

Canada Border Services Agency:
Drop All Charges Against
Alison Bodine!

On September 13, 2007, Alison Bodine, a central organizer with Mobilization Against War & Occupation and a well-known social justice activist was arrested by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Alison, a US citizen, was arrested when she attempted to legally cross the border at Peace-Arch border crossing, traveling from Canada into the United States.

Three days prior, on Monday Sept 10th, Alison was harassed by CBSA officials while traveling from the US into Canada after border officials searched her vehicle, which contained various political materials and progressive newspapers. At that time, however, she was granted legal entry into Canada. After her political materials and belongings were seized at the border on Monday Sept 10th, she returned to claim them on Thursday Sept 13th as she was returning to the US. At the border she was handcuffed and told she was under arrest, and that a warrant had been issued for her arrest in Canada. She was initially detained with no information given about the basis for her arrest, or the charges that she was facing.

This unjust and illegal imprisonment was met with a huge protest and organizing drive by the newly-formed Alison Bodine Defence Committee. On Friday afternoon, 80 people came together at the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) offices in Vancouver, demanding Alison's immediate release. Alison's case was soon picked up and covered locally and nationally by newspapers, TV and radio.

While in detention, officials constantly told Alison that there was no way she would be released from detention before Monday. But at 8:00pm on Friday, Alison was given notice by immigration officials that she would be released from custody immediately until her admissibility hearing on Monday Sept 17th – a major victory in the campaign for her freedom!

However, shortly before she was scheduled to appear for her hearing on Monday 17th, Alison learned from a CBC reporter that the CBSA had cancelled her Admissibility Hearing scheduled for 2pm that day. Alison herself was never officially notified by CBSA. When she presented herself at the CIC offices the next day, she was informed that her hearing had been postponed until Sept. 28th.

The CBSA postponement of Alison's hearing was a maneuver to delay because they knew they wouldn't be able to prove the charges they have made up so far. It was also an attempt to take away momentum from the campaign to have all charges against Alison dropped. However, this has proved completely unsuccessful. In just one week, the ABDC has collected over 1,200 signatures on a petition demanding "Drop all Charges Against Alison Bodine Now!". Letters of support have come in from concerned organizations and individuals around the world. These include letters from NDP MPs



Alison Bodine at a MAWO picket

Libby Davies and Bill Siksay, the 45,000-member Hospital Employees' Union, and Iglesia San Romero de las Americas church in New York City.

The latest victory in Alison's case came at her hearing on September 28th, when her lawyer successfully proved that the prosecution must give full disclosure of their evidence (which they have not done up till now) so that Alison can prepare a defence. Alison's admissibility hearing has been rescheduled to October 11th.

Alison's arrest is an attack on the basic democratic and human rights of all people, especially social justice activists, immigrants, refugees, non-residents and people without status. The illegal and unjust arrest and detention of Alison Bodine means the Government of Canada and its agencies want to continue and escalate the silencing of free speech and political expression and continue their terrorizing of people who oppose their policies at home and abroad and the new era of war and occupation. They are also testing and evaluating our response to defend ourselves against their attacks against us. The degree, seriousness, effectiveness and consistency of our defence impact their decision on how to further their repressive measures. We must demand:

Canada Border Services Agency: Drop All Charges Against Alison Bodine Now!

See the ad on the back of this newsletter for upcoming events or visit:
<http://alisonbodine.blogspot.com>
defendalisonbodine@hotmail.com

MAWO Supports CUPE
Workers' Fight For a
Fair Contract

On August 29th MAWO activists and organizers joined over 2000 striking CUPE workers as they took to the streets to voice their demands for a fair contract from the City of Vancouver. CUPE workers were joined by many supporters, including other unions such as the BC Teachers' Federation and the BC Government and Service Employees' Union. As of September 12, 2007, CUPE workers have been on the picket line for seven weeks.

The main demand of CUPE 391 (Library workers) is for pay equity between Vancouver's mostly female library staff, who only earn 64-82% of the wage earned by municipal workers. CUPE 15 (inside workers) is negotiating with the City of Vancouver over issues such as contracting out



MAWO participates in CUPE rally, August 29 2007.

of jobs, rights for auxiliary workers, harassment resolution and whistleblower protection. CUPE 1004 (outside workers) are negotiating over skilled trades adjustments and improvements to address exodus of skilled trades workers, benefit improvements and whistleblower protection.

As the government of Canada puts money into its war drive abroad, money is increasingly being cut from jobs and services for working people at home. MAWO stands in strong solidarity with CUPE Locals 391, 1004, 15, and all workers fighting to defend their lives and families against government cut-backs.

