

Feb. 24th Statement on Libya

continued from page 4

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 Gaddafi 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!



MAWO's Latest Button
To get buttons visit website

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 33
newsletter

April 2011

mobilization against war & occupation

DON'T BELIEVE LIES ABOUT LIBYA!

IMPERIALISTS DON'T TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT LIBYA, & NORTH AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Monthly Picket Action

FREE THE 5 CUBAN HEROES HELD IN U.S. JAILS

Thursday May 12 4-5 PM

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

WWW.FREETHECUBANHEROES.COM

CUBA TODAY: Discussion on the social and political conditions leading to the 6th Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba

CONGRESO PCC

Chilean Housing Coop
3390 School Ave.
(Behind the Safeway at Kingsway and Tyne)
Vancouver, Canada

Both events are free and begin at 7pm
Dinner will be served for \$5 a plate.

www.vancouverbasolidarity.com

Who's MAWO?

Mobilization Against War and Occupation is a coalition of over 50 endorsing organizations and also individual members, most of which are working class organizations, student groups, grassroots organizations, and ethnic communities. This is including Indigenous activists and groups from the third world as well as women, youth and elder fighters for social justice and against war and occupation. We are the people in struggle because we are people that suffer at the hands of imperialism. We have the energy, drive and will for change because it is in our interest to make this change in order to create a better world for all of humanity!

Get involved with MAWO!

Meetings & Forums
Tuesdays - 7:00PM
For location, please visit our website:
mawovancouver.org
e. info@mawovancouver.org
t. 604-322-1764
f. 604-322-1763

*** Upcoming Organizing Meetings ***

Tuesday April 26 & Tuesday May 10
7:00pm
Britannia Community Center
Learning Resource Centre
1661 Napier Street

The Federal Election and the Government of Canada in the New Era of War and Occupation

What does this latest Federal Election in Canada mean for the antiwar movement?

TUESDAY May 3, 2011 7PM

Joe's Cafe
Large North Hall
1150 Commercial Dr.
@William St.

Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) Open Letter to Stopwar.ca & the Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA)

To Stopwar.ca and the Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA),

I
We in Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) are sending you this open correspondence to express the grave concerns we have with your organizing of the April 9th demonstration in Vancouver. Your approach and politics on this day were without a doubt against the spirit of building an antiwar, anti-occupation movement not only in Canada but throughout the world. Imperialist countries and their military fronts such as NATO are beginning to sink their teeth into Libya while continuing the brutal wars and occupations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Somalia, Sudan, Palestine and beyond. This is a crucial time for the antiwar movement and we need an open and honest discussion or risk seeing further capitulation to the pro-imperialist political and military campaign against Libya.

The CPA's cross-Canada participation in the April 9th International Day of Action called by the United National Antiwar Committee (UNAC) in the U.S. was a breakthrough in cross-border unified action. We have been advocating for years that working with U.S. groups and coalitions is an essential aspect of a strategy to build a broad, united and effective antiwar movement.

Thousands rallied in New York and San Francisco, while coordinated rallies were held in 10 Canadian and 6 Pakistani cities, as well as demonstrations in Iraq on April 9th. These mobilizations built on the momentum of other successful coordinated rallies called by the ANSWER Coalition on March 19th. This broadly coordinated action has been missing for too long from the antiwar movement in Canada, and we fully endorse its continuation on a hopefully increasingly frequent basis. However, based on the events during the rally organized in Vancouver by Stopwar.ca and the CPA's public statements regarding the current crisis and NATO bombing in Libya, we are concerned that the political direction of these actions in Canada is unclear at best, and could even be understood at worst as pro-war.

At the Stopwar.ca rally in Vancouver we saw that two speakers invited by Stopwar.ca spent 15 minutes justifying and advocating IN FAVOUR of the current NATO bombing of Libya. Do the following quotations from the Stopwar.ca rally really have a place at an antiwar rally occurring in the midst of a bloody imperialist campaign to intervene in a civil war and overthrow the independent government of Libya?

- "If you don't want war on Libya, what is your alternative?"

- "He [Gadhafi] has an unbelievable media machine, he spends billions and billions that tries to paint the picture that NATO is bombing Libyan people. NATO is not bombing Libyan people!"

- "This [the bombing of Libya] is not like Iraq, this is not like Afghanistan, this is not a foreign occupier coming onto our land!"

- "If you don't want those people [foreign forces] to get inside of Libya and you want to stop them you are saying, 'Let Ghaddafi kill us!'"

- "You are giving us the wrong message. You are saying its okay for civilians to get killed but it is not okay for NATO to help us!"

- "Do you have a heart?!" (shouted at someone speaking against the bombing of Libya from the crowd)

At least 10 people in the crowd responded to these pro-war speakers by shouting, "Stop bombing Libya!" while one of the more vocal critics of the pro-war speakers who is a long-time social justice organizer was surrounded and closed in on by three Stopwar.ca marshals. Even after it was clear to everyone involved what these pro-war Libyans were advocating, the Stopwar.ca MCs invited yet another one to speak!

