

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 65, No. 41 October 12, 2023 \$1



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World solidarity with Palestine

WWP STATEMENT

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 1948, 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



Philadelphia march, Oct. 8, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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! □

Al-Awda, Hamas statements 4



Palestinian solidarity in Sana'a, Yemen, Oct. 7, 2023.

Boston march for Indigenous Peoples Day

By Will Hodgkinson
Boston

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 (UAIN), 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.

As Mahtowin Munro, co-leader of UAIN, and other speakers at the Common explained, Indigenous Peoples Day honors the resilience, survival, cultures, histories and resistance of Indigenous peoples. Munro also spoke about the need for worldwide solidarity with Indigenous nations in their resistance to ongoing genocide and colonialism, including the struggle of the

Palestinian people for liberation from the Zionist regime of Israel.

Munro stressed that the only ultimate solution to the ongoing human and environmental catastrophes caused by capitalism and settler-colonialism is the centering of Indigenous knowledge and the full return of stolen lands and sovereignty to Indigenous nations.



Boston march, Oct. 7, 2023.

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

Munro also raised Jacob Johns for the crowd's thoughts and solidarity. Johns was shot on Sept. 28 by a provocateur while trying to protect a peaceful gathering of The Red Nation in Tewa Territory (Española, New Mexico), who were celebrating a postponement of the reinstallation of a Juan de Oñate statue. The statue was previously removed from Alcalde, New Mexico, on June 15, 2020. (See The Red Nation's

Sept. 30 press release on workers.org.)

From Boston Common, demonstrators marched to the Massachusetts State House and took over the entrance. Jean-Luc Pierite, president of NAICOB and a citizen of the Tunica-Biloxi Nation, demanded that the legislature immediately pass the Indigenous Peoples Day bill, which would replace Columbus Day statewide.

Pierite warned lawmakers: "Don't try any semantics with me. Don't try any tricks. Don't say I can do this day on Native American Day or Native American Heritage Month. I'm not just talking about Native Americans ... I'm talking about all the people who have occupying forces on their lands. Free the lands! Free the people! Indigenous Peoples Day now!"

Pierite also urged passage of bills that

would ban racist school mascots; incorporate Indigenous history and knowledge into Massachusetts public schools; establish a commission to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for Native children in the Commonwealth; and protect sacred Indigenous funerary objects and cultural artifacts.

A large delegation from the Indigenous Students Organization at Tufts University and Tufts Students for Justice in Palestine, wearing keffiyehs and waving a Palestinian flag, helped lead the march through Boston's downtown shopping district. Thousands of tourists and traffic came to a halt, some cheering and honking for the marchers' demand: "From Palestine to Mexico, all the walls have got to go!"

Chanting "City by city, town by town, we're gonna take Columbus down," they headed to tourist trap Faneuil Hall, which, despite promises made by city officials, still bears the name of Peter Faneuil, a Boston colonial merchant who trafficked enslaved people. Demonstrators demanded the name be changed to honor the history of oppression and struggle of the Black community in Boston.

In his closing remarks, Pierite urged demonstrators to continue their support for the campaign for Indigenous Peoples Day, and stressed the need for continued solidarity with Indigenous nations around the world in their struggles to dismantle settler colonialism and win full self-determination and sovereignty. □

Bay Area activists protest war in Ukraine 2

'Bans off Ohio!' 2

GM gives in on EV jobs 3

On the picket line 3

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 stop funding 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 backer of the Ukraine 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



San Francisco, Oct. 4.

PHOTO: LEON KUNSTENAAR

through the Financial District, denouncing the Ukraine War, which 55% of people in the U.S. oppose, according to polls.

At Montgomery BART Station, Gerry 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

thousands of Iraqis and Afghans died ... Our soldiers continue to die. PTSD and moral injury have led to more soldiers taking their own lives than those who died on the battlefield."

The Peace in Ukraine Coalition grew out of an international summit held in Vienna last June, with 330 participants from 32 countries. Current backers of the Coalition include CODEPINK, DSA International Committee, Veterans for Peace, United National Antiwar Committee, International Action Center and Answer coalition. □

'Bans off Ohio!'

Reproductive justice activists rallied in downtown Cleveland Oct. 8 to promote a "yes" vote on Issue 1 in the November election. If passed, Issue 1 would amend the Ohio constitution to enshrine abortion access, contraception access and miscarriage care.

