

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 web-site:

mawovancouver.org

e. info@mawovancouver.org

t. 604-322-1764

f. 604-322-1763

*** Upcoming Organizing Meeting ***

TUESDAY October 9

7 pm

**Britannia Community Center - Learning Resource Centre
1661 Napier Street**

MAWO Newsletter #40 Created by:
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stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 40
newsletter

September 2012

mobilization against war & occupation

Anti-war protests planned across North America

By John Catalinotto

September 10, 2012

<http://www.iacenter.org/actions/anti-war091112/>

The United National Anti-war Coalition has called for protest actions across the country on the anniversary of the imperialist U.S. invasion of Afghanistan.

At the first national conference call to organize the protests, held at the end of August, 49 people from 17 U.S. states and British Colombia in Canada participated. Many of the areas reported work already underway to organize actions on the Oct. 5-7 weekend.

In the Los Angeles area, two coalitions had begun to build demonstrations. Speaking for one of the groups, John Parker of the International Action Center expressed his readiness to discuss holding a common demonstration. This was also the suggestion of the UNAC leaders on the call.

In an email inviting people to participate in a second conference call set for Sept. 5, UNAC wrote that it is preparing a website that "will allow people to enter their own information on their actions. Until the site

is online, please send details of any actions in your area to UNACpeace@gmail.com. Please include date, time, place, demands, sponsoring organizations and contact information."

Among the slogans UNAC is promoting are "No wars! No sanctions! No drone attacks! Bring all the troops home now!" "Self-determination for the people of Syria and Iran!" and "No to racism, raids and repression! No to Islamophobia!"

Syria, Iran threatened

The developing civil war that the imperialist powers are imposing on Syria, with the assistance of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and NATO member Turkey, gives the Oct. 5-7 demonstrations a growing urgency. On Sept. 3, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius threatened the Syrian government with intervention should it use chemical weapons, which Syria allegedly possesses. Fabius was putting French imperialism behind a similar aggressive threat that U.S. President Barack Obama made in August.

These threats — along with the overwhelmingly one-sided propaganda in the corporate media demonizing the Syrian

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Who is Bradley Manning "Soldier of Humanity"?

To find out more about the case of whistleblower Bradley Manning, pick up a brochure from a MAWO info table or download one from our website at: <http://www.mawovancouver.org/materials/brochures/MAWO-BradleyManning-brochure.pdf>

FREE KALE & ALFALFA

MAWO MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION

THE 8th Annual Vancouver International HIP HOP 4 PEACE FESTIVAL

B.C. CANADA

INDEPENDENT LOCAL

WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

PEACE! AN ELEMENT OF HIP HOP

MC'S * DJ'S * BREAKDANCERS

GRAFFITI * WORKSHOPS & FORUM

OBSESSION! Pioneers of Cuban Hip Hop DIRECT FROM CUBA

SEPTEMBER 15 & 16 - 2012

SEP 15 - ALL DAY OUTDOOR SHOW - Vancouver Art Gallery • 1pm - 7pm
PERSON AT HOME STREET - DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER

SEP 16 - WORKSHOPS & FORUM - 5288 Joyce Street • 2pm - 6pm
NE INDUSTRIOUS HOUSE • 1 BLOCK SOUTH OF JOYCE SKYTRAIN STATION

HIPHOP4PEACE.BLOGSPOT.COM

Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO

exclaim.ca Common Ground

MAWO

UNITED NATIONAL ANTIWAR COALITION (UNAC)

Statement on NATO claim of "progress" for women and girls in Afghanistan

<http://nepajac.org/afghanwomen.htm>

The United National Anti-War Coalition (UNAC) calls on people and organizations everywhere to immediately and energetically refute the absurd claim that Afghan women have made "progress" during ten years of NATO military occupation. In fact, the conditions of women in Afghanistan have deteriorated under occupation and the Obama administration has made it clear, the U.S./NATO intends to stay there, at least through 2024, if not indefinitely.

UNAC asserts as false this statement signed by several heads of state of NATO at their summit in Chicago in May, 2012: In the ten years of our partnership the lives of Afghan men, women and children, have improved significantly in terms of security, education, health care, economic opportunity and the assurance of rights and freedoms. There is more to be done, but we are resolved to work together to preserve the substantial progress we have made during the past decade.

Recent facts to the contrary include:

- Afghan women have an average life expectancy of 51 years. According to UNICEF, 68% of children under five suffer from either stunting or wasting due to malnutrition. Afghanistan ranks last in both maternal mortality and infant mortality as compared with other nations of the world.

- Immediately after the fall of the Taliban there was short term improvement in the area of women's inclusion in government and of education for girls. However, especially since President Obama ordered the surge of troops in Afghanistan in 2006, security for women has deteriorated.

- Current abuses against women by the regime include jailing women for adultery who are victims of rape, as well as Parliament passing and President Karzai signing legislation giving husbands the power to coerce sex and withhold food from their wives at their discretion. Women's groups in Afghanistan cite the root cause as the presence of warlords who abuse women being seated in the national and provincial governments.

