

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 31

newsletter

March 2011

mobilization against war & occupation

IMPERIALISTS HANDS OFF LIBYA, SYRIA & IRAN!

U.S., UK, EU & NATO DON'T ATTACK LIBYA!

NO SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA!

LONG LIVE THE MASS POPULAR STRUGGLE IN NORTH AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST FOR FREEDOM, SELF-DETERMINATION & BASIC RIGHTS!

February 24, 2011

For more than two months people in North Africa and the Middle East, from Morocco to Yemen, have been in struggle for freedom, social justice, democracy, a better life, human dignity and self-determination. The growing momentum of this mass uprising has changed the social and political life of millions in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Bahrain, Libya, and to some extent, Syria and Iran. However, one must note that three countries, Libya, Syria and Iran, unlike the rest of the countries in the region, are not ruled by an imperialist client regime. In these countries, within the framework of being independent of imperialism, as well as the framework of the struggle of masses of people for their rights, the dividing line between revolution and counter revolution is more complicated. Fundamentally, the revolutionary movement that is unfolding today everywhere in North Africa and the Middle East is anti-autocratic and anti-imperialist in character.

The popular mass radical movement started in Tunisia in mid-December 2010, when an unemployed graduate student who was working as a street vendor set himself on fire in protest to humiliation and police brutality. After 28 days, on January 14, 2011, the protest rallies that were sparked and inspired by this incident forced the tyrant Ben Ali, the president of Tunisia for 23 years, to give up power and flee to Saudi Arabia. The popular mass struggle and victory in Tunisia elevated the social and political awareness in the already volatile atmosphere and generated

a powerful confidence in millions of people that sparked a chain of mass protests and revolutionary struggle across North Africa and the Middle East. Strongest of all of these mass uprisings was in Egypt, where 18 days of marches, rallies and strikes by all layers of society, especially poor and working people, finally brought down the vicious dictator Hosni Mubarak, after 30 years in power.

The victory of the people of Egypt and Tunisia has set an important example for other countries in the area in terms of increasing immensely the radicalization and consciousness of working and oppressed people. Furthermore, the similarity of the socio-economical crisis in the region

has reinforced the escalation of mass protest to all North African and Middle Eastern countries, either imperialist client regimes or independent ones, in the form of wide spread social and political unrest. The autocratic rulers of Tunisia and Egypt used all suppressive measures to crack down the mass protests. Hundreds of people were killed and thousands were injured, as well as hundreds of protesters were rounded up. However, mass killings and arrests did not demoralize and alter the protest movement. On the contrary, it encouraged more the heroic masses of Tunisia and Egypt to bring down their tyrants more effectively.

Without any doubt, the mass rallies and uprisings that have unfolded in the countries with overwhelmingly U.S. client regimes are in nature an anti-imperialist movement. The U.S. for decades has plundered the wealth and natural

resources of these countries. The U.S. has armed these regimes with all the weaponry and military assistance necessary to suppress their population for the interest of multinational corporations and blood-sucking imperialist financial institutions. How could it be that these massive protest movements against local client regimes do not aim at imperialist exploitation and domination? After all, all these movements are a reaction to imperialist domination and exploitation. In fact, the client regimes have only been the base of operation for imperialist countries and their corporations.

The revolutionary mass movement in North Africa and the Middle East has so far undoubtedly imposed a huge setback for imperialist hegemony in general, and the U.S. war-drive in particular, in the region. This revolutionary movement also created world-wide solidarity with people in struggle. However, it must be said that thus far the U.S. and other imperialists, with the help of international institutions and especially the mainstream mass media, have been able to manipulate the world public opinion to prevent more sympathy and solidarity, needed to support effectively the people of North Africa and the Middle East. They have also partially succeeded so far in bringing the focus of the mass movements to just two issues. One, that the struggle of the mass movement is only a fight against dictators! And two, that they support these mass social and political movements and are on the same side as the protest movement. They have tried to register this on the world scale as well as well as in the Middle East and North Africa. In other words, their effort so far has been to direct this dynamic revolutionary movement into a safe hub, diverting the growing awareness of the masses locally and internationally away from the role of the imperialists' destruction in the region. The U.S. and other imperial countries have been trying very hard to do this, with the instrumental help of whatever is left of the old rotten regimes in the Middle East and North Africa.

