente en el exterior, pero luego se trasladó al interior debido a las condiciones meteorológicas. En las paredes de todo el edificio se colocaron carteles y fotos históricas ampliadas de la sociedad y la cultura palestinas. Todo ello contribuyó a hacer de este festival una victoria de resistencia al sionismo.

Para cerrar la acción, los niños y niñas abrazaron a sus padres, a sus hermanos y hermanas. El festival fue un evento triunfal, un festival que reafirmó el compromiso de la comunidad palestina con la resistencia a la ocupación.

NYC Anti-NATO protest

Protesters leave CNN headquarters at Columbus Circle in Manhattan to walk down Broadway and through crowds in Times Square to end at the headquarters of The New York Times. They protested NATO’s proxy war in Ukraine and the lies promoted by these corporate media monopolies. The Oct. 1 event was part of over 60 planned worldwide for the first week in October.

— Photo and report by John Catalinotto

Boston Orange Shirt Day

Continued from page 1

To close the action, Indigenous activists and allies took part in a ceremonial round dance that both honored the suffering of residential schools, and demonstrated Indigenous resilience and ongoing resistance to settler colonialism worldwide.

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El festival de arte palestino triunfa sobre la oposición.

La directora ejecutiva del Festival Palestine Writes, Susan AbuHawwa, da la bienvenida a los participantes en la sesión plenaria de apertura, 22 de septiembre de 2023. Detrás del presentador Marc Lamont Hill, 24 de septiembre de 2023.

Un mapa de 3 x 9 metros de Palestina antes de la Nakba de 1948 expuesto en el Festival Palestine Writes, en el campus de la Universidad de Pensilvania en Filadelfia, del 22 al 24 de septiembre. Los participantes señalaron sus pueblos y ciudades ancestrales.

Sesión plenaria final “Informar sobre Palestina” sobre el asesinato por Isla de la periodista palestina Shireen Abu Akleh, con la participación de sus compañeros de trabajo, presentada por Amer Zahr, y el presentador Marc Lamont Hill, 24 de septiembre de 2023.

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