Stopwar.ca and CPA co-chair Derrick O'Keefe spoke at the end of the rally to confirm that they had invited these speakers knowing full well the pro-war message they were going to put forward. He said, "We invited the Libyan speakers who we've been in touch with even though there's a difference in opinion about NATO's intervention, we thought it was important for them to have their say." In fact, Derrick O'Keefe, and both of the Stopwar.ca MCs tried to justify this position to the rally, as if the pro-war position on Libya is somehow being unfairly under-represented. When Derrick O'Keefe said "We know its our job to stay on the streets and to bring the truth," this shouldn't mean the so-called "truth" that the government of Canada is putting forward by participating in bombing the Libyan people! Though Derrick O'Keefe mentioned that Stopwar.ca as a coalition had voted to oppose

imperialist intervention in Libya, the time given to this supposed position was nothing compared to what was given to the pro-war Libyans. We must ask how Stopwar.ca can justify writing a statement which says they are "absolutely opposed to the NATO bombing of Libya, which is a shocking violation of the UN Charter and an act of war against a sovereign country" and then give such a huge amount of space to a pro-war message we can all hear 24/7 if we turn on CNN, FOX News, BBC or any of the other advocates of imperialist wars and occupations.

There is no justification for having pro-war speakers at an antiwar rally. There is no space for presenting such confusion in a public action that is supposed to be about taking a stand against war and occupation.

Unfortunately we have seen examples of this kind of behavior from Stopwar.ca over the past several years and in the weeks leading up to the demonstration. For instance, Stopwar.ca has invited speakers who advocate the overthrow of the independent government of Iran in the midst of an imperialist campaign demanding the same. They have also promoted other speakers who have compromised antiwar, anti-occupation political principles. Most recently, leading up to April 9th Stopwar.ca played an active role in weekly demonstrations organized by pro-war Libyans. In supporting these demonstrations Stopwar.ca showed a complete indifference and lack of responsibility for their actions as an antiwar coalition in the midst of a new war opening against the people of Libya.

Because of our experience in Vancouver we are concerned that similar events played out in other demonstrations across Canada. Did these other rallies also have pro-war speakers? The CPA, as an umbrella antiwar organization in Canada, has the responsibility to provide leadership and a clear political direction to its membership organizations, especially at such a crucial time.

We have read the statement released by the CPA "Support the Libyan people. Yes to freedom and democracy across the Arab World! No Military Intervention in Libya." The confused position that was presented at the April 9th demonstration reflects this confused statement, which concludes, "The best way to help the people of Libya is to show our solidarity with their struggle." Our role as antiwar coalitions is not to take sides in a civil war in an independent country under attack by imperialists, but to clearly oppose any form of foreign imperialist intervention which has never, and will never, benefit the people of that country. You can't have it both ways at once - to join in the imperialist campaign used to justify the bombings while saying that you oppose the bombings at the same time.

There is much to be learned from the coalitions that have organized rallies in the US since the imperialist campaign against Libya began. Through statements, as well as the March 19th, March 26th and April 9th mobilizations, organizations such as ANSWER, the International Action Center (IAC) and UNAC have taken a strong position against the current war on the people of Libya. The difference is that, in contrast to what we observed in Vancouver, in the US the actions of these antiwar and social justice organizations match their words. From the lead banners to the signs and rally speakers, to the UNAC report from NYC which stated, "The new war in Libya has given rise to a new movement, as the largest anti-war demonstration New York has seen in years took to the streets of Manhattan." There was no contradiction or confusion as they had the leadership to take a strong stance against imperialist intervention in Libya. This is an example for all of us to follow.

II

MAWO has been participating in the same efforts, in the spirit of anti-imperialism, cooperation, and antiwar movement building. Starting from even before the bombing of Libya began we have organized 5 forums and 3 rallies, as well as produced 2 buttons and launched a petition campaign, all against foreign intervention in Libya. We have also produced 3 antiwar newsletters filled with news and analysis to counter the lies being spread by imperialist media on Libya and the uprisings and mass movements in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Within this newsletter are ideas and statements we think are crucial at this time and are much more appropriate be said at antiwar rallies:

"There is no saving of human lives or any humanitarian intervention on behalf of the Libyan people that can be performed by imperialist powers. Indeed, this is such an obvious hypocrisy by these war mongers because none of those precious human values mean anything to them. One, we haven't

continued on page 7

MAWO Open Letter

continued from page 2

forgotten the killings of millions of people in Vietnam, more than a million people in Rwanda, killings of more than one million people in Iraq just from 2003 until now, as well as hundreds of thousands of innocent people in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Congo, Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia and many other poor and sovereign countries by the very same imperial powers." (read full statement on page 3)

