

DIRECT

Industrial Workers of the World

ACTION

An Injury To One - Is An Injury To All!

SOLIDARITY WITH GARMENT WORKERS DARE TO FIGHT - DARE TO WIN!

Strikes, Protests, Freedom of Association – in Myanmar all of this does not exist anymore.

Since the junta grabbed power in this Southeast Asian country on February 1, 2021, violence and oppression are a daily occurrence. The working conditions for garment workers – who produce goods for western companies like H&M, Adidas, and Zara – have become even worse than they already were before the coup. Several unions and NGOs have been criminalised, the Federation of General Workers Myanmar (FGWM), whom we have been working with for years, is one of them. In the past, we organised solidarity protests in front of Adidas stores, but also collected donations.

Many union members had to flee the country or go into hiding and thus can't pay membership fees anymore.

In Myanmar, the military wages a brutal war against its own people, but especially against ethnic minorities and anyone opposing them. This is not only happening since the coup in 2021.

International companies profit from the low production costs in the country, since neither freedom of association, nor paid vacation, or even just a decent living wage exist. Any attempts at enforcing labour rights are violently oppressed.

The FGWM doesn't just empower (textile) workers under great danger and supports them in organising themselves inside the factories, but is also working against the military government and their fascist regime, fights for a new constitution and federal democracy, and for the liberation of all political prisoners.

From the start, the FGWM has been part of the protests against the military dictatorship: during the first weeks it was them who organised protests and strikes. A large-scale general strike, in which doctors, bus drivers, and also administrative staff participated, was largely initiated and organised by the workers of garment factories.

Labour rights are inseparable from the current political situation: The military controls virtually all financial traffic within the country, profits from foreign investments, and helps factory managers to crack down on strikes and protests.



**IWW CONFERENCE:
SOLIDARITY WITH GARMENT WORKERS IN MYANMAR**

Those activities cost money! Money the federation currently does not have. With your contribution you assist the work of the FGWM and therefore directly workers who have joined the resistance.

The FGWM supports its members, empowers activists through workshops and training, pays for safe-houses and food, as well as leaflets, posters, and banners for political actions. The contributions will not be used to pay some union officials, because the FGWM is an association of (grassroot) unions that are organised primarily by the workers themselves.

Dare to fight - Dare to win!

#FGWMSolidarity fgwm-solidarity.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday June 10th 2023, Online

**INDUSTRIAL
WORKERS OF
THE WORLD**

THE ONE BIG UNION



IRELAND BRANCH

#fgwmsolidarity



ONEBIGUNION.IE



IWW information stall at the Dublin Anarchist Bookfair

The long awaited return of the Dublin Anarchist Bookfair took place in Dublin on Saturday 20th May. After a number of years in cold storage the return to the Teachers Club venue in central Dublin was welcomed by activists throughout the country.

"We've popped over from West Meath for the day to get a chance to meet activists and attend some of the talks organised. I'm planning to attend the one on housing with CATU and the IWW and she is hoping to attend the one on disability rights and activism." said one of those who attended.

Another attendee said "I signed up for the Industrial Workers of the World a few weeks back, I knew that they'd be here today. I got a t-shirt and just attended one of the talks on prisoner solidarity as I'm recently interested in abolitionist politics. There's just nothing around like this in Ireland and I'm really glad I came today. I'm from just outside of Dublin."

Members of the IWW Ireland branch from different parts of the country had an IWW information stall and took part in a number of meetings and workshop on writing to prisoners.

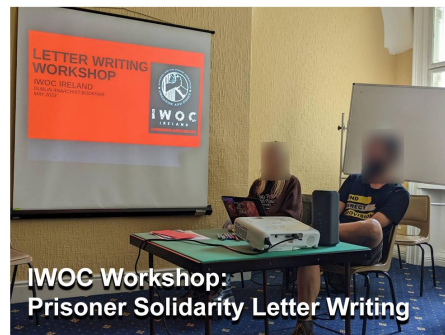
As the event came to a close a spokesperson for the IWW said "It was great to participate in what was an historical event by the radical left in the city. It was great to see the book fair back after an absence of a number of years, so we're hoping that this will become an annual event in the political calendar once again.



"For a revolutionary union such as the IWW it was important to be here and make connections with other grassroots groups and campaigns. To reach out to those who attended, chat to them about the IWW and the work we're involved in locally and around the country.

"Some never heard of the union organising in Ireland, which tells us that we need to be much more visible than what we have been, while others came to ask some questions and even sign up to become active. It was great and we would like to thank the organisers for the effort they have put in to creating such a brilliant event like this in Dublin. It was a great day."

Members of Incarcerated Workers Organising Committee held a successful Prisoner Letter Writing Workshop at the book fair which also was well attended. Participants heard of the work members are involved in first hand, in showing solidarity with prisoners and wrote a series of solidarity messages to a number of IWW prisoners receiving ongoing support.



IWOC Workshop: Prisoner Solidarity Letter Writing

The event ended with what was undoubtedly, one of the loudest round of applause of the days events and the important work of organising on the inside. Those who attended returned to the rear of the building for several solidarity photographs with the Craigavon Two and also the CNT Xixón who are facing imprisonment by the Spanish State for their trade union activism.

SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE WORKERS

In Derry as in other parts of the country trade union, Palestinian and community activists gathered in solidarity with the people of Palestine on the 75th anniversary of Nakba. An event which marked the displacement of almost one million Palestinian people from their homes.

The event was organised by the Derry Palestine Solidarity Committee as a number of speakers called for an immediate end to the terror of Israel's racist state war machine, as well as several harrowing personal testimonies from some of those who spoke.

A member of the IWW in Derry said following the event that "This is probably one of the largest solidarity gatherings held at Free Derry Corner for some time so it's heartening to see this support and solidarity with the people of Palestine. Throughout Ireland there are a number of similar rallies being held today as part of a day of international solidarity with the Palestinian people.

"For ourselves as a union, our members have stood with the workers of Palestine and will continue to do so to demand an end to the daily horrors being carried out by of the Israeli State war machine. We are here in Derry, Belfast, Dublin, Cork and Galway in solidarity with the workers of Palestine. Our union supports the calls made today in demanding an end to this terror and an end the apartheid state of Israel."

IWW Derry

EDUCATE



AGITATE



ORGANISE



REGISTER FOR TRAINING TODAY!



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