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 form of double standard which characterizes its conduct.

Nevertheless, Resolution 1973, approved by the Security Council on 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, Canada, France, and all other imperialist countries declared war on the people of Libya. The United States of war, destruction and killing was not enough 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 Gaddhafi 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 Libya. Prime Minister Harper 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 Gaddhafi, 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.

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 was not enough under the shameless new fake term of the “International Community.”

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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 Sudan, 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 imperialist powers.

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
We are concerned that similar events played out in the mid-80s and early 90s in the midst of a brutal 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?"

- "[Gaddafi] has an unbelievable media machine. He spends billions and billions that tries to paint the picture that NATO is bombing Libya. People, NATO is not bombing Libya!"

- "This is a war against our friends in Afghanistan. It is not a foreign country coming on our land!"

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

- "You are giving us wrong message. You are giving us wrong message. It is war.Same people 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 stage)

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

We are in Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) and sending a clear message to the government and the public that we are not going to take sides in a civil war and will not use NATO or those within NATO to stand up and say "no!""}

The CPA's cross-Canada participation in the April 9th International Day of Action called by the United National Antivader Committee (UNAC), the CPA, the ANSWER Coalition, and now to 11 cities organized by Stopwar.ca and the CPA's public mobilization has been missing.

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 actions such as the ANSWER Coalition on March 19th. This broader mobilization has stood in the way of NATO and the political forces in Canada and the world for too long from the anti-war movement in Canada, and we fully endorse its continuation on April 9th and in the future.

However, based on the events of the recent cross-Canada demonstration organized by Stopwar.ca and the CPA's public mobilization, there is a crisis at the heart of the anti-war movement.

Because of our experience in Vancouver we are concerned that similar events played out in the mid-80s and early 90s in the midst of a brutal imperialist campaign to intervene in a civil war and overthrow the independent government of Libya.

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MAWO Open Letter
continued from page 2
report from NYC which stated, “The new war in Libya is the result of a huge victory for the largest anti-war demonstration New York has seen in years back to the streets of Manhattan.” This was no contradiction or confusion as they had the leadership to take a strong stance against the imperialist intervention in Libya. This is an example for all of us to follow.

II
MAWO has been participating in the same efforts, the spirit of peace, cooperation, and antiwar movement building. Starting even before the attacks, in January, Libya began we have organized 5 forums and 3 rallies, as well as produced 2 buttons and a petition and the pressure for a foreign intervention in Libya. We have also produced a quarterly newsletter and analysis to counter the lies being spread by imperialist media on Libya, and mass movements in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Within this newsletter are ideas and statements from a large number of authors at this time and must be more appropriately be said as ‘broadcast’.

There is no saving of human lives or any humanitarian intervention on behalf of the Libyan people that does not have imperialist powers. Indeed, this is such an obvious hypocrisy by these war mongers and those who have already suffered so much for so many years. Further, we believe building a strong anti-imperialism and anti-war movement in Canada and world-wide. We believe these politics, and this proposal for a public meeting with the public, is part of the broad, united, and effective anti-war movement.

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

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

Phillip O’Keefe (Co-chair, StopWar.ca and CPA)

“We have been working with the Tunisian, Egyptian and Libyan communities here to build solid support for Libyan people in Canada and the Middle East. And we did today, we were really excited to be in touch with even though there’s a difference in time zones, we thought for it important to have their say. So it was a decision that we made to work with the community here, so you of us that had a respectful dialogue when we were discussing this. And, um, and think it is important, um, I think, that in Canada people, that the CPA’s position is not in good faith. And time will tell that the CPA’s intervention is going to bring about the downfall that people, or anyone who has already suffered so much for so many years.

Two- Roger Annis (One of the M’s of the Vancouver, April 9th rally)

“But we also are aware of the fact that there is a lot of ecological cost and a lot of damage that has been heard today in what they think is the right to 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 wisdom of our Libyan brothers and sisters – we expect that to be a big part of what we will hear, and it will be very difficult times in Libya and throughout North Africa. So this is a new day, and that’s why we’re here today – it is so important to encourage support of the Libyan people, to support the great Arab uprisings 2010-2011, and with its various phases, the development of the right without condition of the people of Libya to freely determine their political future and the establishment of democracy.”

United National Antiwar Committee* Statement on Libya
March 2, 2008
At great risks to their lives, activists organize to oppose oppression, dictatorial regimes in the Middle East and North Africa, and attack their tearing them away from us by their courage and determination. We recognize the importance of and support for dictatorship and military rule in the Middle East. We recognize that the U.S. military has been directly involved in supplying weapons and other forms of support to those who have committed atrocious human rights abuses against civilians, with the unspoken responsibility to stop the United States from further manipulations that would interfere with movements on behalf of true democratic developments in the Middle East. We warn of the risks for an immediate halt to U.S. intervention

2- Organize an open, inclusive, broad and well-organized campaign to build a united and effective antiwar movement.

We believe these are the only serious options to prevent an American-style occupation in Libya and the establishment of a stooge government that will be in power ‘would be an unconscionable betrayal’ of Libya’s people. “We welcome the support of the Arab League and its coalition partners must maintain their operations so that civilians may have hope and be able to resist the military regime,” and finally “Then a genuine transition from dictatorship, from Libyan citizens can be free to shape their constitutional process can really begin, led by a transitional government which is not oppositional” from the BBC, and the complete position of Libya is not like the different than what the Libyan opposition is doing in Libya. How would you rally say? Where is this confusion of a big anti-imperialist, war-pro-Libyans coming from?

