

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

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 34

newsletter

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3rd Edition

mobilization against war & occupation

MAWO STATEMENT

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 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 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 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. 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



MAWO's Latest Button
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Targeting the Gaddafi Regime & Imperialist Intervention: Who is Winning in Libya?

Public Forum & Discussion
TUESDAY
AUGUST 30
7PM
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RALLY & PETITIONING:
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SATURDAY August 27
2:00pm
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END THE OCCUPATIONS of
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STOP Bombing and War on Libya!
US HANDS OFF North Africa & the
Middle East!
SELF DETERMINATION for Indigenous
Nations & All Oppressed Nations!

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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 [Gaddhafi] 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 Ghadafi 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 MC's 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

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Libya:
Demonization and Self-Determination

By: Sara Flounders

Co-director, International Action Center - July 21, 2011

If you went to a shopping center, a street corner or a graduate school of a top university in the U.S. and conducted a pop quiz asking who are the kings or crown princes of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Morocco and Bahrain; the emir of Kuwait, Qatar or Dubai; and the sultan of Oman, most people would not be able to name any of them.

These dictators and feudal monarchs hold absolute control in corrupt and brutal regimes. Their rule is kept in place by U.S. arms, troops and mercenaries, but they are anonymous to the U.S. population and to most of the world's people.

But if you went anywhere in the U.S. today and asked who lives in Libya, there is only one name that a large part of the population could tell you: Gadhafi. Many people, even if they do not know that Libya is in Africa, might tell you that Gadhafi is an evil man who "must go."

The corporate media can demonize the leader of a country targeted by the Pentagon to the point that the consequences of using the most deadly weapons against a totally defenseless population are hidden and dismissed.

No other country in history has the capacity to wreak such havoc, using cruise missiles, bunker busters, drones, depleted uranium and dense inert metal explosive bombs, anti-personnel razor shredding bomblets, and anti-personal mines.

What should be the response to this terror?

Unfortunately, a minority of groups or individuals who present themselves as opponents of war spend more time cataloguing Gadhafi's past real or alleged shortcomings than rallying people to respond to this criminal, all-out U.S. attack. Their influence would be small, except that it coincides with the opinions of the U.S. ruling class. Thus it is important to thoroughly answer their arguments.

Whatever mistakes made by the leaders of a small, underdeveloped country facing U.S. sanctions, sabotage and assassination attempts, they are not the reason the U.S. is hell-bent on destroying Libya today.

What is at stake?

U.S., French, British and Italian imperialists are determined to lay hold of Libya's now well-developed infrastructure of oil refineries, pumping stations, gas lines, ports and pipelines directly into Europe, as well as billions of dollars in gold reserves, oil reserves — the largest in Africa — and Libya's other rich assets. All of this has been built up over the four decades since U.S. and British imperialism were kicked out of the country.

The imperialists are especially determined to stop Libya's assistance in the development of other African countries. The plans for a United Federation of Africa, which were put forth by Libya and backed with \$90 billion in investment funds, deeply threaten the continued multinational corporate looting of the continent.

The people of Libya have resisted more than four months of nonstop aerial assault. The bombing has united the population. Their cohesion has grown. More than 1 million people hold giant rallies in Tripoli.

A government in fear of its population would never hand guns to the public, but Libya's government has distributed more than 3 million weapons in a country of 6.5 million people to enable them to resist occupation.

Incredibly, it looks like the imperialists are facing still another failed war. A falling out among thieves seems to be taking place as NATO's frustration mounts.

The response to this colonial war of aggression should be the same as the response to a racist mobilization, a racist lynch mob or a police attack on an oppressed community: Mobilize all possible forces to stand up to the crime and say "no!" Refuse to take part in the orchestrated campaign of vilification.

This may not be an easy position to take. But it is essential to reject the racist political onslaught that accompanies the military onslaught.

