

MAWO Statement on the Situation in Iran

HANDS OFF IRAN!

June 23, 2009  
Vancouver, Canada

Since the June 12th 2009 Iranian election results, there has been constant coverage of opposition protests in Iran on every major Western news

and discrepancies. Not to mention, the illegal occupation of Afghanistan itself undermines any legal and fair election. Where is the voice of the majority of people in Canada, who for over three years, according to many independent and official polls, oppose Canada’s war in Afghanistan?



March on the Pentagon, Washington DC

source, with all sorts of “experts” on the situation in Iran and statements from the leaders of imperialist countries, as well as countless cell phone videos replayed despite their origin and authenticity being unconfirmed. As the internal issues of the Iranian people are suddenly the prime concern of media outlets and imperialist governments, this begs the question, where is the coverage of the US atrocities in Iraq, or the Canada/US/NATO crimes in Afghanistan? Why do protests of civil dispute warrant a media frenzy, but there is barely any reporting on the US drone attack on Northwest Pakistan which on Tuesday June 22nd killed at least 80 Pakistani people? As was done with the May 4th US air strikes in Afghanistan which killed over 140 Afghan people, will this be excused by the US government with another claim of “mistakes?”

Perhaps most directly interfering of all was the statement on Sunday from German chancellor Angela Merkel, who was the first leader of a major Western power to publicly demand a recount. There are claims that there were election discrepancies, and there are claims that there were not – it isn’t the job of the German chancellor to judge which claim is correct, and it is not her job to demand a recount. Not only does the German chancellor have no clear evidence to claim a recount is in order, this is a direct interference into the internal matters of a sovereign country! If Ms. Merkel is suddenly so concerned about the votes of Iranians, why does she not care about the racist and vicious attacks on Turks and Muslims in Germany, and the 2.5 million out of 4 million Turks who can not vote because of Germany’s undemocratic and reactionary laws?

While imperialist countries are playing out the situation in Iran on an international stage, the rights of Iran, as a UN nation-state member and sovereign nation, are being violated according to the UN’s own charters and resolutions. According to resolution 52/119 adopted by the UN general assembly in December 1997, the UN resolved “Recognizing that the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of any State should be respected in the holding of elections.”

Iran’s elections and disputes are an internal matter, to be resolved by the Iranian people and not the governments of imperialist countries with agendas of dominating Iran and a track record of using internal issues to justify military invasion. The Iranian people and government do not need “Big Brother” to tell them what to do. Throughout history, the Iranian people have constantly been in movement for change. Since the Tobacco Movement against the British empire in 1891 to the present day, the great Iranian people have managed three revolutions and ten mass movements or national movements in Iran. With such a track record for Iran, what credibility does any imperialist country have to lecture the Iranian people on how to fight for their rights and how to achieve change? One truly wonders what arrogance, trickery and racism these imperialist countries display.

In this current time, the Iranian people will determine for themselves what they will do for the future of themselves and their nation. As peace loving people, let us turn our attention to these civilized criminals sitting in Washington and Ottawa, whose crimes in this new era of war and occupation are committed every day against the people of Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Haiti, Pakistan, Cuba, Indigenous nations, and yes, also Iran. This is where our human obligation lies, in pointing the finger at the governments of the imperialist countries we live in, rather than countries under imperialist attack.

**Hands Off Iran!**  
**No Imperialist Intervention in Iran!**  
**Self-determination for Iranian People!**

MAWO Statement Against Escalating Imperialist Wars & Occupations

Unite Against the New Era of War & Occupation!

Wednesday July 8th, Vancouver, Canada

Since the 2001 US/Canada/NATO invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, our world has been facing a new era of war and occupation. This increasing war drive is conducted by imperialist nations as they plunder new resources and markets at the expense of oppressed people in the countries they are occupying.

In just the first week of July 2009, three more Canadian soldiers were killed in Afghanistan, bringing the death toll to 124 soldiers. This unjust, immoral and criminal war drive is not only killing young people in military uniform, but is killing innocent Afghan people.

For over three years now the majority of people in Canada have been opposed to Canada’s war and occupation in Afghanistan, according to different official and private polls. MAWO’s Canada Out of Afghanistan Campaign has so far collected more than 14,000 signatures in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland alone. More and more people in Canada are questioning why the government of Canada is conducting this brutal and criminal war drive in Afghanistan, and what they have achieved in eight years of using bombs, tanks, bullets, and weapons whose purpose is to kill not to heal.