In 2019, the Ohio legislature passed one of the most restrictive anti-abortion bills in the country, which went into effect after last year's Supreme Court Dobbs decision that overturned Roe v. Wade, which had

legalized the procedure. Ohio law is temporarily on hold while it is being litigated in the courts, but if Issue 1 passes, it will be nullified altogether.

Issue 1 is on the ballot because of a grassroots campaign, launched by the coalition Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights, that collected over 700,000 signatures of registered



voters. "Bans off Ohio" rallies were also held Oct. 8 in Akron, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo.

— Report and photo by Martha Grevatt

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 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. 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 1959, 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. □

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MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD this week

◆ In the U.S.

- Boston demands Indigenous Peoples Day 1
- Protests denounce U.S.-NATO war in Ukraine . . . 2
- 'Bans off Ohio!' 2
- Auto strike enters week 4, GM gives in EV jobs . . . 3
- On the picket line 3

◆ Around the World

- World solidarity with Palestine 1
- Al-Awda: 'Bring ongoing Nakba to an end!' 4
- Hamas: 'Ready to defend dignity, freedom' 4

◆ Mundo Obrero

- Editorial: Artefactos incendiarios 4

Online articles

◆ In the U.S.

- Banner drop for Jalen Randle LINK
- House battle over speaker LINK
- The fight for safe consumption sites LINK
- Fanmi Lavalas protests U.S. role in Haiti LINK

◆ Around the World

- Hamas calls for actions Oct. 13. LINK
- BAP condemns assault on Palestine LINK
- Africans support Palestinian resistance LINK
- Haiti, Kenya and imperialist maneuvering LINK
- CP of Kenya condemns occupation of Haiti LINK
- Samidoun on Palestinian resistance LINK
- PFLP statement on Al Aqsa Flood battle LINK
- Protests in Germany: 'No to War' LINK
- Danish CP protests U.S.-Denmark pact LINK
- Voices grow louder: 'Free Julian Assange!' LINK
- Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger join forces LINK

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

By Martha Grevatt
Streetsboro, Ohio

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 was expanded the next two Fridays to include 38 parts warehouses and two more assembly plants.

The union changed its plans to further expand the strike Oct. 6 after securing 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 warehouses 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, similar to 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 Arlington, Texas, assembly plant forced the company 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.” The Times bemoaned 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 60,000 viewers, UAW members are clamoring for a similar shirt.

Picket line spirits strong

Strong labor and community solidarity has been the norm in every locality touched by the strike. Picket lines at the Stellantis PDC in Streetsboro, Ohio, were visited 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 Wabtec 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 Workers Center 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 loud 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.

Lyn Neeley contributed to this article.



UAW strike, Streetsboro, Ohio, Oct. 5, 2023

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

On the picket line

when we
fight
we win!

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 into its third month. The 1,700 nurses, represented by United Steelworkers Local 4-200, are demanding safe staffing. Research has proven that adequate nurse to patient ratios save lives.

The pandemic was the match that lit the fire around safe staffing. Nurses were pushed to the brink and were no longer willing to put their patients’ lives and their own well-being and professional licenses at risk. Since the strike, RWJU bosses have shown that they undervalue their nurses by suspending health benefits and limiting picket lines at hospital entrances.

These union-busting tactics are reminiscent of those deployed against the heroic 10-month strike of the nurses at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts. These nurses, members of the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) union, finally ratified a new contract in January. Theirs was the longest nurses strike in Massachusetts history and won staffing protections.

Another historic labor action happened from Oct. 4-7 when Kaiser Permanente workers staged a three-day strike. A coalition of unions representing licensed practical nurses, lab technicians and other hospital personnel — 75,000 in all — went up against the hospital

corporate giant in what was the largest strike by health-care workers in U.S. history.

Similar to registered nurses elsewhere, Kaiser union members are fighting for patients and demanding safe staffing and adequate compensation. The three-day strike took place across sites in Colorado, Washington, Oregon and California, with a one-day strike in Virginia and Washington D.C.

Grad student union drive keeps growing

Graduate student workers continue to fight back against institutions that exploit their labor. These student workers historically put in long hours of work and advance the prestige and coffers of major learning institutions, but they are paid a pittance.

However, this current generation of student workers is not standing for it. Across the country, grad students are organizing and forming unions to demand adequate compensation and improved working conditions. Last week, the University of Maine got their wake-up call when the National Labor Relations Board certified that the Maine Graduate Workers Union, part of the United Auto Workers (UAW), won their union election. The union represents 1,000 graduate assistants, research assistants and teaching assistants at the university.



Healthcare workers strike Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center, Oct. 4, 2023.