Demonization is meant to disorient and put the massive, criminal destruction planned by U.S. imperialism beyond debate. Enormous pressure is placed on every level of the U.S. population to accept the premise that the targeted country and its leadership are to blame. The attacks are presented as if only one person lives in Libya, and not 6.5 million people.

In preparation for a war of conquest, the role of the corporate media is to endlessly repeat every charge and statement made by the institutions of U.S. power. An almost frenzied level of lies, wild fabrications, racist stereotyping and ugly caricatures saturates all political discussion.

The corporate media spread the demands that the Pentagon death machine must act in the name of "humanity" in order to "save lives." The war itself is cloaked in neutral terms. In the case of Libya, more than 16,000 bombing sorties against people are described as implementing a "no-fly zone." The White House has assured the population that this bombing is not an act of war. The administration won't even discuss it with Congress.

The response to media demonization in the midst of a war mobilization must be to focus on the outrageous crime being committed and refuse to accept or give weight to any justification for it.

Despite an ocean of propaganda, poll after poll has confirmed that from 60 percent to 65 percent of the U.S. population is against the U.S. war on Libya. This should give all opponents of this imperialist war great hope and confidence.

But the demonization and racist war propaganda have seeped down into a layer of the progressive and anti-war movement.

In every imperialist war for decades, a whole series of writers, commentators and political organizations considered to be progressive have buckled under enormous social pressure. While claiming to be against U.S wars, they allocate their greatest energies to focusing on and discussing every shortcoming, mistake and inconsistency of the targeted country — in the very same condemnatory tone as the corporate media.

They have said "neither NATO nor Milosevic," "neither Bush nor Saddam," "neither Israel nor Hizbollah," thus helping to weaken the anti-war forces.

The responsibility of progressive intellectuals and groups in the United States is to utilize their considerable research skills to extract every piece of information that could explain the corporate stakes — the anticipated profits behind the imperialist war. And never to echo in left terminology the charges made in the imperialist media.

Working people need to know the real reason behind the attack. Thus every effort must be made to avoid reinforcing government propaganda. Progressives should look to build the broadest possible unity in order to speak with one voice against the war.

Of course, such misguided groups are a small minority in the progressive movement. But there are those political organizations, which six months ago had not bothered to mention Libya, that now suddenly seek out respectable venues to add their own reasons that the dictator Gadhafi "must go" — an echo of the imperialist demand. Some even insist that in order to be part of the political discourse, every anti-war voice must first join in condemnation of Gadhafi.

In a few places this chorus on the sidelines has even disrupted anti-war meetings, calling on the anti-war movement to fall in line and echo the racist ruling class.

The Cynthia McKinney tour

In their determination to join with all the "respectable voices" condemning Libya, some groups have even sounded just like the imperialist media by seeking to silence the courageous voice of former U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney. This is how arrogant and offensive those who demand collusion in U.S. wars have become.

McKinney risked her life to visit Libya with a U.S. delegation in the midst of the U.S./NATO bombing. She deserves respect.

McKinney was first a target of national media condemnation as a young, first-term state representative in the Georgia Assembly, when she dared to speak out against the U.S. war on Iraq. The entire chamber of representatives stood up, turned their backs on her and walked out.

When elected to the U.S. Congress, her outspoken opposition to and questioning of the orchestrated national frenzy surrounding the Sept. 11, 2001, attack; her clear opposition to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement; her defense of political prisoners; and her support of the Palestinian people generated national campaigns to pour funds into opposing candidates in her small Georgia congressional district. Again and again the district lines were redrawn in an attempt to disqualify McKinney from the U.S. Congress. She has earned international acclaim for her candidacy for president on the Green Party ticket, for her participation in humanitarian convoys to Gaza and for being jailed by Israel.

McKinney's tour to six cities organized by the Answer Coalition, and now to 11 cities organized by the International Action Center — all of which have successfully mobilized forces against the U.S./NATO invasion of Africa — have also come under criticism and cowardly attack. Some of these elements are even writing and speaking against McKinney's right to speak against the war in Libya.