- Women's organizations working to reduce poverty and empower women and girls say they receive little or no funding from their government. For example, the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) stated position is that "There has been no improvement in lives of this, the most miserable and ill-fated portion of Afghan society, since the establishment of transitional government." Samira Sayed-Rahman of Afghans for Peace said, "They claim they're sending little girls to school." There are buildings with "no teachers, no books, no supplies."

In a statement to the NATO protestors May 20 in Chicago, Malalai Joya, the former Parliamentarian who faced assassination attempts for denouncing the occupation and warlords, wrote, "We have many problems in Afghanistan — fundamentalism, warlords, the Taliban. But we will have a better chance to solve them if we have our self-determination, our freedom, our independence. NATO's bombs will never deliver democracy and justice to Afghanistan or any other country".

We call for the immediate withdrawal of NATO troops and bases from Afghanistan and for the redirection of all funding to those Afghan organizations actually providing food, healthcare, infrastructure repair, and education.

THE IMPERIALIST WORLD-WIDE RACIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST MUSLIMS AND THE ANTI-COLONIAL AWAKENING OF THE MASSES

How 11 years after 9/11 the US lost the "War on terrorism"



multimedia - Speakers - Discussion

**TUESDAY
September 25
7pm**

Speaker:

Ali Yerevani

**Political Editor of Fire
This Time Newspaper
and participant in the
1979 Iranian revolution**

**Joe's Cafe [In Large North Hall]
1150 Commercial Dr. at William St**

**Organized by: Mobilization Against War and Occupation - MAWO
www.mawovancouver.org**

2012

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government — are reminiscent of the pretexts used against Iraq before the U.S. invaded that country.

Just last year the NATO powers, with a mandate pushed through the United Nations Security Council by the U.S., Britain and France, carried out an air war that destroyed Libya and left its people in the hands of a chaotic and reactionary pro-imperialist grouping while imperialist corporations have grabbed Libya’s oil. So far, China and Russia have exercised their veto against any similar U.N. mandate regarding Syria.

The other major war threat raised at this time is that a U.S.-backed Israel might strike Iran’s nuclear power industry.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation has endorsed the call made by The United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) for International days of action against wars at home and abroad from October 5-7 and will be organizing a rally and petition campaign demanding:

NO WARS! + NO SANCTIONS! + NO DRONE ATTACKS! + BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW! + SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA AND IRAN! + NO TO RACISM, RAIDS, AND REPRESSION! + NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA! + FREE BRADLEY MANNING NOW!

END THE OCCUPATIONS OF AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, PALESTINE & HAITI! + SAUDI AND ALL FOREIGN TROOPS OUT OF BAHRAIN! + U.S., U.K., CANADA, FRANCE, NATO, HANDS OFF LIBYA NOW! + U.S. HANDS OFF NORTH AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST! + SELF DETERMINATION FOR INDIGENOUS NATIONS & ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 6
1PM
VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
ROBSON & HOWE ST.
VANCOUVER, CANADA**

Statement of Veterans For Peace in the U.S. on Syria

July 27, 2012
<http://www.veteransforpeace.org/>

We are once again on the verge of another disastrous war in the Middle East. The United States and its allies in Europe and the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia and Qatar, are consciously pushing Syria toward a destructive civil war. The objective is to bring down the Assad regime, an ally of the Iranian government, as a stepping-stone toward further isolation of Iran and preparation of the ground for a military attack on that country.

At the same time, the United States, European Union and Israel are using Iran’s civilian nuclear program as an excuse to impose devastating economic sanctions against the people of Iran. According to various sources, the sanctions have already wreaked havoc on the Iranian economy, leading to inflation rates of 50 to 100 percent, youth unemployment rate of over 22 percent, drastic reduction of Iran’s domestic production to 40 percent of its capacity, massive closure of economic enterprises and widespread layoffs, and 40 percent drop in the Iranian oil exports during 2012, resulting in a loss of \$32 billion in oil income since last year alone. It is expected that the new round of expanded sanctions, which started on July 1st of this year, will further reduce the Iranian oil exports to a mere 1.5 million barrels a day, thus pushing Iran into a fatal economic crisis.

This is nothing but a clear declaration of economic war on Iran. These devastating sanctions are not an “alternative” to war; they are part and parcel of a war aimed at forcing a regime change in Iran as an integral part of the US plan for a “Greater Middle East.” Let us not forget the case of Iraq. There, too, a decade of devastating sanctions was used as a “softening period” that would weaken Iraq’s economic infrastructure; make the population desperate enough to welcome any foreign intervention; and reduce Iraq’s military capability to resist an invasion — i.e., making Iraq an easy military target. Now the same scenario is being repeated with Iran.