“Our work powers the educational and research mission of the University, and was instrumental in UMaine receiving the status of an R1 rated research university. In short, UMaine works because we do,” said Em Sowles, a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate and research assistant in the physics department. “But for too long, we have struggled with low and inconsistent pay, substandard health benefits and the need for a voice at work. Today we are proud to have formally secured a seat at the table, so we can begin to improve our working lives through legally-enforceable contracts.” (uaw.org)

University of Pennsylvania graduate student workers plan to be unionized soon as the Graduate Employees Together of UPenn (GET-UP), also part of the UAW. Among GET-UP demands — along with a reasonable workload and improved compensation — are freedom from harassment and discrimination in the workplace, protections for international students, and justice for Philadelphians who have long suffered from decisions made by UPenn that lacked any commitment to the well-being of city residents.

UAW strikes Blue Cross

UAW members who work for Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan share similar grievances with their union siblings in the auto industry. Shortly before the strike against the Big Three auto companies began, 1,000 workers at the health insurance giant took to the picket line in Detroit, Lansing and other Michigan cities on Sept. 12. These workers handle claims for the corporation, helping individuals navigate the complex, confusing and frustrating industry that feeds off the pain and suffering caused by a profit-driven healthcare industry.

BCBS Michigan reported \$360 million in profits in 2021 and CEO Daniel Loepp’s 2021 total compensation for exploiting workers and sick people was \$15.6 million! The workers are demanding the end of the two-tier pay scale. Under the current contract, a new hire at BCBS Michigan would need to work 22 years before they reached the top of their wage scale.

Solidarity with the UAW members at BCBS Michigan! □



Crece el movimiento para frenar el terror económico de EEUU contra Cuba.

Haz que las bombas incendiarias contra Cuba hagan boomerang

MUNDO OBRERO
editorial

Ya está fuera de los titulares. Pero su mensaje sigue vigente. Hablamos de los artefactos incendiarios que los terroristas lanzaron contra la Embajada de Cuba en Washington, D.C.

El mensaje es obvio: hay algo fuera de lugar si el Estado canalla más peligroso del mundo -con sede en Washington- puede incluir a Cuba en la lista de países “terroristas”, ya que Cuba extiende más solidaridad humanitaria per cápita al resto del mundo que cualquier otro país.

Esta contradicción es un punto sobre el que reflexionar, especialmente para cualquiera que habite dentro de las entrañas del monstruo. Los que viven en Estados Unidos están sometidos a un Niágara de propaganda proimperialista que les nubla la vista, les priva de aire para respirar y espacio para pensar. Es posible que no capten el mensaje.

Así que los que captaron el mensaje tienen el deber de repetirlo, de compartirlo

con los demás.

Nadie que represente a la Cuba socialista ha hecho nada que se parezca en modo alguno a un acto terrorista, es decir, un asalto armado contra civiles para lograr un objetivo político.

Cuba socialista sí ofrece voluntarios médicos entrenados y dedicados que han servido en todos los rincones del mundo donde han ocurrido desastres, a veces arriesgando sus propias vidas. Los trabajadores médicos cubanos han tratado envenenamientos nucleares en Chernóbil, han rescatado a víctimas de terremotos e inundaciones en Pakistán y Haití y han ayudado en la atención a pacientes del COVID-19 en muchos países, entre ellos Italia, en América Latina, el Caribe y África.

Han salvado la vida de miles de personas. Con operaciones de cataratas han devuelto la vista a más personas en toda América Latina y el Caribe.

Comparen esto con los actos del gobierno

de Estados Unidos, trabajando a través del Pentágono y la CIA. Este régimen ha invadido o bombardeado con terror, sin provocación alguna, Yugoslavia, Afganistán, Irak, Libia... en orden cronológico, destrozando estos países, matando a millones de personas y sembrando la miseria y el caos. Y esto no es más que una lista parcial.

Luego, porque a pesar de su poder en declive, este mismo Estado canalla no sólo bloquea a Cuba, sino que tiene el descaro sin paliativos de colocar a Cuba en una lista que impide a otros países comerciar con Cuba, haciendo sufrir así a los cubanos de a pie.

Es un crimen que se puedan lanzar bombas incendiarias contra la embajada cubana. Es una admisión de la participación oficial de Estados Unidos en este crimen que nadie haya sido capturado. Pero no es ni mucho menos el peor crimen que el imperialismo yanqui ha cometido contra el pueblo cubano. Bloquear la

economía cubana, calumniar a Cuba de “terrorista” es un crimen mucho peor.