"This is a time to abandon all illusions that there might be anything progressive and human to overthrowing the Libyan government or helping the opposition in Libya through imperialist intervention such as sanctions, a no-fly zone or military attacks...The unfolding mass revolutionary movement and ousting of Mubarak and Ben Ali in Egypt and Tunisia have been a fresh struggle for anti-imperialist movements in the region. It certainly reversed the setback imposed on the working and poor people of the world through the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. What the great masses of North Africa and the Middle East need to see is not another Iraq but rather another Egypt." (MAWO statement page 3)

III

Since our founding on October 29, 2003 MAWO has always endorsed and supported Stopwar.ca, the CPA and other groups whenever they have organized antiwar work. However, we are also clear that we don't feel that bringing occasional celebrity speakers and holding sporadic events not connected to consistent campaigns is enough to even begin scratching the surface of building a strong antiwar movement. This is unlike what we have seen in the U.S. where there is a constant effort by different political tendencies to improve and build new fronts against imperialist aggression. We have rarely spoken out publicly about the huge blocks and slander we have faced for years in our efforts to work in a united way either with Stopwar.ca or the CPA, but now is not the time to remain silent. Now is not the time to remain divided based on petty or sectarian differences, now is the time to learn from the people of the Middle East and North Africa as they rise up and counter the imperialist domination they have faced for decades. Interestingly and ironically, as a Canadian-based coalition, more so than in Canada, our efforts for unity have had a great welcoming by U.S. coalitions and social justice groups such as ANSWER, UNAC, IAC, the Stop War On Iran coalition, IFCO/Pastors for Peace and others.

We are making a strong call to Stopwar.ca and the CPA:

1- Stop taking the unclear middle of the road path and arm yourselves with a clear antiwar, anti-occupation platform by rejecting saying one thing and doing the opposite.

2- Organize an open, inclusive, broad and well organized public discussion on how to build a united and effective antiwar movement in Canada and world-wide.

We believe these are the only serious options in response to the current situation. Today in a joint letter the presidents of the United States and France and the prime minister of Britain declared, "there can be no peace in Libya while Muammar Gaddafi stays in power," "Libyans in cities like Misrata and Ajdabiya continue to suffer 'terrible horrors at Gaddafi's hands,'" "it is impossible to imagine a future for Libya with Gaddafi in power," "To allow him to remain in power 'would be an unconscionable betrayal'"

'For Peace & Against Foreign Intervention in Libya' A call by the Network in Defense of Humanity

March 11, 2011

Yesterday morning, in the Casa de Alba in Havana, the call "For Peace and Against Foreign Intervention in Libya," was announced. The text has been signed initially by more than 260 personalities from 35 countries. Among the notable signers are István Mészáros, Alfonso Sastre and Pablo González Casanova. Representing Cuban intellectuals who backed this initiative of the In Defense of Humanity network are Eduardo Torres Cuevas, recipient of the National Prize of Social Sciences, creators Luis Morlote Rivas, audiovisual artist; and Jaime Gómez Triana, theater; who spoke with the press.

The text of the Call, which was announced simultaneously in Caracas, Buenos Aires and Havana, is the following:

For peace and against foreign intervention in Libya

In the last two months a wave of people's protests has shaken vast regions of the Arab world, in the Middle East and north Africa.

The just indignation of the oppressed has led to revolutionary changes, which the world hegemonists are perfidiously and opportunistically trying to manipulate. The

of Libya's people," "So long as Gaddafi is in power, NATO and its coalition partners must maintain their operations so that civilians remain protected and the pressure on the regime builds," and finally "Then a genuine transition from dictatorship to an inclusive constitutional process can really begin, led by a new generation of leaders." All quotations are from the BBC, and the complete letter is in the Washington Post April 14, 2011. Isn't it clear what colonial powers are up to in Libya? Is this different than what the Libyan opposition or the pro-war Libyans that participated in your rally say? Where is this confusion of giving a big platform to pro-imperialist, pro-war Libyans coming from?

Let us discuss these issues out in the open. We cannot let the mistakes of April 9th keep us from moving forward. Those mistakes create confusion among the masses that we would like to take a stance against imperialist aggression around the world, and if continued they will indeed promote what imperialist countries are advocating. We must clearly oppose this new era of war and occupation which began in 2001 in Afghanistan, and do our part to counter it by organizing, educating and mobilizing masses with a clear antiwar, anti-occupation platform as the colonial powers continue on this bloody path today, in 2011, against Libya. We believe these politics, and this proposal for a public discussion, are the way to build a broad, united, and effective antiwar movement.

Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)
April 14, 2011
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Two examples from an audio transcription of remarks by the organizers:

1- Derrick O'Keefe (Co-chair, Stopwar.ca and CPA)

"We've been working with the Tunisian, Egyptian and Libyan communities here to build solidarity for their uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East. And we did today, we invited the Libyan speakers who we've been in touch with even though there's a difference in opinion about NATO's intervention, we thought it was important for them to have their say. So it was a decision that we made democratically as a coalition. We thank those of you that had a respectful dialogue when there was disagreement and we thank you for listening. Umm, and think it is important, umm and time over time, time will tell that NATO's intervention is not in good faith. And time will tell that NATO's intervention is going to bring more death and destruction to people in Libya who have already suffered so much for so many years."