Currently the Afghan people are facing a major US-led offensive, “Operation Khanjar” on the Southern Afghanistan province of Helmand, made up of over 4,000 US marines as well as other forces. We can remember the huge massacre of Afghan people from previous offensives, such as the Canada-led Operation Medusa in 2006 which killed over 1,500 Afghan people. We can expect this offensive to be even bloodier and more destructive. According to Brigadier-General Larry Nicholson, “What makes Operation Khanjar [Strike of the Sword] different from those that have occurred before is the massive size of the force introduced, the speed at which it will insert and the fact that where we go we will stay, and where we stay, we will hold.”

On May 4th, 2009, occupation forces in Afghanistan committed what was the deadliest massacre since the 2001 invasion, in which over 140 Afghan people were killed by US air strikes in the Western Farah province, as reported by Afghan authorities. This brutal and indiscriminate attack adds to the over 50,000 Afghan people that have been killed in eight years of war by Canada, the US and NATO. On Monday June 8th, the US military admitted that they had made mistakes in the May 4th air strikes in Farah, Afghanistan. So called “mistakes” is how they excuse the terrorizing of Afghan people and indiscriminate killings.

The ongoing massacre of Afghan people has been met with protests and demonstrations from people across Afghanistan, including on Sunday May 17th when hundreds of Kabul University students protested the attacks and mourned the death of their people. At the protest, Afghan student Ahmad Fahim said “We call on the international community, Afghan government to stop the killing of innocents, stop the killing of an Afghan generation.”

The US government have now extended their brutal war drive to Pakistan, with indiscriminate US missile drone attacks which have killed over 460 Pakistani people since August 2008. On Wednesday July 8th, over 30 Pakistani people were killed in two drone attacks on Pakistan’s South Waziristan district in just one day.

Under the pressure and full financial and military support from the US government, the government of Pakistan launched a brutal military operation in so called Taliban strongholds in Pakistan. Media reports put the death toll of this bloody offensive at over 1,600 people, and over three million displaced people.

In Iraq, the US led war and occupation is continuing to deny the Iraqi people of their self-determination, and continuing to deny them of their basic right to life. In over 6 years of war over 1.2 million Iraqi people have been killed in this criminal and unjust war. The horrors of war that US soldiers are committing are even affecting the soldiers themselves. On May 11th a US soldier who was at a combat stress clinic shot and killed five other soldiers. The father of one of these soldiers, Michael Yates Sr, stated, “They need to bring them boys home ... it should have been over.”

In Palestine, over 61 years of heroic struggle of the Palestinian people for their self-determination continues despite the recent genocidal siege on Gaza by the Israeli racist Zionist government. In just three weeks, over 1,400 Palestinian people were killed, half of whom were women and children.

Oppressed people at home and abroad are coming under vicious attack. However, their heroic resistance and fightback to demand and restore their basic rights to life, dignity and self-determination continue. As this new era of war and occupation is devastating humanity and mother nature, peace loving people must join together, in one united front, to demand an end to all imperialist wars and occupations.

**END THE OCCUPATIONS OF  
Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine & Haiti!**

**U.S. HANDS OFF  
Iran & Pakistan!**

**SELF DETERMINATION FOR  
Indigenous Nations & All Oppressed Nations!**

COMING SOON...  
SEPTEMBER 2009



MAWO Statement Against the Coup in Honduras

July 8, 2009  
Vancouver, Canada

After two decades, reactionary imperialist forces with the help of a bankrupt and corrupt military establishment once again conducted a coup d’etat against the will of the people of Latin-America. On June 28th, the democratically-elected President of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, was forced to leave his office by special army units. He was taken to Costa Rica and then Nicaragua. Honduran people were completely caught by surprise and shocked by the course of this brutality and suppression. The armed forces took over all the important institutions including the radio and television stations, and rapidly cut off all lines of communication in order to suppress the population and potential news leaks to outside of Honduras. People soon began to protest, and the illegal military junta found itself at odds with the resistance of the population against the coup. On July 5th, almost 200,000 people gathered in the airport outside of Tegucigalpa, the country’s capital, to welcome back their President who was unsuccessfully attempting to return to the country.

Zelaya was overthrown by military thugs because his line of progressive measures was helping people to improve their standard of living, and they were gaining confidence to fight for their rights - especially against imperialist domination. Since the military coup people have been resisting by strikes and all other forms of protest. Marches and rallies are happening



July 5, protest demands return of President Zelaya

every day all across Honduras, and fighting the coup d’etat regime has become the main agenda of hundreds of thousands of people.

The coup d’etat will not succeed because the social movement for change in Honduras had already started before this coup. In fact, the military coup was the

response of the oligarchy and pro-imperialist army to stop or at least to slow down this progressive movement.