While this manoeuvring worked at the beginning of the mass movement, now it has become clear that in Tunisia and Egypt working people have already advanced their struggle to fight for rights beyond the dismissal of dictators.

In non-client countries, such as Iran, Syria and Libya, the U.S. and other imperialists are campaigning simultaneously for democracy and democratic rights, as well as for regime change. However, their campaign in countries like Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain, Jordan and Yemen is merely for "transition to democracy." All the while they are working with what remains of other client regimes to channelize the mass movement into a safe and harmless order. Essentially, the imperialists need to establish in the world that movements in all these countries, either imperialist client regimes or independent regimes, all have the same nature and character. But in fact, while they preach for transitional governments in the client countries, they propagate for regime change in independent countries, a clear practice of double-standards and hypocrisy. It is of vital importance to understand that there are two types of countries in North Africa and the Middle East; those that are independent of imperialist countries like Iran, Syria and Libya, and then all the rest, that in different degrees are client regimes, including Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Jordan, Bahrain and so on. In the latter countries, the mass movements must get rid of client regimes and imperialist domination. On the contrary, the mass movement in the independent countries must reinforce the anti-imperialist consciousness, in rejection of

imperialist domination and military intervention at the same time as they are fighting for a better government or regimes.

The return of imperialism to the independent countries and the establishment of client regimes in them is a severe harm and setback for working and oppressed people in the region. Such a defeat restores the balance of forces in favour of imperialism and brings back more misery and exploitation for decades to come. It is more troubling to realize that Iraq and Afghanistan are still under the boots of the U.S., UK, Canada and their allies and that Palestine is more remote than ever from any dignified solution. Furthermore, such a defeat changes the dynamics of opposing forces completely in favour of the U.S., not only in the region, but on a world scale.

We must understand that there is big difference between regimes like Mubarak in Egypt, Ben Ali in Tunisia and Ali Abdullah Saleh in Yemen, and regimes in Iran and Libya. The first three regimes have all been puppets of the colonialist countries, therefore people of those countries must oust those puppet regimes in order to advance the movement against imperialism. The regimes of the two latter countries are against imperialist domination in their countries and indeed are independent of imperialism (though they are not truly anti-imperialist regimes). We are against any attempt by imperialists to campaign to overthrow these independent, non U.S. client regimes, be they good or bad regimes. It does not mean we support them politically, not at all. If there is any struggle in these countries against their governments or regimes, it must be absolutely an internal affair without imperialists' interference.

Since the beginning of the mass revolutionary movements, the U.S. and European imperialists have not conducted such a regime change campaign as the one that is now conducted against Libya. Imperialist countries of the U.S. and Europe are serious about intervention in Libya. Condemnation of the Libyan government by the EU and the U.S., the proposal for a UN intervention, the emergency session of the UN Security Council to adopt policies and decisions to ease military intervention by NATO or the UN, the potential imposition of a no fly zone, the imposition all sorts of sanctions, and finally the asking for the removal of Gaddahfi by imperialist authorities including Barak Obama, the president of the United States, all and all are to undermine the self-determination of the people of Libya. Imperialists are taking advantage of the confusion around the internal conflict in Libya, advocating the re-instatement of a client imperialist regime in Libya, in order to be able to freely exploit the resources of Libya including the vast reserves of oil and gas. We condemn all imperialist campaigns for military intervention in Iran and especially in Libya and say loudly, U.S., EU hands Off Iran, Libya and Syria. We are against all sorts of sanctions against Syria, Libya and Iran. We DO NOT want another Iraq, we DO want another Egypt.