2- Roger Annis (One of the MC's of the Vancouver, April 9th rally)

"But we're also aware of the fact that there is a significant body of opinion in Libya that we have heard today expressed in what they think is required to do - so we will continue to listen to that point of view, and we will continue to discuss and debate it. We hope to learn from the experiences and the opinions of our Libyan brothers and sisters - we expect that to be a mutual exchange as well. We are living in very very difficult times in Libya and throughout the Middle East. So one thing we can all agree on, and that's why we're here today - is to oppose war, to oppose military intervention, to support people's power, to support the great Arab awakenings of 2010-2011, and with its continuation in the years ahead. To support the right without condition of the people of the Middle East to freely determine their political future and the establishment of democracy."

STOP THE U.S. WAR AGAINST LIBYA & BAHRAIN!

International Action Center (IAC)* Statement

March 18th, 2011

On March 17, 2011, Washington showed its true intentions by pushing through a U.N. Security Council resolution that amounts to a declaration of war on the government and people of Libya.

A U.S. attack is the worst possible thing that could happen to the people of Libya. It also puts the unfolding Arab revolutions, which have inspired people across North Africa and Western Asia, in the gravest danger.

The resolution goes beyond a no-fly zone. It includes language saying U.N. member states could "take all necessary measures" ... "by halting attacks by air, land and sea forces under the control of the Gadhafi regime." (CNN.com, Mar 17)

The new resolution not only calls for attacks on Libyan aircraft and air defenses, but authorizes the strafing and bombing of ground forces as well. The U.S. and French governments immediately announced that they were ready to go. Britain and Italy are aiding. In essence the former colonial powers have begun an armed attack on the Libyan government and its people, backing one side of a civil war.

No matter how one feels about Libya today and the role of the Gadhafi government; regardless of how one evaluates the Libyan opposition, a U.S.-led war or intervention in Libya is a disaster for the Libyan people, and for peace and progress around the world.

Bahrain exposes the lie about "preventing attacks on civilians"

The U.S. and its allies are repeating over and over the lie that they are trying to "prevent attacks on civilians" and are acting from humanitarian motives. But nobody should be fooled. Consider these "humanitarians" and how they react to Bahrain.

The U.S. Fifth Fleet is based in Bahrain, which is an absolute monarchy. Its people have been valiantly trying to change their government for weeks. They had some initial success. The king responded with deadly repression and later with hints at reform.

On March 14, however, hours after Secretary of Defense Gates visited Bahrain, the Bahraini government commenced a brutal crackdown, backed up by Saudi Arabian troops. Helicopters, tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition were used, killing and injuring many people. Nearly all of Bahrain's security forces are foreign mercenaries.

Unlike the Libyan rebels, the Bahraini people have absolutely no arms. But there has been no talk of a no-fly zone over Bahrain, let alone attacks on the murderous Bahraini and Saudi armies.

No blood for oil

This is because the real motivation for the U.S. and its allies in both Bahrain and Libya, and indeed the whole region, is to control the OIL! It is Washington's main strategic interest and a primary financial interest for U.S. big business.

This is true even though the U.S. is not directly dependent on imported oil from Libya. Oil is a worldwide commodity, and any country which imports oil must deal with a world market, no matter from which individual country or countries they import the oil.

Of even more importance to the U.S. and Europeans is who controls the flow of oil. A military presence or a reliable puppet in Libya would give Washington—and to a lesser extent the European imperialists—control of the oil spigot to Europe and also establish a military presence in North Africa from which to influence or prevent the development of the revolutions, especially in Egypt and Tunisia.

Arab League "Vote" Fraud

Not only a demonization campaign against the Libyan leader, but every form of fraud and propaganda is being used to push for this intervention, including a supposed "vote" by the Arab League supporting the latest U.N. resolution. Left unsaid is the fact that only 11 of the 22 members of the League even attended the meeting, which was held behind closed doors. Two of these 11 attending members, Syria and Algeria, made clear that they were completely opposed to military intervention in Libya.

Meanwhile the corporate media has ignored a resolution by the African Union, representing 53 countries, which adamantly rejected a no-fly zone or other intervention.

What about Gaza?

The U. S. blocked any UN action, even a toothless resolution, during the massive Israeli bombardment of Gaza in 2008 and also during the Israeli bombing and attempted invasion of Lebanon in 2006, as well as the continued bombardment of Gaza as recently as this week!

It is important that peace-loving and progressive people around the world develop a consistent approach opposing ALL U.S. intervention. This is the only way to avoid becoming just an echo of the U.S. State Department and Pentagon.

U.S., French, British, Italian hands off Libya!

NO to the U.S. supported attack on the people's movement of Bahrain!