Solidarity Forever!

In Afghanistan...
Every Day is 9/11
Canada/NATO Out of Afghanistan!

October 7, 2001 marks six years of an ongoing tragedy: the US-led invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. The US justified this invasion by claiming they were out to find the terrorists responsible for the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre. They also claimed that they would liberate the people of Afghanistan from a totalitarian regime and bring democracy, women's rights, and a better quality of life to Afghans.

Six years later, any report card on the claims of the Canadian, US, and NATO occupying forces in Afghanistan would have them failing miserably. Tens of thousands of Afghans have been killed since 2001, although there is no record kept of exactly how many have died.

Six years later, and the occupying forces have not brought any of the claimed civil institutions to Afghanistan. Unemployment in Afghanistan is 78% (CBC News). Hospitals are non-existent, inaccessible, or face such great inadequacies in staff and medicine that they are unable to save lives. The "democratic" government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, completely controlled by Afghanistan's foreign occupiers, faces massive protests of corruption.

Six years later, and opium production in Afghanistan has increased 900%. Afghanistan now produces 90% of the world's opium, under the pressure of the occupation-backed warlords.

Six years later and the situation of women in Afghanistan has deteriorated



Students protest the occupation. Kabul, March 2007.

drastically. There are two million war widows in Afghanistan, many of whom have to raise a family without the economic support of their husbands. Access to education for women remains almost non-existent. These factors have contributed to a skyrocketing suicide rate among women in Afghanistan – the number of women burning themselves to death has risen 600% since 2001.

This is the sum total of what Canada, US, and NATO occupation has brought to Afghanistan.

But resistance to the foreign occupiers is rapidly growing and gaining ground in Afghanistan. As people grow increasingly disillusioned with the foreign occupation of their country and the corrupt, occupation-backed Karzai government, the Taliban is gaining support, as unfortunately the best equipped force fighting the occupation.

It is the bloody hands of the Canadian Forces that have

been leading the military campaign attempting to wipe out this resistance in Afghanistan. 70 Canadian soldiers have been killed in this brutal occupation that has brought no gain to people in Canada or in Afghanistan. Unknown thousands of Afghans have been killed as a result of Canada's occupation.

As the government of Canada continues to push for more killing and destruction in Afghanistan, we as peace-loving and humanist people in Canada must demand an end to this criminal occupation. We must call for an independent public inquiry into the Canadian war drive in Afghanistan, to seek answers for why the government of Canada has continued to push this war drive forward without public consultation or debate.

Canada/NATO Out of Afghanistan Now!
Independent Public Inquiry into the Canadian War Drive!

General Petraeus Report to
US Senate: Troops Must Stay!
Top General Signals "Go, Go" for
More Killing & Destruction in Iraq

General David Petraeus is the Commander of all 162,000 US forces occupying Iraq. Recently he has become common on the front of newspapers and television screens for delivering a report on the current status of the occupation. His face might be new to some people, as well as his mention of "withdrawing" some troops from Iraq. However, Iraq is still viciously occupied, and the US government still has long-term plans to continue the occupation. This despite the over 700,000 Iraqis they're responsible for killing since 2003.

Petraeus has said that since last January's "surge" of 30,000 more US troops to Iraq, the mission has been a success in meeting "most military objectives," and that the U.S. could conditionally withdraw to pre-surge levels, by next summer.

He is smart to limit his comments to "military" objectives –not even the best paid speech writer could create anything to convince anyone that the quality of Iraqi life has improved under occupation.

Some Recent Statistics As of May 2007, over 2 million Iraqis are displaced within their own borders, with between 1.3 million to 1.75 million more in Syria and Jordan alone. The international charity Oxfam also reports that 43% of Iraqis now live in

"absolute poverty," and as many as "eight million people are now in need of emergency assistance." CNN even reported that 70% lack access to adequate water supplies

So definitely not a humanitarian success, but a "military" one? How is that possible when attacks on occupying soldiers are up to a minimum of 163 per day? Just as damning, a new BBC news poll reported that about 70% of Iraqis believe security has deteriorated in the area covered by the surge. More damning than both of them, Petraeus' own report states "average daily attacks against civilians have remained unchanged from February to July 2007."

What Withdrawal? We even agree with the NY Times, Petraeus' report is just "another of the broken promises and false claims" which characterize the occupation. Pre-surge or post-surge troop levels, Bush still plans to ask Congress for up to \$50 billion in additional funding for the war in Iraq. This to add to the \$460 billion already promised in the 2008 defense budget. Anyone remember when Bush declared "mission accomplished" in Iraq? That was four years ago.



