World solidarity with Palestine

The Israeli regime’s murders, seizures of territories, illegal settlements and occupation made a response from the Palestinian people and their liberation organizations as inevitable as it was justifiable. Palestinians have once again, under the most difficult circumstances, provided a heroic example for people longing for liberation from imperialism around the world.

The Zionist regime has been blockading Gaza since 2007, turning the narrow strip into an open air prison for 2 million Palestinians and a shooting gallery where Israeli planes bomb and kill Palestinian civilians, 200 already this year, including children.

The Netanyahu regime has completely supported the building of settlements on the West Bank, pushing Palestinians out of their homeland. Zionist settlers have increased violence against Palestinians and have repeatedly desecrated the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The Palestinian movement and people have every right to strike back in whatever way they choose and, to quote the great Malcolm X, “by any means necessary.” The Palestinian organizations know that they face a ruthless enemy and have decided to launch a direct strike on that enemy. The responsibility of individuals and organizations throughout the world that have expressed solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for liberation is to redouble their efforts under the current circumstances to show that solidarity and spread it. Those in the rest of the world who want justice in Palestine must become aware of what we must expect. The U.S. and European Union regimes have thrown in their arms and money against the Palestinian Liberation Movement. This is nothing new. It has been true since 1498, if not before.

U.S. President Joe Biden, as could be expected, said the U.S. would back Israel. We can expect that the U.S. and its allies and their corporate media will put obstacles in the way of any expressions of solidarity with Palestine. We must go forward anyway. While the Benjamin Netanyahu regime directing the Zionist state appears to have been surprised by the boldness and courage of the incursions from Gaza, it will use the looming battles to attempt to stabilize its hold on power regarding the struggle internal to the white supremacist Zionist state. It already has begun striking multiple civilian targets in Gaza, threatening all people living there.

Netanyahu has also been pushing for a U.S.-led war against Iran and may attempt to carry out such a war again — along with allies in the U.S. establishment. We raise these possibilities simply to prepare the solidarity movement, as much as possible, for what we may face, for what questions we will have to answer.

Long live the struggle of the Palestinian people!

World solidarity with Palestine

By Will Hodgkinson

On Oct. 7, over 200 Indigenous activists and their allies gathered on Boston Common to demand that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts abolish Columbus Day and immediately designate the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

This action continued the Indigenous-led movement to end the racist cult glorifying Christopher Columbus, a Genoese mercenary backed by Spanish monarchs and mercantile investors. He commanded the 1492 voyage to the Caribbean that initiated the transatlantic slave trade and began the ongoing settler-colonial genocide of Indigenous peoples.

The Indigenous-led coalition that organized Saturday’s rally included United American Indians of New England (UAINE), the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB), Cultural Survival, the New Democracy Coalition, Workers World Party-Boston and Italian Americans for Indigenous Peoples Day.

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Protests denounce the U.S.-NATO war in Ukraine

By Dave Welsh
San Francisco

The Peace in Ukraine Coalition called twin demonstrations here on Oct. 4 demanding Congress fund the U.S.-NATO war in Ukraine. The protests were part of a week of action in over 40 cities in the U.S. and Canada and over 30 cities overseas.

Target No. 1 was the mammoth BlackRock investment company with $9 trillion in assets, a big barker of the Ukrainian war. Marchers asked the question: “How does BlackRock influence the US government? and gave an answer in their appeals—that BlackRock donates to political campaigns, currently giving equally to Democrats and Republicans. The top recipient in 2022 was Senate majority leader, Democrat Chuck Schumer.

The demonstration then moved through the Financial District, denouncing the Ukraine War, which 55% of people in the U.S. oppose, according to polls. At Montgomery BART Station, Gerrry Condon, from Veterans for Peace, raised four questions: Who Lies? Who Dies? Who Pays? Who Profits?

“Veterans know who lies,” said Condon. “We have been lied into many wars, from Korea and Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan. The president lied. Newspapers and TV lied. Even voters. “Bans off Ohio!” rallies were also held Oct. 8 in Akron, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo.

— Report and photo by Martha Grevatt

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 that’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 immigrants, misogynist, LGBTQ+ 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 gassed down by cops and bиготе 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, multigendered and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWF 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 capital 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 WW 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 02118
boston@workers.org
instagram: @wwpbooston

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

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

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

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

Houston
PO Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Minneapolis
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
PO Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
philadelphia@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.213.8998
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle
seattle@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

Join us in the fight for socialism!

On the web

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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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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As strike enters fourth week, GM gives in on EV jobs

By Martha Grevatt

Over 25,000 autoworkers are on strike at selected plants of General Motors, Ford and Stellantis. The strike began at three plants when the contracts with the United Auto Workers expired midnight Sept. 14, and about 35,000 more went on strike the next two Fridays to include 38 parts warehouses and two more assembly plants.

The union changed its plans to further expand the strike to Oct. 4, after yielding a big win at GM: a written commitment to place current and future electric vehicle battery plants under the same contract that now covers GM plants and warehouse facilities in the U.S. This is a game-changing victory for the union, which has demanded "No EV tiers." Tiers are job classifications that allow companies to divide workers, paying some less than others for the same or similar work.