U.S. Out of Arab and African Lands!

Stop the U.S. War Against Libya & Bahrain!

* International Action Center (IAC) is a national Social Justice Organization in the U.S.

<http://www.iacenter.org>

Statement by Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)

DON'T ATTACK LIBYA! US, CANADA, UN, NATO HANDS OFF LIBYA! STOP NO-FLY ZONE OVER LIBYA!

March 17, 2011

Yet again the United Nations Security Council, this criminal tool of the US war machine, decided to bring another sovereign country to the bloodbath. Today, Thursday, March 17th, the UN Security Council passed a resolution (10 for, and 5 abstaining), that not only imposes a no-fly zone over Libya, but in detail gives all possible options for imperialist countries to attack Libya with whatever they may see fit. With resolution 1973, the US, UK, Canada, France and all other imperialist countries declared war on the people of Libya. The United States of war, destruction and killing successfully brought together a coalition of war mongers under the shameless new fake term of the "International Community." Immediately after passing resolution 1973, the United States, France, UK, Italy and NATO announced that they are ready to act and impose a no-fly zone and whatever necessary measure needed to be taken against Gadhafi and the Libyan government. Here in Canada, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, not lagging behind, instantaneously announced that Canada will send 8 CF-18s fighter jets to help enforce the UN resolution of a no-fly zone over Libya. Furthermore, Canada's foreign affairs minister, Lawrence Cannon, stated "Canada is open to all options", and when asked if this means deploying troops on the ground he responded, "protecting citizens that are being literally murdered by Gadhafi, is what the resolution calls for."



We need to remind ourselves that resolution 1973 is not to bring democracy and human rights to the Libyan people. There is no saving of human lives or any humanitarian intervention on behalf of the Libyan people that can be performed by imperialist powers. Indeed, this is such an obvious hypocrisy by these war mongers because none of those precious human values mean anything to them. One, we haven't forgotten the killings of millions of people in Vietnam, more than a million people in Rwanda, killings of more than one million people in Iraq just from 2003 until now, as well as hundreds of thousands of innocent people in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Congo, Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia and many other poor and sovereign countries by the very same imperial powers. These crocodile tears are not for human lives in Libya but it is for the oil and gas of Libya, which has the proven largest underground reserves in Africa. Two, how ironic and preposterous it is that the so-called international community includes the backing of the Arab League which in its latest meeting only 11 out of 22 countries participated with 2 against a no-fly zone. How credible would be the support of the Arab League for the no-fly zone when only 40% are in agreement. However there has been almost no mention of the African Union (AU), with 53 countries and the Organizations of Islamic Countries (OIC), with 57 members, where both organizations utterly rejected any foreign interference or intervention in Libya. "The African Union last Friday [March 11] meeting in Addis Ababa rejected any military intervention in Libya urging the international community to observe the rules of international laws and find a non military intervention strategy to end the crisis", and "The meeting [OIC, March 8] emphasized the imperative of respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity of Libya and non-interference in its internal affairs stressing the principled and firm position of the OIC against any form of military intervention to Libya." How preposterous it is that the two Arab countries which are so far participating in the no-fly zone, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, are both participating as mercenary forces in killing people and supporters of the opposition in Bahrain. How credible are these and Arab countries like Yemen, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other s that while they are killing their own opposition members or helping other

countries to suppress their opposition, now are so concerned about the opposition in Libya. Why are these countries and their imperial masters conducting such a huge campaign against the Libyan government and advocating a no-fly zone, military attack and sanctions while they are completely silent on the violence being perpetuated on millions of people in North Africa and the Middle East, namely the suppression and massacring of people and protesters in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Furthermore, in the case of Bahrain, the security and special forces from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE, are acting as mercenary forces to suppress the growing opposition.

Third and not least important is that the new war drive in the Middle East and North Africa which is unfolding against Libya, is a very important strategic move by the United States and other colonial powers. The mass revolutionary movement that started in late December 2010 in North Africa and the Middle East has changed the balance of forces further in favour of the working and oppressed people of this region. It definitely slowed down the US war preparation against Iran and sank them more deeply in the quagmire of Iraq and especially Afghanistan. This mass movement is in its early stages of development. With the US attacking Libya, they are clearly attempting to roll back

the powerful revolutionary movement started more than two months ago. By defeating the government of Libya, it reinforces the army and police against protesters everywhere in North Africa and the Middle East. Of course the defeat of government forces in Libya also means a great opportunity for imperialist forces to either influence the opposition forces more or to get rid of them altogether.

All progressive and peace-loving people and organizations must strongly condemn this new war drive. We must come together as a real international community to stop this new madness by the US and other colonial powers.

