

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO - 16

newsletter

September 2007

mobilization against war & occupation

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.



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.



Anti-occupation protest in Iraq, Sept. 12th.

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!**

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



On August 28, US President George Bush declared that the US would "confront Tehran's murderous activities" in Iraq. In his report to the US Senate on Monday September 10, General David Petraeus, the commander of 163,000 US troops in Iraq claimed "there is very clear evidence of Iranian involvement in attacks on US forces in Iraq". US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (who always feels she shouldn't get behind in the race to blame every problem in Iraq on Iran), in response to Petraeus' report, stated that although security has been improved in Iraq, Iran is to blame for slowing the pace of security improvement since Iran has always been a "troublesome neighbour". Clearly, the US government and its failed military machine in the quagmire of Iraq is looking for a scapegoat to blame for the fact that it has completely failed in all its objectives (whether said or unsaid). Iran is a convenient target not only for their failure in Iraq, but for the preparation to attack Iran for another war and destruction in the Middle East.

It is unfortunate and saddening that once again, George Bush and the United States ruling elite have decided to roll ahead their bloodthirsty war machine, first in Afghanistan, second in Iraq and now in Iran to consolidate this era of war and occupation and to re-establish their hegemony over the Middle East. Since October 2006, the US has been carrying out a massive military buildup in the Persian Gulf - with 50 warships, many submarines, two aircraft carriers with more than 100 warplanes, stationed batteries of Patriot anti-missile systems, more than 6000 troops in naval groups and heavy bombing warplanes stationed in the Diego Garcia air base. In addition to military and political provocations, US troops in Iraq in at least five accounts have attacked Iranian diplomatic offices and arrested or kidnapped Iranian diplomats in the hope of provoking the Iranian government for a confrontation. There are still five Iranian diplomats held in US military prisons without sufficient evidence or due legal process. All evidence indicates that the US is marching to war for broad military aggression against people of Iran.

Once again the US bloodsucking rulers, who have killed 700,000 innocent people in Iraq so far, and who have completely destroyed civil society and normal life for innocent Iraqi and Afghan people, have decided to start the third phase of the war in the Middle East. In the interest of US corporations, and of plundering and pillaging the people of the Middle East for their oil and the entirety of their wealth, the US government is preparing to start

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: iraniancommitteeagainstarwar@yahoo.ca or 604-771-7290.

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.



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!**

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

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

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

imperialist military machine is forcing us along. Get involved in MAWO. Unite in a movement that fights against war, against occupation, and for the human dignity that we all deserve.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation is a coalition of over 70 endorsing members, most of which are student unions, Indigenous groups, women's organizations, groups from the third world and many grassroots organizations. We are people in struggle because we suffer at the hands of imperialist aggression either at home or abroad. We have the energy and drive for change, for world peace, and it is in our interest to make this change reality for all humankind! Join us!

Alison Bodine is a US citizen and a social justice activist who was arrested 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 human rights of all immigrants, refugees, non-political activists. Join the struggle and participate in actions leading up to Alison's Oct 21st hearing!

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>

Fri Oct 5 Petition Drive! 3 locations throughout the Lower Mainland 10am-2pm Contact the Alison Bodine Defence Committee to get involved.	Sat Oct 6 Forum "Why I Was Targeted!" CBSA Violates Civil Liberties SFU Harbour Centre (515 W. Hastings) 5:30pm	Sun Oct 7 Defence Rally! CIC Office 300 Hamilton St 3:30pm	Thurs OCT 11 Admissibility Hearing & Defence Rally 10:30am Citizenship & Immigration (Canada Offices) 800 W Georgia St (at Hamilton)	Tues Oct 9 Petition Drive! University of Victoria CIC Office 300 W Georgia St (at Hamilton St) 12:00pm	Wed Oct 10 Defence Rally! & Press Conference CIC Office 300 W Georgia St (at Hamilton St) 12:00pm
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Free the Cuban 5 Held in U.S. Jails!

**International Campaign
Sept. 12 - Oct. 8**

***Monday October 1st**
Simon Fraser University
Forum & Discussion
Forum Chambers
12:30pm-2:30pm
Organized with: AMS Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq & Internationality

***Tuesday October 2nd**
Langara College
Forum & Discussion
Spindle Whorl Room (LSU)
12:30pm

***Wednesday October 3rd**
Capilano College
Forum & Discussion
Cedar Theatre (Cedar Bldg.)
12:30pm-2pm
Organized with: Capilano Students' Union (CSU)

***Thursday October 4th**
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

***Sunday October 7th**
FILM SHOWING: "The Trial"
Western Canada Premiere!
6:30pm
SFU Harbour Centre
(515 W. Hastings St)

***Friday October 5th ***
"The Case of the Cuban 5
Held in U.S. Jails & Political
Prisoners in Latin America"
Forum, Discussion & Multimedia Presentation
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**
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