Let us discuss these issues out in the open. We hope to see these issues out moving forward. Those mistakes create confusion among the masses that we would like to take a stance against imperial aggression around the world, and if continued they will only help further the imperialist regimes and their advocates. We must carefully oppose this new war in the Middle East to avoid an imperialist war on Libya, and our part to counter it by organizing, educating and mobilizing masses in the region and the world. We need to see what the colonial powers operating in the region. Libya and the way we deal with them 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 been directly involved in supplying weapons and other forms of support to those who have committed atrocious human rights abuses against civilians, with the unspoken responsibility to stop the United States from further manipulations that would interfere with movements on behalf of true democratic developments in the Middle East.

Who’s MAWO?
Mobilization Against War and Occupation is a coalition of over 20 organized and diverse people and organizations, from every walk of life and every ethnic community. This is including Indigenous activists and groups from the third world as well as women, youth and elder fighters and ethnic communities. This is including Indigenous activists and groups from the third world as well as women, youth and elder fighters and ethnic communities.

Get Involved
Meetings & Forums

Upcoming Organizing Meetings
TUESDAY AUGUST 16
7:00pm
Britannia Olympic Learning Centre
1451 Napier Street

MAWO Newsletter #34 Created by: Janine Soltani, Tamara Hansen, Shaked Loshan and All Venuna

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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 and an end to imperialist exploitation and domination. The growing momentum of this mass movement has changed the political landscape. It has taken the life of millions in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Yemen, Iran, Libya, and to some extent, Saudi Arabia, as well as in the rest of the countries in the region, are not ruled by an imperialist client regime. In these countries, without the need for a paper framework of anti-imperialism, as well as the framework of the struggle for democracy and social justice, the struggle for democracy and mass movement is anti-imperialistic and anti-imperialist.

The popular mass radical movement started in Tunisia and Egypt, with an unemployed graduate student who was working as a vendor setting fire to the government building to protest humiliation and police brutality. Afterwards, in January 14, 2011, the protests that sparked were inspired and supported by other imperialist countries. When Ben Ali, the president of Tunisia for 23 years, to give up power and flee to Saudi Arabia, some imperialist states showed mass struggle and victory, the Egyptian revolution elevated the social and political atmosphere, created the already volatile situation, and generated a powerful confidence in millions of people. The revolutionary wave of mass protests and anti-imperialist revolutionaries is expanding around the world.

The most important thing that the people of Egypt and Tunisia has set an important example for other countries in this area in terms of increasing the tremendous considerations for popular and oppressed peoples. Furthermore, the similarity of the structural differences and the outcomes reinforced the escalation of mass protest to all North Africa and Middle East countries, and against imperialist client regimes or independent ones, in the form of wide spread social and political unrest. The authoritarian rulers of Tunisia and Egypt used unprecedented measures to deal with the mass protests. Hundreds of people were killed and thousands were injured, as well as hundreds of protesters were arrested or detained. However, the mass protests and arrests did not demoralize and alter the protest movement. On the contrary, it increased the heroic masses of Tunisia and Egypt to bring down their respective dictatorships.

Without any doubt, the mass rallies and uprisings that have unfolded in these countries in non-client countries have taken the form of an anti-imperialist movement. The U.S. for its part has plundered the wealth of these resources of these countries. The U.S. has imposed trade sanctions on the Middle East on the basis of security assistance to suppress their population for the interest of multinational corporations and bloated military budgets. Does the U.S. think that it could be that these massive protest movements against these client regimes are a result of unbridled exploitation and domination? After all, all these movements are a reaction to the exploitation and exploitation of the past. In fact, the client regimes have only been the base of opposition 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 imperialism hegemony in general, and especially, in the U.S. as an imperialist superpower in the region. This revolutionary movement also created world-wide solidarity with people in struggle. However, it is not enough to support popular movements against other imperialists, with the help of the international support, the press and the mass media, have been able to manipulate the world public opinion. The imperialists, in addition to mass sympathy and solidarity, needed to support effectively the people of Tunisia and the Middle East. The struggle of the struggle of the mass movement is only a fight against dictators and the second, that they support these mass movements in the form of support and protection, just as the same as the protest movement. They have tried to take advantage of these mass sympathy and solidarity, needed to support effectively the people of Tunisia and the Middle East. The struggle of the mass movement is only a fight against dictators and the other imperialists, with the help of the international support, the press and the mass media, have been able to manipulate the world public opinion. The imperialists, in addition to mass sympathy and solidarity, needed to support effectively the people of Tunisia and the Middle East. The struggle of the mass movement is only a fight against dictators and the other imperialists.

Nevertheless, the growing strength of this movement has created a dramatic change. They have been able to change the balance of power in the region. The U.S. and other imperialist countries have been trying very hard to do this, with the instrumental help of whatever other imperial countries have been trying very hard to divert the growing awareness of the masses. On the other hand, the imperialists in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as in the rest of the countries in the region, are not ruled by an imperialist client regime. In these countries, without the need for a paper framework of anti-imperialism, as well as the framework of the struggle for democracy and social justice, the struggle for democracy and mass movement is anti-imperialistic and anti-imperialist.

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