Needless to say, in this critical time our unity is essential to defend the people of Libya, the people of the Middle East and North Africa and to build an effective antiwar movement. This is the time that all antiwar and anti-occupation organizations come together under one clear strategy against all US and other imperialist military interventions. This is a time to abandon all illusions that there might be anything progressive and human to overthrowing the Libyan government or helping the opposition in Libya through imperialist intervention such as sanctions, a no-fly zone or military attacks. It is clear as sunshine that an imperialist military attack is imminent and the consequences of this attack will be catastrophic for humanity. The unfolding mass revolutionary movement and ousting of Mubarak and Ben Ali in Egypt and Tunisia have been a fresh struggle for anti-imperialist movements in the region. It certainly reversed the setback imposed on the working and poor people of the world through the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. What the great masses of North Africa and the Middle East need to see is not another Iraq but rather another Egypt. Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO), strongly condemns the UNSC resolution 1973, the imposing of a no-fly zone on Libya, and the undermining with any justification of the self-determination and sovereignty of the Libyan people. We demand:

- DON'T ATTACK LIBYA!
- US, CANADA, UN, NATO HANDS OFF LIBYA!
- STOP NO-FLY ZONE OVER LIBYA!
- REVOKE UNSC RESOLUTION 1973 AGAINST LIBYA!
- ALL IMPERIALISTS OUT OF NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST!

The Colonial "Axis of Evil" Prepares for the Invasion of Libya U.S., Britain and France Step Up War Plans

ANSWER* Statement

April 15, 2011

The stage is now set for the imperialist invasion of Libya.

The former colonizing and enslaving powers of Africa—Britain, France and the United States—have committed themselves to the ouster of the Libyan government.

Frustrated that the NATO bombing campaign has failed to secure a victory for the anti-Gadhafi rebels, the main NATO powers are preparing a dramatic escalation of the war. They hope the threat of escalation will convince Gadhafi and his associates to leave power as the threat of a land invasion in June 1999 led Milosevic to capitulate and allow NATO forces to take over Kosovo. Or, as an alternative, they will launch a military invasion of the country.

"... [I]t is impossible to imagine a future for Libya with Qaddafi in power," wrote Barack Obama, Nicolas Sarkozy, and David Cameron in a joint article published simultaneously in the New York Times and several European newspapers on April 15.

Their stated pretext to "protect civilians" in Libya's civil war (Resolution 1973 passed by the U.N. Security Council on March 17 with Russia, China, Germany, Brazil, and India abstaining) has given way in this latest public proclamation to their actual intention to replace the Libyan government with a new proxy regime in the country that holds the largest oil reserves in the African continent.

"No political settlement in which the dictator remains in place will work. The West and its partners must be ready to maintain political, economic and military pressure until he is gone," states the New York Times in its April 15 lead editorial.

Do not be fooled by the anti-dictatorial motivation of the New York Times. When the CIA and British intelligence overthrew Iran's democratically elected government of Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh and replaced it with the dictatorship of the Shah, the New York Times editorialized: "Underdeveloped countries with rich resources now have an object lesson in the heavy cost to be paid by one of their number which goes berserk with fanatical

nationalism."

Mossadegh had earned the label of "fanatic" because he had dared nationalize the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (aka British Petroleum) and use the profits of Iran's oil to bring the country out of immense poverty.

All the targets of imperialist invasion and "regime change" strategies are fully demonized prior to aggression. From Iran in 1953, Guatemala in 1954, the Congo in 1961, Grenada in 1983, Panama in 1989, Yugoslavia in 1999, Afghanistan in 2001 to Iraq in 2003, the process of selective demonization of leaders is a precursor to aggression. The motives of the invaders are pure and noble. The bombs they drop are smart. They only kill bad people who are the enemies of freedom.

At these moments, the money-gouging corrupt politicians of both sides of the aisle in Washington, D.C.—from Tea Party Republicans to most Democratic Party politicians—mainly put aside all differences to join the chorus of the holy condemning the targeted demon as the troops are assembled, the war planes take to the skies and the cruise missiles crash into their targets. They are patriotic to the Empire and realize that their privileged and pampered employment as the "people's representatives" can be quickly ended if they resolutely defy the war makers and their mass media propaganda machine. They, too, can be demonized if they step too far out of line.

The people of the United States do not want this war. They want the war in Afghanistan and Iraq—two other wars for Empire—ended now. They can see through the lies of the government that says the country is so broke that tens of thousands of teachers, nurses and other public sector workers must be fired. Yet the same government, pursuing a global imperialist foreign policy that benefits the biggest banks and oil corporations, has limitless funds to invade and occupy the lands of other working people.

By Brian Becker, National Coordinator of the ANSWER Coalition

*ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism) is a U.S.-based national antiwar coalition.

<http://answercoalition.org>

United National Antiwar Committee* Statement on Libya

March 2, 2008

At great risks to their lives, activists organizing to oppose oppressive, dictatorial regimes in the Middle East and North Africa have inspired us by their courage and determination. We ruefully acknowledge past and continuing U.S. support for dictatorships and military rule in the region. We recognize that the U.S. has been directly involved in supplying weapons and other forms of support to regimes that have committed atrocious human rights abuses against civilians. Conscious of our responsibility to stop the United States from further manipulations that would interfere with movements on behalf of true democratic developments in other countries, UNAC calls for an immediate halt to U.S. intervention in regions and countries where mass mobilizations are

challenging oppressive regimes.