We invite everyone to join Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) to campaign against the military presence of imperialists in North Africa and the Middle East and demand: Stop meddling in the internal affairs of all these countries; Stop the false campaign and provocations against Iran and Libya; U.S., UK out of Iraq, and U.S., Canada, NATO out of Afghanistan; Stop sanctions against Iran and Libya. U.S. get out of North Africa and the Middle East!

THE CYNICAL DANSE MACABRE

Reflection by Fidel Castro

The policy of plundering imposed by the United States and their NATO allies in the Middle East has gone into a crisis. It has inevitably unravelled with the high cost of grains, the effects of which can be felt more forcefully in the Arab countries where, in spite of their huge resources of oil, the shortage of water, areas covered by desert and the generalized poverty of the people contrast with the enormous resources coming from the oil possessed by the privileged sectors.

While food prices triple, real estate fortunes and the treasures of the aristocratic minority reach millions of millions of dollars.

The Arab world, mainly Muslim in its culture and beliefs, has seen itself additionally humiliated by the imposition of blood and fire by a State that was not capable of fulfilling the basic obligations that were part of their origin, from the colonial order existing up to the end of WW II, by virtue of which the victorious powers created the United Nations Organization and imposed world trade and economy.

Thanks to the treason committed by Anwar El-Sadat at Camp David, the Palestinian State has not been able to exist, despite the UN treaties of November 1947, and Israel became a strong nuclear power, an ally of the United States and NATO.

The US Military Industrial Complex supplied

Israel with tens of billions of dollars every year as well as to the very Arab States that were submitted and being humiliated by Israel.

The genie has escaped from the bottle and NATO doesn't know how to control it.

They are going to attempt to wrest the most benefits from the regrettable events in Libya. Nobody can know at this moment what is happening over there. All the figures and versions, even the most implausible ones, have been spread by the empire via the mass media, sowing chaos and disinformation.

It is obvious that inside Libya a civil war is brewing.

Why and how did this happen? Who will pay the consequences? Reuters Agency, echoing the opinion of the well-known Nomura Bank of Japan, stated that oil prices could go beyond any limits:

"If Libya and Algeria suspend oil production, prices could reach a maximum of more than 220 dollars a barrel and OPEC's inactive capacity would be reduced to 2.1 million barrels per day, similar to levels seen during the Gulf War and when values touched 147 dollars a barrel in 2008; the bank asserted in an article."

Who could pay that price these days? What would be the consequences in the midst of the food crisis?

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INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY 2011

Free Public Forum

The Role of Women in the Fight Against War & Occupation

Tuesday MARCH 8

7:00pm Joe's Cafe (Large North Hall)

1150 Commercial Dr. at William St.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation(MAWO)

www.mawovancouver.org

Statement by Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) Regarding the Mass Struggle in Egypt, North Africa & the Middle East

February 5, 2011

The people of Egypt are in a struggle for their right to self-determination, their right to say “No!” to a U.S. backed dictator and U.S. domination and intervention in their country. Egypt is the second largest recipient of US military aid in the world, the first being Israel. For the last 30 years, the U.S. government has supported and backed Hosni Mubarak. Now that the people of Egypt are demanding that Mubarak leave, the U.S. is trying to figure out how to best continue its plunder and exploitation in Egypt as well as reducing the damage to as little as possible to the Zionist regime of Israel. This is what the people of Egypt are fighting against, against colonialism, imperialism and their local puppets. The U.S. government does not have the right to say who should or shouldn’t lead Egypt. U.S. HANDS OFF EGYPT!

Today in North Africa and the Middle East, an unprecedented historic event is unfolding. The people of Tunisia remain in the streets, not satisfied with just the departure of ex-President Ben Ali, but continuing to demand that all vestiges of his government are torn down. People in Egypt and their revolution continue to gather by the millions in the streets, vowing to remain until Mubarak leaves and their demands are met. They are joined by the mass struggle of people in Yemen, Jordan, Algeria, and now Morocco, and also those fighting against imperialist war and occupation in Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine and Iran.