Even more arrogant and insensitive are their attacks on the Nation of Islam and Pan-African voices opposing the war.

For more than three decades many Pan-African activists, African people and Muslims have followed developments in Libya with great interest and enthusiasm. Many people traveled to Libya and favorably compared the social accomplishments in Libya — which, according to the U.N., scored highest in Africa on the Human Development Index in education, housing, length of life, nutrition and infant mortality — to the enormous

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MAWO Open Letter

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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 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

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

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’ 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.”

MAWO March 17, 2011 Statement

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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 Emirate 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 merciless mercenaries 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 imperialists 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!

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!

* Upcoming Organizing Meetings *

TUESDAY AUGUST 16

7:00pm

Britannia Community Center

Learning Resource Centre

1661 Napier Street

MAWO Newsletter #34 Created by:

Janine Solanki, Tamara Hansen, Shakeel Lochan and Ali Yerevani

www.mawovancouver.org

3

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 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 Gaddaafi 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!



Reflections by Fidel Castro
NATO's Facist War

You didn't have to be clairvoyant to foresee what I wrote with great detail in three Reflection Articles I published on the CubaDebate website between February 21 and March 3: "The NATO Plan Is to Occupy Libya," "The Cynical Danse Macabre," and "NATO's Inevitable War."

Not even the fascist leaders of Germany and Italy were so blatantly shameless regarding the Spanish Civil War unleashed in 1936, an event that maybe a lot of people have been recalling over these past days.

Almost 75 years to the day have passed since then, but nothing that has happened over the last 75 centuries, or even 75 millenniums of human life on our planet can compare.

Sometimes it seems that those of us who serenely voice our opinions on these issues are exaggerating. I dare say that we have actually been naive to assume that we all should be aware of the deception or colossal ignorance that humanity has been dragged into.

In 1936 there was an intense clash between two systems and ideologies of more or less equal military power.

The arms back then seemed more like toys compared with today's weapons. Humanity's survival was not threatened despite the destructive power and the locally lethal force deployed. Entire cities and even nations could have been virtually destroyed. But never was the human race, in its totality, at risk of being exterminated several times over for the stupid and suicidal power developed by modern science and technology.

With these current realities in mind, it is embarrassing to read the continuous news reports on the use of powerful laser-guided rockets with 100% accuracy, fighter-bombers that go twice the speed of light, potent explosives that blow apart uranium-hardened metals that have an everlasting effect on the inhabitants and their descendants.

Cuba stated its position regarding the internal situation in Libya at the meeting in Geneva. Without hesitating, Cuba defended the idea of a political solution to the conflict in Libya and was categorically opposed to any foreign military intervention.

In a world where the alliance between the United States and the developed capitalist powers of Europe increasingly take hold of the people's resources and fruits of their labor, any honest citizen, whatever their standpoint to the government, would be opposed to a foreign military intervention in their country.

But most absurd about the current situation is the fact that before the brutal war broke out in Northern Africa, in another region of the world, nearly 10 000 kilometers away, a nuclear accident had occurred in one of the most populated areas of the world following a tsunami caused by a 9.0 earthquake, which has already cost a hard-working nation like Japan nearly 30 000 lives. Such accident would have not occurred 75 years before.

In Haiti, a poor and underdeveloped country, a nearly 7.0 quake according to the Richter scale, caused over 300 000 deaths, countless people wounded and hundreds of thousands harmed.

However, what was terribly tragic in Japan was the accident at the Fukushima nuclear plant, whose consequences are still to be assessed.

I will only recall some of the main stories published by the news agencies:

ANSA.- Fukushima 1 nuclear plant is releasing "extremely high and potentially lethal radiations," said Gregory Jaczko, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the US nuclear entity.

EFE.- The nuclear threat stemming from the

continued from page 7

poverty and glaring underdevelopment of most of the continent. They have spoken out forcefully against the looting of Africa and defended Libya as a country that, although sanctioned, sabotaged and under continuing attack, managed to maintain a level of independence from imperialism.