We have seen the horrific consequences of U.S./UN imposed economic sanctions against Iraq, as well as the consequences of U.S./UN operation of "no-fly zones" over northern and southern Iraq, prior to the U.S. Shock and Awe attacks and invasion.

We therefore oppose any form of U.S. military or economic intervention in Libya, Egypt, Bahrain, Tunisia and other countries where movements are rising in opposition to dictatorships and military rule.

* United National Antiwar Committee (UNAC) is a antiwar umbrella organization in the U.S.

<https://nationalpeaceconference.org>

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

Statement by Mobilization Against War & Occupation ~ MAWO

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

continued on page 8



Reflections by Fidel Castro Better & More Intelligent

YESTERDAY, for reasons of space and time, I didn't say one word about the speech on the Libyan War given by Barack Obama on Monday the 28th. I had a copy of the official version, supplied to the press by the U.S. government. I had underlined some of the things that he asserted. I reviewed it again and came to the conclusion that it wasn't worth wasting too much paper on the matter.

I recalled what Carter told me when he visited us in 2002 about tree farming in the United States; because he owns a family farm near Atlanta. During this visit I asked him again about tree farming and he restated that he plants pine saplings at a distance of 3 x 2 meters, equivalent to 1,700 trees a hectare, and they are harvested after 25 years.

Many years ago I read that a Sunday edition of The New York Times consumed the paper extracted from the felling of 40 hectares of woodland. Hence my concern about saving paper.

Of course, Obama is an excellent articulator of words and phrases. He could earn a living writing stories for children. I know his style because the first I read and underlined, long before he assumed the presidency, was a book entitled Dreams of My Father. I did so with respect and, at least, I could appreciate that its author knew how to select the precise words and appropriate phrases to win the sympathy of readers.

I confess that I did not like his tactic of suspense, concealing his own political ideas until the end. I made a special effort not to search in the final chapter for what he thought about various problems, to my mind crucial at this point of human history. I was certain that the profound economic crisis, colossal military spending, and the young blood spilled by his Republican predecessor would help him to defeat his electoral opponent, despite the enormous racial prejudices in U.S. society. I was conscious of the risks he was running of being physically eliminated.

For obvious reasons of traditional politicking, prior to the elections, he sought backing from the Miami anti-Cuba voters, in their majority led by pro-Batista and reactionary people, who converted the United States into a banana republic in which electoral fraud decided no less than the triumph of George W. Bush in 2000, tossing into the trash a future Nobel Prize winner: Al Gore, Clinton's vice president and a presidential aspirant.

An elemental sense of justice would have prompted President Obama to rectify the consequences of the notorious trial which led to the inhuman, cruel and particularly unjust incarceration of the five Cuban patriots.

His State of the Union address, his speeches in Brazil, Chile and El Salvador and the NATO war on Libya, obliged me to underline, more than his own biography, the abovementioned speech.

What is the worst of that speech and how to explain the approximately 2,500 words contained in the official version?

From the internal point of view, its total lack of realism places its happy author in the hands of his worst adversaries, who wish to humiliate him and avenge his electoral victory in November of 2008. The punishment they meted out to him at the end of 2010 is still not enough for them.

From the external point of view, the world has become more aware of what the Security Council, NATO and yankee imperialism signify for many peoples.

In order to be as brief as I promised, I will explain to you that Obama began his speech by affirming that he was fulfilling his role of "stopping the Taliban's momentum in Afghanistan, and going after al Qaeda all across the globe."

He immediately adds: "For generations, the United States of America has played a unique role as an anchor of global security and as an advocate for human freedom."

As readers know, this is something the veracity of which can be confirmed by we Cubans, Latin Americans, Vietnamese and many others.

After this solemn declaration of faith, Obama invests a large part of his time in talking about Gaddafi, his horrors and the reasons for which the United States and its closest allies: "— like the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Turkey — all of whom have fought by our sides for decades [...] have chosen to meet their responsibilities to defend the Libyan people."

He later adds: "...NATO has taken command of the enforcement of the arms embargo and the no-fly zone."

He confirms the objectives of the decision: "Because of this transition to a broader, NATO-based coalition, the risk and cost of this operation — to our military and to American taxpayers — will be reduced significantly."

"So for those who doubted our capacity to carry out this operation, I want to be clear: The United States of America has done what we said we would do."

He returns to his obsessions about Gaddafi and the contradictions that are troubling his mind: "Gadhafi has not yet stepped down from power, and until he does, Libya will remain dangerous."

"It's true that America cannot use our military wherever repression occurs. And given the costs and risks of intervention, we must always measure our interests against the need for action."