The coup d’etat has provoked worldwide condemnation from Venezuela, Bolivia, Cuba and other Latin American countries, as well as the European Union. The Organization of American States (OAS) has condemned this illegal action and called for the reinstatement of President Zelaya. The coup d’etat regime has been completely isolated and has no choice but to step down.

We strongly condemn this coup d’etat, as well as the brutal kidnapping and beating of the Cuban, Venezuelan and Nicaraguan Ambassadors to Honduras. We demand the immediate release of Patricia Rodas, the Foreign Minister of Honduras.

We invite all peace loving people in Vancouver, and Canada to join millions of protesters around the globe to condemn this coup and demand that President Zelaya be returned to office immediately

**Imperialists Hands off Honduras!**  
**Re-instate President Manuel Zelaya Right Now!**



# A Suicidal Error

## Fidel Castro’s Reflection on the Coup in Honduras

In my reflection written last Thursday night, June 25, I said: “We do not know what will happen tonight or tomorrow in Honduras, but the brave conduct of Zelaya will go down in history.”

Two paragraphs before I noted: “What is happening there will be a test for the OAS and for the current United States administration.”

The prehistoric Inter-American institution had met the other day in Washington and in a muted, lukewarm resolution, promised to immediately take the pertinent actions to seek harmony between the warring parties. In other words, negotiations between the coup plotters and the constitutional president of Honduras.

The top military chief, still commanding the Honduran Armed Forces, was making public statements in disagreement with the positions of the president, while recognizing the latter’s authority merely in formal terms. The coup plotters did not need anything else from the OAS. They didn’t give a damn about the presence of a large number of international observers who traveled to that country to vouchsafe a popular referendum and to whom Zelaya spoke until late in the night. Before dawn today they deployed 200 professional and well-trained soldiers to attack the president’s residence. Roughly pushing aside the Honor Guard squadron, they then kidnapped Zelaya, who was sleeping at that point, took him to the air base, forcibly bundled him aboard an airplane and transported him to an air base in Costa Rica.

At 8:30 a.m. we heard the news of the assault on the Presidential residence and the kidnapping via Telesur. The president was unable to attend the opening event of the referendum that was to take place this Sunday. It was not known what they had done with him.

The official television channel was silenced. They wanted to prevent premature broadcast of the treacherous action via Telesur and Cubavision International, which were reporting the events. For that reason, they suspended all the retransmission centers and ended up by cutting off electrical power throughout the country. The Congress and the higher courts involved in the conspiracy had not yet published the decisions that justified the plot. First they executed the indescribable military coup and then they legalized it.

The people awoke with the deed consummated and began to react with growing indignation. Zelaya’s whereabouts was unknown. Three hours later, the popular reaction was such that women could be seen striking soldiers, whose guns almost fell out their hands out of pure confusion and nervousness. Initially, their movements resembled a strange combat against phantoms; later they tried to block the Telesur cameras with their hands, aiming their guns shakily at the reporters and at times, when the people advanced, falling back. They sent in armoured transport carriers with cannons and machine guns. The population argued fearlessly with the crews; the popular reaction was amazing.

At around two in the afternoon, working in coordination with the coup leaders, a domesticated majority in Congress deposed Zelaya, the constitutional president of Honduras, and appointed a new head of state, affirming to the world that the former had stepped down, and furnishing a forged signature. A few minutes later, from an aircraft in Costa Rica, Zelaya recounted everything that had happened and categorically refuted the news of his resignation. The conspirators made themselves look ridiculous before the world.

Many other things happened today. Cubavision dedicated itself totally to unmasking the coup, informing our population all the time.

There were actions of a purely fascist nature which, while not unexpected, still come as a shock.

Patricia Rodas, the foreign minister of Honduras, was the fundamental target of the coup leaders. Another detachment was sent to her residence. Brave and determined, she moved quickly, not losing a second to denounce the coup by all means available. Our ambassador contacted Patricia to find out what was going on, as did other ambassadors. At a certain point, she asked the diplomatic representatives of Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba to meet with her, given that she was being relentlessly hunted down and needed diplomatic protection. Our ambassador, who was authorized to offer maximum support to the constitutional and legal minister from the outset, left to visit her at her own residence.