To summarize the US position in Iraq, Petraeus evoked a football game, "We are, in short, a long way from the goal line, but we do have the ball and we are driving down the field." Whatever he calls it, the U.S is driving nowhere but backwards in Iraq. And the occupation is no game. 30,000 troops withdrawn are not enough. 100,000 troops withdrawn are not enough. All troops must withdraw from Iraq immediately. The only way Iraqis will be able to build a just and peaceful country is without US guns aimed at their heads.

US/UK OUT OF IRAQ! TROOPS OUT NOW!

Hands Off Iran! US Targets Iran for a New War in Middle East



another savage and criminal war in the Middle East – this time in Iran.

Now, it is the duty and human obligation of all peace-loving, progressive, Iranian or non-Iranian people, not only in Canada or the US, but all around the world to wholeheartedly oppose this coming war on the people of Iran. Needless to say, we must defend the Iranian people regardless of the character, nature, and practice of the Iranian government. The point of defending the Iranian people against US military aggression UNCONDITIONALLY is that the political condition in Iran, and whatever tyrannical government rules Iran, is not an excuse for any foreign imperialist country to invade or attack Iran. Iran is a sovereign country and the self-determination of the Iranian people must be defended under any circumstance. Changing or overthrowing the Iranian government is the business of the Iranian people, who have three revolutions and dozens of mass movements in their history since 1891. Undoubtedly they are capable of carrying through this important task if they wish. The people of the world have not forgotten how the brave Iranian people in February 1979 overthrew 2,500 years of monarchy and kicked out US imperialism from their country. Having said that, we must understand the main reason that the US is attacking Iran is to attempt to roll back history and restore its hegemony in the Middle East that was lost with the 1979 Iranian revolution.

In the case that the US starts bombing and marching in Iran, come to the US consulate on the day of attack at 4pm and for the next day at the same time, and daily protests for the first week.

Iranian Committee Against War is a coalition of Iranians who are against war and occupation of Iran and all oppressed countries around the world. Please join us! Contact: iraniancommitteeagainstawar@yahoo.ca or 604-771-7290.

Who is MAWO?

The world today has entered a new era of war and occupation. As imperialist countries are facing terminal economic crisis, they have launched this new era as a strategy to prey on oppressed nations, colonial and semi-colonial countries of the world. The immense level of destruction they have brought to the world has increased anger and resistance towards this brutality.

We cannot afford to let the new era of war and occupation take humanity back to the dark ages. We must resist, fight back and stop it.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation is an engine for change that can directly challenge the highway of death that the

Alison Bodine is a US citizen and well known social-justice activist who was targeted by Canada Border Services Agency in September, 2007. She is now fighting for all allegations and charges against her to be dropped. This case is not about one politically-targeted activist, but is a fight for the rights of all human rights, refugees, immigrants, non-residents and political activists. Join the struggle and participate in actions leading up until Alison's Oct. 11th Hearing!

alisonbodine.blogspot.com

CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY:
**DROP ALL
CHARGES AGAINST
ALISON BODINE!**

WAS ARRESTED FOR PEACE!

Fri Oct 5	Sat Oct 6	Sun Oct 7	Mon Oct 8	Tues Oct 9	Wed Oct 10
Petition Drive! 3 locations throughout the Lower Mainland 10am-2pm Contact the Alison Bodine Defence Committee to get involved! Defence Rally! CIC Office 300 W. Georgia St 7pm 3:30pm	Forum "Why I Was Targeted!" CBSA Violates Civil Liberties SFU Harbour Centre (515 W. Hastings) 5:30pm	Petition Drive! University of Victoria 10am-4pm Forum On the Case of Alison Bodine and the Canadian & Cuban Terrorist Held in US Jails BCGEU Hall 13941 Douglas St. 7pm	Defence Rally! CIC Office 300 W. Georgia St 7pm	Petition Drive! & Press Conference CIC Office 300 W. Georgia St 12:00pm	Defence Rally! & Press Conference CIC Office 300 W. Georgia St 12:00pm

Thurs OCT 11

Admissibility Hearing & Defence Rally

10:30am

Citizenship & Immigration (Canada Offices)

800 W Georgia St (@Hastings)

Organized By: ALISON BODINE DEFENCE COMMITTEE
778-891-1470 / 604-339-7103 / 778-882-5223 / 604-780-4029 defendalisonbodine@hotmail.com
<http://alisonbodine.blogspot.com>

Free the Cuban 5

Held in U.S. Jails!