Until Oct. 6, the auto companies were crying that they could not afford to give battery plant workers—who are essentially power train workers, servicing the engine and transmission plant workers—the pay and benefits provided under the master contract with the UAW. They further claimed that the battery builders can’t be covered by the collective bargaining agreement being negotiated, because they work for supposedly separate companies—joint ventures between one of the Big Three and another firm such as LG or Panasonic.

UAW President Shawn Fain believes the power of the strike and its threat to shut down GM’s highly profitable battery plant in Ohio, assembly plant in Indiana and transmission plant in Michigan, forced the companies to give in on battery plants.

The push is on to get Ford and Stellantis to follow suit and for all three companies to agree to demands including substantial pay increases, restoration of the cost-of-living allowance (COLA), making all employees permanent after 90 days, no pay or benefit tiers, a raise in pensions, pensions for everyone and a shorter work week with no cut in pay.

The capitalist media are filled with denunciations of the UAW’s new militancy. The Oct. 5 New York Times headline read: “New U.A.W. Chief Has a Nonnegotiable Demand: Eat the Rich.” They call him Fain’s “disdain for the billionaire class.”

Undeterred, UAW International President Shawn Fain gave his weekly Facebook live update sporting a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan “Eat the Rich.” Since the update, seen live by over 3,000 people, UAW members are clamoring for a similar shirt.

Picket line spirits strong

Strong labor and community solidarity has been the norm in every local touched by the strike. Picket line at the Stellantis PDC in Streetsboro, Ohio, was visited by Oct. 5 by members of United Electrical Workers (UE) Local 506, who made the drive from Erie, Pennsylvania. They explained to this writer that the UAW had supported their 70-day strike against Waltec earlier in the year, so they were returning the solidarity.

Also present that day, backing the striking Local 573, were supporters from UAW Locals 14 and 869. The Cleveland Teachers Union and the Northeast Ohio Laborers Local 551 are among many other groups who have sent delegations to picket with the UAW.

Striking UAW members and community supporters faced off with scabs attempting to drive trucks carrying parts out of the Stellantis Parts Distribution Center in Portland, Oregon, on Oct. 6. The trucking company hired scabs after the Teamsters refused to cross the UAW picket line.

The workers at the PDC have been picketing day and night since they joined the strike on Sept. 29. The strike captain said the strike was a good example of union solidarity because of the large number of Portland area union representatives who have joined the picket line. Many members of the Portland community and groups like Jobs with Justice have also bolstered the strike line. “Unite as a global working class”

UAW Local 551’s hall was filled to capacity Oct. 7 during a solidarity rally, with hundreds more members and supporters watching outside. Another 1,100 people watched the rally live on Facebook and over 7,000 individuals have viewed the rally on YouTube. Over 5,000 members of Local 551 are currently striking Ford’s Chicago Assembly Plant.

The rally featured Local 551 President Chris Pena and Shop Chair Coby Millender, Chicago Teachers Union President Stacy Davis Gates, Chair Ka Bong of the Kilusang Mayo Uno union in the Philippines, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, Association of Flight Attendants-CWA President Sara Nelson and UAW Region 4 Director Brandon Campbell. The final speaker, President Fain, received a standing ovation. Fain again blasted the wealthy class, a message that has resonated with workers far beyond the UAW membership. Addressing Ka Bong, the union president declared, “We have to unite as a global working class.”

Martha Grevatt is a retired UAW Stellantis worker who served on the executive board of UAW Local 869. Lynn Neeley contributed to this article.

On the picket line

By Marie Kelly

Robert Wood Johnson University, Kaiser Permanente strikes

Registered nurses at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey, have taken action against corporate greed and exploitation as well as union-busting tactics. Their strike is in its third month.

The 1,700 nurses, represented by United Steelworkers Local 1-200, are demanding safe staffing.

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Justice and liberation, it is our solemn yearning to breathe the air of liberty. For freedom echoing through the annals of generation and return, their unwavering cry to an end.

We, the Al-Awda Palestine Right to Return Coalition, firmly stand in unwavering support of the Palestinian resistance, and we fervently urge our Palestinian people to mobilize in the face of colonial genocide. This is our fight, and the time for action is upon us. Let us rise to defend the dignity and freedom of our people in the West Bank and Gaza.

The battle is coming, and the aggression will deepen.

We further demand the United States government immediately end all aid and support to the Israeli occupation regime. Every year, our tax dollars fund $4 billion in war crimes and genocide must immediately end.

We further demand that the United States cease its efforts to impose “normalization” projects on the Arab region through the so-called “Abraham Accords” and other attempts to legitimize Zionist colonialism in the region through bribery and illegitimate imperialist sanctions. The Palestinian resistance has exposed the bankruptcy of this project, and it must continue until one and for all.

We captured senior officers from the occupation army, and we will capture more until the prisons are emptied. The resistance is prepared for the worst scenarios, including a ground invasion. An “Israeli” ground invasion would be the best scenario for us to settle the conflict against the enemy.

We have information that the occupation army was preparing, after the holidays, to launch a major aggression against our people in the West Bank and Gaza. The battle is coming, and the aggression began with the desecration of our sanctuaries, and the imprisonment of our prisoners in jails, or the continued siege of Gaza.

What we have in our hands will free all the prisoners from the occupation jails. There are a large number of “Israeli” captives, and there are senior officers among the captives. The battle is still at its peak, and the freedom of our captives in prisons is imminently.