When he was already in her house, the coup command sent in Major Ocegüera to detain her. They (the ambassadors) placed themselves in front of the woman and stated that she was under diplomatic protection and could only be moved in their company. Ocegüera argued with them respectfully. A few minutes later, 12 to 15 uniformed and hooded men entered the house. The three ambassadors put their arms around Patricia; the masked men, acting in a brutal manner, managed to separate the ambassadors of Venezuela and Nicaragua; Hernández took her arm and clasped it so strongly that the masked men had to drag them both toward a van; they drove them to the airbase, where they managed to separate them, and took Patricia off. As he (the Cuban ambassador) was detained there, Bruno [Rodríguez, Cuban foreign minister], who was informed of the kidnapping, called him on his cell phone; a masked man tried to grab it from him and the Cuban ambassador, who had already been struck while at Patricia’s house, yelled at him: “Don’t push me around, goddamn it!” I don’t recall if the word he uttered was used at any time by Cervantes but, doubtless, ambassador Juan Carlos Hernández has enriched our language.

After that they left him on a highway far from the embassy and before abandoning him, said that if he talked, something worse might happen to him. “Nothing is worse than death!” he replied with dignity, “and not for that do I fear you.”

People living in the area helped him to get back to the embassy, where he immediately communicated again with Bruno.

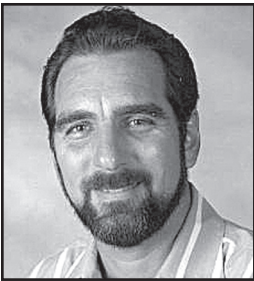
That coup high command cannot be negotiated with, they have to be made to resign and other, younger officers who are not committed to the oligarchy should take over the military command, or there will never be a government “of the people, by the people and for the people” in Honduras. The coup plotters, cornered and isolated, have no possible salvation if the problem is confronted with determination.

By the afternoon, even Mrs. Clinton had declared that Zelaya is the only president of Honduras, and the Honduran coup leaders can’t even breathe without the support of the United States. In his nightshirt up until a few hours ago, Zelaya will be acknowledged by the world as the only constitutional president of Honduras.



Fidel Castro Ruz  
June 28, 2009  
6:14 p.m.  
Translated by Granma International

## MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO ZELAYA



### From René González on Behalf of the Cuban Five

July 1, 2009  
Reprinted from Daily Granma

Dear compañero Manuel Zelaya, the sole and dignified constitutional president of Honduras:

Profound indignation has shaken our cells in the face of the brutal coup d’état in your homeland, reminiscent of a past that is still fresh in the historic memory of Central America.

It would appear that the sinister failed plot in Caracas and then successfully applied in Haiti is now seeking, with its dress rehearsal in Middle America, to reverse the inevitable historic tendency of our peoples toward overcoming their neocolonial conspiracies. Today it is the turn of the Honduran people, under your dignified leadership and in an America that is no longer the same, to take up the honorable challenge of permanently interring fascism, as an instrument of the outdated reactionary oligarchies for whom homeland is synonymous with miserable privileges.

Like you, we know from first-hand experience the brutality of being awoken by armed guards, being taken half-dressed from our homes, the ignoble utilization of judicial power to justify the crime, the employment of threats to demand renunciation, and of the starkest use

of lies for perverse aims. We also know of the joy inspired by the opportune combative expression of a daughter, the unconditional commitment of the family, or the clamor of universal solidarity, or the incomparable love of an entire people.

Identifying with your dignified position, a reflection of your moral superiority over the usurpers, we extend to you, from the empire’s prisons which, in the last 10 years, have never been able to incarcerate our dignity as revolutionary Cubans, the expressions of our unconditional support and the certainty that your people, armed with their own decency and their love of justice, will also overcome.

A strong embrace from the Five.  
Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando and René  
June 28, 2009.



**END THE OCCUPATIONS**  
Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Haiti & Tamil Eelam!  
**U.S. HANDS OFF Iran & Pakistan!**

**SELF-DETERMINATION**  
for Indigenous Nations, Tamils  
& All Oppressed Nations!  
**SATURDAY JULY 18**  
**2PM**  
VANCOUVER ART GALLERY  
750 HORNBY ST. AT ROBSON ST.  
**Mobilization Against War & Occupation**  
**Iranian Community Against War**  
**www.mawovancouver.org**

**CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!**  
INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S WAR DRIVE IN AFGHANISTAN!

**Monthly Picket Action!**  
**Thursday July 23**  
**4-5pm**  
Canadian Armed Forces Recruitment Center  
620 Royal Ave, New Westminster  
(Near New Westminster Skytrain and Douglas College)  
**www.mawovancouver.org**

**Get involved**

**with MAWO!**

**Meetings**  
**Wednesdays - 6:30PM**  
For location, please visit our website:  
**mawovancouver.org**  
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