It is criminal to dismiss those actually mobilizing, writing and speaking against war as just pro-Gaddaafi.

Pentagon lynch mob

What should be the attitude toward a family or a town seized by a lynch mob?

How does one respond if a racist gang of thugs, with torches and gasoline, is ready to set fire to a home with children inside, or is determined to capture someone who they felt had not shown proper "respect?" Is that a time to wander off into analysis of the targeted victims' credit card payments, driving record or other possible past mistakes or personal shortcomings?

Bombs are falling on Tripoli. Isn't that a Pentagon

serious situation at a Japanese plant, following the earthquake, has triggered security revisions in atomic plants around the world and has made some countries paralyze their plans.

Reuters.- Japan's devastating earthquake and deepening nuclear crisis could result in losses of up to \$200 billion for Japanese economy, but the global impact remains hard to gauge.

EFE.- The deterioration of one reactor after another at Japan's Fukushima nuclear center continued to feed fears of a pending nuclear disaster as desperate attempts to control a radioactive leak did nothing to provide even a glimmer of hope.

AFP.- Japan's Emperor Akihito expressed concern about the unpredictable character of the nuclear crisis hitting Japan following the quake and tsunami that killed thousands of people and left 500 000 homeless. New quake reported in the Tokyo area.

There are reports talking about even more concerning issues.

Some refer to the presence of toxic radioactive iodine in Tokyo's drinking water, which doubles the tolerable amount that can be consumed by the smallest children in the Japanese capital. One of these reports says that the stocks of bottled water are shrinking in Tokyo, a city located in a prefecture at more than 200 kilometers from Fukushima.

This series of circumstances poses a dramatic situation on our world.

I can express freely my views on the war in Libya. I do not share political or religious views with the leader of that country. I am a Marxist-Leninist and a follower of Marti, as I have already said.

I see Libya as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement and a sovereign State of the nearly 200 members of the United Nations.

Never, a large or small country, in this case with only 5 million inhabitants, was the victim of such a brutal attack by the air force of a militaristic organization with thousands of fighter-bombers, more than 100 submarines, nuclear aircraft carriers, and sufficient arsenal to destroy the planet many times over.

Our species had never encountered this situation and there had been nothing similar 75 years ago, when the Nazi bombers attacked targets in Spain.

Now, however, the criminal and discredited NATO will write a "beautiful" little story about its "humanitarian" bombing.

If Gaddaafi honors the traditions of his people and decides to fight to the last breath, as he has promised, together with the Libyans who are facing the worst bombing a country has ever suffered, NATO and its criminal projects will sink into the mire of shame.

The people respect and believe in men who fulfill their duty.

More than 50 years ago, when the United States killed more than a hundred Cubans with the explosion of merchant ship "La Coubre" our people proclaimed "Patria o Muerte." (Homeland or Death). They have fulfilled this, and have always been determined to keep their word.

"Anyone who tries to seize Cuba," said the most glorious fighter in our history-"will only gather the dust of her soil soaked in blood."

I beg you to excuse the frankness with which I address the issue.

Fidel Castro Ruz

28 March 2011

lynching?

In the face of a criminal terror campaign against a whole country, it's imperative not to do anything to support the attack. It's essential to do everything in your power to mobilize people to resist.

To use every possible argument of defense, and not give a shred of legitimacy to the racists who are attempting to burn the whole country down, along with all of its proud accomplishments.

Don't allow yourself to be on the same side as the imperialist war makers.

Leave it to the Libyan people to decide their own future without U.S./NATO bombs. Leave it to African, Arab and especially Libyan people to discuss and debate, without outside interference.

But here in the center of the U.S. empire, it is important to refuse to join in the demonization and attacks used to justify atrocities committed by corporate power. Most important: Don't echo imperialist propaganda in the midst of a war of aggression. Don't join in a lynch mob being organized by the Pentagon!

Unite behind one clear slogan: Stop the U.S./NATO war on Libya.