El año pasado, cuando la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas votó sobre el levantamiento del bloqueo a Cuba, el levantamiento del bloqueo ganó, por 185 a 2. Sólo Israel se unió a Estados Unidos para votar en contra de Cuba. Dos Estados canallas. Y los gobiernos de los otros 185 países están convencidos de que es un disparate llamar a Cuba un estado terrorista.

Así que si el ataque a la embajada cubana ha llamado más la atención sobre la flagrante mentira utilizada para hacer sufrir al pueblo cubano, utilicemos esa atención para movilizarnos y conseguir que Cuba sea eliminada de la lista. Ya existe una petición para exigir precisamente eso. Ya ha recorrido más de un tercio del camino hacia el objetivo de un millón de firmas.

Para firmar y obtener más información, visite letcubalive.info. □

Al-Awda says: ‘Bring ongoing Nakba to an end!’



The following statement was released on Oct. 8, 2023. Go to al-awda.org

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 ongoing struggle, born from a deep-seated yearning for justice and liberation, demands our resolute solidarity. It is a powerful response to decades of unspeakable atrocities, relentless oppression, and the suffocating blockade that has imprisoned the Gaza Strip and refused its population — mostly Palestinian refugees — their right to return.

The Israeli occupation regime, the perpetrator of these heinous acts, has rained down a deluge of violence upon Palestinian towns and cities, while sacred sites are desecrated with impunity. Families have been torn apart, their lives shattered under the iron grip of an occupying force. To turn a blind eye to these atrocities is to forsake our moral compass and betray the very essence of our shared humanity. The Palestinian resistance, through their brave actions, are forging a path to bring the ongoing Nakba to an end.

Yet, in the face of such adversity, the Palestinian people rise as an indomitable force, their spirit unyielding, their determination unbreakable. They demand their inalienable right to self-determination, liberation and return, their unwavering cry for freedom echoing through the annals of history. We must never underestimate the power of an oppressed and occupied people yearning to breathe the air of liberty.

As people of conscience struggling for justice and liberation, it is our solemn

duty to heed this call, to champion the cause of justice, and to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinian resistance. We must cast aside the shackles of complacency and embrace the urgency of their struggle. Together, we shall forge a path towards justice, return and liberation for Palestine, from the river to the sea.

End all U.S. aid!

Let our voices resound with unwavering conviction, shaking the foundations of U.S. government complicity in these crimes, including nearly \$4 billion in annual military aid to the Zionist colonizer. Let us rally the international community, igniting an unquenchable fire of solidarity. For it is in unity that we find strength, and it is through collective action that we shall dismantle the walls of oppression.

The time for action is upon us. Let us march forward, unwavering in our support, unwavering in our commitment to justice. Together, we shall unleash a tidal wave of transformation, where the Palestinian people rise victorious over colonialism, reclaiming their freedom, claiming their right to return, exercising their right to live in dignity in a liberated Palestine, free of imperialism, colonialism, racism and Zionism.

We demand the United States government and the international community end their complicity in the ongoing crimes against the Palestinian people, a people living under colonial occupation and denied their right to return home for over 75 years. Palestinians in exile and diaspora have been illegally denied their homeland, including the over 70% of Palestinians in Gaza who are themselves Palestinian refugees. The Palestinian people possess an inherent right to resist occupation, a fundamental right that must be upheld and defended.

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 weaponry to arm the occupier against the Palestinian people. This complicity 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 come to an end once and for all.

The United States has been part and parcel of the blockade of Gaza for over 16 years, imposing a siege on the Palestinian people that was meant to kill the resistance. However, the resistance has not been killed — it has flourished despite the brutality of the open-air prison imposed upon the Palestinians of Gaza. We demand not only the end of the crimes, but reparations to the Palestinian people for the reconstruction and development of Gaza and all of Palestine.

We will return! From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! □

Hamas: ‘Ready to defend the dignity, freedom of our people’

The following statement was released on Oct. 7 by the Deputy Head of Hamas, Sheikh Saleh Al-Aroui.

What started is not just an operation but a battle that will expand, escalate and deepen.

The battle has a goal: the freedom of our people and the liberation of our sanctities. Therefore, the battle continues, escalates until achieving the victory with the deserved freedom of our people.

We will not continue to accept the desecration of our sanctities, or 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 imminent.

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 the sanctities and the enemy's intention to attack Gaza and the West Bank.

We are ready to defend the dignity and freedom of our people.

We hope that the resistance will cover all of Palestinian land and, God willing, there will be effective solidarity and a strong stance from both the Arab and Muslim nations. □