In the last month, the call of struggle has been roaring across North Africa and the Middle East. As demonstrations continued in Tunisia, Lebanon, Yemen, Jordan, Algeria, and erupted across Egypt, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) supports the great heroic struggle of all these nations for self-determination, for justice, for liberation and above all for the dignity of humanity and FOR A BETTER WORLD.

All news and videos from both major and independent media clearly showed the peaceful character of these mass demonstrations and of the strong demands of the people of Egypt telling Mubarak to “Get Out!” and the US government not to interfere in the affairs of the people of Egypt. We especially salute the amazing and crucial role of young people in this revolution. Their power, strength, creativity, courage and intelligence have already provided

a sustainable movement for fundamental change.

The Iranian revolution of 1979 overthrew the puppet monarch and the dominance of U.S. imperialism for good. Today, the fundamental demand of the great Egyptian people is the same: to cut off the bloody hand of imperialism and its client regime at home. No wonder the U.S. government is shaking in their boots in the wake of the current uprisings and revolutions in Egypt and Arab countries. While on the surface, considering the international financial and economic crisis, it may seem that the mass struggle of people in Egypt is rooted in the domestic social problems and social crisis caused by these issues, in fact, this great mass movement is internationalist in scope.

This is vital and important to understand that 32 years after the Iranian revolution, the Egyptian uprising and revolution is again shaking the existence of imperialist presence and domination in North Africa and the Middle East. Mass movement in Tunisia, current ongoing revolution in Egypt, mass struggle in Yemen, Jordan and Algeria, all in all have rolled back the imperialist offensive that started with the new era of war and occupation in October 2001 with the occupation of Afghanistan and then Iraq and present preparation of war with Iran. From the point of view of the relationship of forces on the international scale, this is the most important achievement so far. Especially the continuation of resistance and struggle of millions of masses in Egypt has put the whole oppressed people of the region in a better position against imperialism and colonialism.

We call upon all people in Canada and everywhere around the world to join in solidarity with the people of Egypt, North Africa and the Middle East, who are not only fighting for just their rights, but fighting for the rights of all humanity. In this new era of war and occupation, a world of death, destruction and exploitation at the hands of imperialist governments like the US and Canada, it is more significant than ever that we, as peace loving people who believe in a better world, now have an example, millions of examples, of how that world can be won!

Long Live the people of Egypt!

Long Live the people of Tunisia!

Long live the people of Jordan, Yemen, and Algeria!

Reflection by Fidel Castro

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The main NATO leaders are all worked up. British Prime Minister David Cameron, ANSA informed, “...admitted in a speech in Kuwait that the western nations made a mistake in backing non-democratic governments in the Arab world.” One has to congratulate him on his frankness.

His French colleague Nicolas Sarkozy stated: “The extended brutal and bloody repression of the Libyan civilian population is disgusting”.

Italian Chancellor Franco Frattini stated as “‘believable’ the figure of one thousand dead in Tripoli [...] ‘the tragic numbers shall be a bloodbath.’”

Hillary Clinton stated the following: “...the ‘bloodbath’ is ‘completely unacceptable’ and ‘it has to stop’...”

Ban Ki-moon spoke: ““The use of violence in the country is absolutely unacceptable.”

“...‘the Security Council will act according to whatever the international community decides.”

““We are considering a series of options.”

What Ban Ki-moon is really hoping is that Obama pronounces the last word.

The president of the United States spoke this Wednesday afternoon and stated that the Secretary of State would be leaving for Europe in order to agree with their NATO allies on the measures to be taken. On his face once

could note the opportunity to spar with John McCain, the far-right-wing Republican senator, pro-Israel Senator Joseph Lieberman from Connecticut and the leaders of the Tea Party, in order to ensure the Democratic Party demands.