"The task that I assigned our forces — to protect the Libyan people [...] carries with it a U.N. mandate and international support."

His obsessions are reiterated time and time again: "We would likely have to put U.S. troops on the ground to accomplish that mission, or risk killing many civilians from the air."

"...we are hopeful about Iraq's future. But regime change there took eight years, thousands of American and Iraqi lives, and nearly a trillion dollars."

A few days after the NATO bombings were initiated, news began to circulate that a U.S. fighter plane had been brought down. Later, it emerged, via some source, that that was a fact. Upon seeing a figure parachuting down some campesinos did what is traditionally done in Latin America; they go to see; and if someone is in need of help, they give it. Nobody could know what they were thinking. They were no doubtless Muslims, they were working the land and could not have been in favor of the bombings. A helicopter which suddenly appeared to rescue the pilot fired on the campesinos, seriously injuring one of them, but, miraculously, didn't kill them all. As the world knows, by tradition, Arabs are hospitable toward their enemies, they put them up in their own homes, and turn their backs so as not to see what road they are taking. Not even a coward or a traitor would ever represent a spirit of social class.

Only Obama could have thought of the outlandish theory that he included in his speech, as can be appreciated in the following extract.

"There will be times, though, when our safety is not directly threatened, but our interests and our values are. [...] We know that the United States, as the world's most powerful nation, will often be called upon to help."

"In such cases, we should not be afraid to act — but the burden of action should not be America's alone. As we have in Libya, our task is instead to mobilize the international community for collective action."

"That's the kind of leadership we've shown in Libya. Of course, even when we act as part of a coalition, the risks of any military action will be high. Those risks were realized when one of our planes malfunctioned over Libya. Yet when one of our airmen parachuted to the ground, in a country whose leader has so often demonized the United States — in a region that has such a difficult history with our country — this American did not find enemies. Instead, he was met by people who embraced him. One young Libyan who came to his aid said, 'We are your friends. We are so grateful to those men who are protecting the skies.'"

"This voice is just one of many in a region where a new generation is refusing to be denied their rights and opportunities any longer."

"Yes, this change will make the world more complicated for a time. Progress will be uneven, and change will come differently to different countries. There are places, like Egypt, where this change will inspire us and raise our hopes."

Everyone knows that Mubarak was an ally of the United States and when Obama visited the University of Cairo in June 2009, he could not have been ignorant of the tens of billions of dollars which the former stole in Egypt.

He continued with the moving story:

"...we welcome the fact that history is on the move in the Middle East and North Africa, and that young people are leading the way. Because wherever people long to be free, they will find a friend in the United States. Ultimately, it is that faith — those ideals — that are the true measure of American leadership."

"...our strength abroad is anchored in our strength here at home. That must always be our North Star — the ability of our people to reach their potential, to make wise choices with our resources, to enlarge the prosperity that serves as a wellspring for our power, and to live the values that we hold so dear."

"And let us look to the future with confidence and hope not only for our own country, but for all those yearning for freedom around the world."

The spectacular story brought to my mind the Tea Party, Senator Bob Menéndez and the eminent Ileana Ros, the big bad wolf who defied laws in order to retain the kidnapped Cuban child Elián González. Today, she is no less than chair of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Gaddafi is constantly reiterating that Al Qaeda is making war on him and sending in combatants against the Libyan government, because he, Gaddafi, supported Bush's war on terror.

In the past that organization had excellent relations with the U.S. intelligence services during the battle against the Soviets in Afghanistan, and has a wealth of experience on CIA working methods.

What would take place if Gaddafi's claims should be correct? How would Obama explain to the people of the United States that part of those land combat weapons had fallen into the hands of Bin Laden's men?

Would it not have been better and more intelligent to have fought to promote peace and not war in Libya?

Fidel Castro Ruz

March 31, 2011



April 4th, 2011, protest in Tahrir Square, Egypt

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba

Cuba expresses its most forceful condemnation of the foreign military intervention into the internal conflict occurring within the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

For Cuba, conflicts must be resolved through dialogue and negotiation, not with the use of military force.

The Security Council succumbed to pressure from some western powers in order to create the conditions leading to this military aggression, which constitutes a blatant manipulation of the United Nations Charter, of the Council's authority and is another example of the double standard which characterizes its conduct.

Nevertheless, Resolution 1973, approved this last Thursday by the Security Council, in no way authorizes these attacks against Libyan territory,

which constitute a violation of international law.

The western powers carrying out military attacks against Libyan territory are causing death, injury and suffering to innocent civilians. Some of these powers are precisely those responsible for the death of more than a million civilians in Iraq and more than 70,000 in Afghanistan, which they call "collateral damage."

They are also complicit in the crimes committed against the Palestinian people.

Cuba supports the Libyan people's inalienable right to self-determination without any foreign interference, repudiates the deaths of civilians in Libya and in any other place and supports this nation's territorial integrity and its sovereignty over its own resources.

Havana, March 20, 2011