International Campaign

Sept. 12 - Oct. 8

<p>*Monday October 1st</p> <p>Simon Fraser University Forum & Discussion Forum Chambers 12:30pm-2:30pm Organized with: AMS Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq & Internationality</p>	<p>*Tuesday October 2nd</p> <p>Langara College Forum & Discussion Spindle Whorl Room (LSU) 12:30pm</p>	<p>*Wednesday October 3rd</p> <p>Capilano College Forum & Discussion Cedar Theatre (Cedar Bldg.) 12:30pm-2pm Organized with: Capilano Students' Union (CSU)</p>	<p>*Thursday October 4th</p> <p>University of British Columbia Forum & Discussion SUB 42U (Near 'the Dolly') 12:30pm-2:30pm Organized with: AMS Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq & Internationality</p>	<p>*Sunday October 7th</p> <p>FILM SHOWING: "The Trial" Western Canada Premiere! 6:30pm SFU Harbour Centre (515 W. Hastings St)</p>
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***Friday October 5th ***

"The Case of the Cuban 5
Held in U.S. Jails & Political
Prisoners in Latin America"
Forum, Discussion & Multimedia Presentation
7PM
Chilean Housing Co-op
(3390 School Ave)
Organized with: Solidarity Coalition for a United Latin America

**Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) &
Free the Cuban 5 Committee (FC5C) - Vancouver**

604.719.6947 | cuban5_van@yahoo.com

www.vancubasolidarity.com

MAWO Newsletter #16 Created by:

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9/11 Six Years Later: War on Terrorism: US Justification for War & Occupation

The flight of two planes into the World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001, was quickly accompanied by the opening of the US-led “War on Terror.” This huge escalation of attacks against oppressed people was the opening of a new era of war and occupation.



October 7, 2001, Afghanistan was the first to be invaded. The people of Iraq became the next victims on March 19, 2003. On February 26, 2004, the democratically elected government in Haiti was overthrown by a US/Canada/France-led coup d’etat. With full backing of the US and Canada, Israel attacked Lebanon and Gaza in the summer of 2006. On December 26, 2006, the US bombed Somalia and supported the invasion of 8,000 Ethiopian troops. On July 31, the UN passed Resolution 1769 to send 26,000 foreign troops to Sudan. Threats of attack



continue against Iran and Syria.

The US, Canada, and their imperialist rivals claim the people of these countries are “Muslim terrorists” or a threat to global security. Really, their only wrongdoing is to live in resource rich and strategically valuable areas. They are the casualties of huge competition between imperialists for whatever is left

of the world market.

9/11 happened six years ago, but for the millions of people living under war and occupation from Iraq to Somalia, every day is 9/11. As this era of war and occupation unfolds before us, we as oppressed people must not accept the racist lies of the “War on Terror,” and unite in the demands:

No to War and Occupation!
Yes to Self-Determination for all Oppressed Nations!
OUT NOW!

Get involved

with MAWO!

Meetings

Wednesdays - 6:30PM

For location, please visit our website:

mawovancouver.org

e. info@mawovancouver.org

p. 604-322-1764

f. 604-322-1763

International Campaign - Sept 12-Oct 8

Free the 5ive Cuban Heroes Held in US Jails!

Between 1994 and 1995, Cuba sent five unarmed men - Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González - on a mission to infiltrate and expose Miami-based terrorist groups such as Alpha 66, Omega 7, Brothers to the Rescue and the Cuban American National Foundation, the financial backbone of all anti-Cuban terrorist groups. These groups are responsible for hundreds of terrorist attacks, which have taken the lives of thousands of Cubans.

The list of atrocities committed by these groups is long. They include the bombing of hotels in Cuba, assassinations, the spreading of disease, sabotage and attacks against Cuba supporters in the U.S. such as the bombing of the Lincoln Center in 1978 after a Cuban ballet. One of the most horrendous attacks was the bombing of a Cuban airliner, which took the lives of 73 people in 1976. The Cuban 5

were valiantly struggling against this terror, putting themselves and their loved ones in mortal danger throughout the process.

In 1998, after having gathered sufficient evidence to expose the terrorists, Cuba released all the information that the Cuban 5 had gathered to the FBI. Immediately following this, the Cuban 5 were arrested and put in solitary confinement for 17 months. It was not until 2001 that these men were convicted. After a seven-month show trial (one of the longest in American history), the Cuban 5 were unjustly sentenced to between 15 years and double life, each in a separate maximum-security prison, in some cases barred from even seeing their families.

Join us in the battle to free the 5ive Cuban Heroes held in US jails!

Please see poster below for upcoming events in Vancouver.

www.mawovancouver.org