The empire’s mass media has prepared the terrain for action. There would be nothing strange about a military intervention in Libya; besides, with that, Europe would be guaranteed almost two million barrels of light oil per day, unless before that events would put an end to the leadership or the life of Gaddafi.

Anyway, Obama’s role is rather complicated. What will the reaction of the Arab and Muslim world be if blood should flow in abundance in that country as a result of that exploit? Would NATO intervention in Libya stem the revolutionary tidal wave surging in Egypt?

In Iraq, the innocent blood of more than a million Arab citizens was spilt when the country was invaded under false pretexts. Mission accomplished!: proclaimed George W. Bush.

Nobody in the world would ever agree with the deaths of defenceless civilians in Libya or anywhere else. And I wonder: will the US and NATO apply that principle on the defenceless civilians that the unmanned Yankee planes and the soldiers of that organization kill every day in Afghanistan and Pakistan?

It is a cynical danse macabre.

Fidel Castro Ruz

February 23, 2011.

Venezuela Rejects UK Foreign Minister Irresponsible Comments on Libyan Situation

Caracas, 22 Febr. AVN .- Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro rejected the comments irresponsibly made by the United Kingdom Foreign Affairs Minister William Hague to the press, who spread groundless rumors about that Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi was en route to Venezuela.

According to a statement issued by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, Maduro held a phone conversation with Libyan Foreign Minister Moussa Kousser, who rejected the rumors and affirmed that President Gaddafi was in Tripoli "exercising the powers granted by the state and facing the situation the country is living."

The two ministers agreed to maintain contact "to exchange first-hand information on evolution of the situation in the fraternal country."

Following, the complete statement issued by Venezuelan Foreign Ministry:

Statement by Venezuelan Foreign Ministry

The Minister of People’s Power for Foreign Affairs Nicolas Maduro held a telephone conversation on Monday afternoon, February

21, 2011, with the Libyan Foreign Minister Moussa Kousser, who is in the city of Tripoli, capital of the Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Foreign Affairs Minister Kousser Moussa informed to his Venezuelan counterpart that the leader Muammar Gaddafi is in Tripoli, exercising the powers granted by the state and facing the situation the country is living. Thus, he rejected the comments irresponsibly made by the United Kingdom Foreign Affairs Minister William Hague to the press.

Referring to the historic friendship that unites the Libyan and Venezuelan peoples, Foreign Minister Maduro expressed the hope that, in exercise of its sovereignty, the Libyan people find a peaceful solution to their difficulties; that it preserves the integrity of the Libyan people and the nation, without the interference of the imperialism in the region whose interests have been affected in recent times.

Finally, the Foreign Ministers of Libya and Venezuela agreed to maintain contact to exchange first-hand information on evolution of the situation in the fraternal country.

Caracas, February 21, 2011

PICKET ACTION

CANADA/US/NATO OUT OF AFGHANISTAN NOW!

THURSDAY MARCH 17 4:00 PM

CANADIAN FORCES RECRUITMENT CENTRE

620 ROYAL AVE (BEHIND DOUGLAS COLLEGE) NEW WESTMINSTER

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION - MAWO

WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

8 Years of War Devastation Resistance

Iraq Still Occupied

WW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

MULTIMEDIA - SPEAKERS - DISCUSSION

TUESDAY March 22 7pm

Joe's Cafe - in the Large North Hall

1150 Commercial Drive at William Street

Get involved with MAWO!

Meetings & Forums Tuesdays - 7:00PM

For location, please visit our website: mawovancouver.org

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t. 604-322-1764

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Benghazi, Libya

NO FOREIGN INTERVENTION

Ménamén, Bahrain

Baghdad, Iraq

Monthly Protest Action!

Free the Cuban 5!

Political Prisoners in the United States

Thursday March 10 4-5pm

U.S. Consulate 1075. W. Pender St. Vancouver, Canada

Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver www.freethe5vancouver.ca