All this is being done in the name of removing the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation in the Middle East. But this is just a cover. Iran is already surrounded by the US and Israeli nuclear weapons. The very forces that are threatening Iran over its civil nuclear program are themselves responsible for nuclear weapons proliferation in the Middle East. A US/Israeli military attack on Iran will have disastrous, unpredictable consequences for the peoples of the Middle East region and the world, and will be a serious threat to peace and security of all nations.

The real solution lies not in selective targeting of Iran with sanctions and threats of war, but in complete removal of all nuclear weapons from the Middle East region. The Middle East, like Latin America and Africa, must be declared as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) calls for both the liquidation of nuclear weapons by states and the discouragement of non-nuclear states from obtaining or developing nuclear weapons; and the UN General Assembly has repeatedly called for the establishment of a Nuclear-Free Zone in the Middle East. As an urgent response to the nuclear crisis in the Middle East, the 2010 NPT Conference has called for the convening of a Conference in December 2012, in Helsinki, Finland, for the establishment of a WMD-Free Zone in the Middle East. This initiative must be supported and its success must be guaranteed.

Recognizing the critical nature of the present situation in the Middle East and the threat of an imminent war, Veterans For Peace,

- Calls for immediate lifting of all economic sanctions against Iran
- Demands immediate cessation of US and Israeli military threats against Iran;
- Declares its solidarity with the Iranian people in their just struggle for freedom, justice and peace;
- Demands immediate cessation of all foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Syria, including an immediate end to the illegal arming of surrogate forces fighting the government; establishment of an immediate ceasefire on all sides; and allowing the peaceful people of Syria to decide their destiny democratically and independently;
- Calls for recognition of the Middle East as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone by all parties involved, including the US, Israel and Iran, and the removal of all nuclear weapons from the Middle East region;
- Urges all VFP Chapters and the broader peace movement to press the US government to support the Helsinki Conference and the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East as a concrete and logical solution to the present crisis in the region.

Veterans For Peace was founded in 1985 and has approximately 5,000 members in 150 chapters located in every U.S. state and several countries. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) by the United Nations, and is the only national veterans’ organization calling for the abolishment of war.



Stop Harassment & Assault of Political Activists by Police!

FIRE THIS TIME ACTIVISTS BRUTALIZED AND ASSAULTED BY TRANSIT POLICE AND RCMP!
September 4, 2012
<http://stopassaultonpoliticalactivists.wordpress.com>
www.youtube.com/firethistime

On August 31, 2012, at Metrotown Skytrain Station near Vancouver, Canada, Transit police officers and the RCMP assaulted, handcuffed and removed three activists that were peacefully distributing the Fire This Time newspaper (FTT). Because FTT is a non-commercial, free social justice newspaper, the officers had no legal ground to stop the distribution. It is clear that the aim of the assault was to intimidate and harass social justice activists which is political targeting as FTT publishes many articles against war and in support of social justice struggles in Canada, from Indigenous rights to labour organizing. This was an attack on our fundamental civil and democratic rights which include freedom of expression and the right to organize and demonstrate without violence and intimidation. It is also a case of police brutality, which is a disturbing trend growing in Canada.

AUGUST 31: Fire This Time Activists Brutalized and Assaulted by Transit Police and RCMP

On the day of the assault, we were distributing the FTT newspaper without incident at the Metrotown Skytrain Station. After an hour, two transit police officers arrived and immediately began telling the four of us that we needed to leave the station and stop distributing. We showed the officers and read aloud the publicly posted Transit rules available on large boards in every skytrain station. These rules state that, “printed material for non-commercial purposes will be permitted on transit properties, other than transit vehicles or fare-paid zones,” provided distribution does not impede transit traffic or operations.

The police insisted that it did not matter what the posted rules state and that there are other rules that are not posted. When we asked what those rules are or how they applied to this situation, they refused to answer. Instead, the police stated that because they were asking us to leave the station and we were refusing, this was justification for our arrest. This sort of Catch-22 argument never answered the fundamental question as to why they demanded we leave in the first place!

Drawing the attention of many passers-by, who took videos of the escalating police harassment, we continually asked the police, “Why are we being arrested?” “What have we done?” “What laws have we broken?” These questions were never answered. Soon, Shakeel had his arm wrenched behind his back by the officer putting him in handcuffs. During this assault, Mike, another FTT activist, began filming with his phone. Once the officer realized the assault was being filmed he responded by grabbing Mike’s arm and putting him in handcuffs as well. The officer attempted to take away Mike’s phone, but he was able to pass it another FTT activist who was consulting with a lawyer and documenting the assault.

At the same time, another officer was harassing Thomas, the FTT activist who had been explaining the posted Transit rules. Holding tightly onto a stack of FTT newspapers, Thomas continued to ask the officer “Why are you doing this?” The officer ignored this question, threatening him with arrest and saying he would “hurt” him if he tried to move away. In response to Thomas’ peaceful questioning, the officer grabbed his neck, pushed pressure points on his head and slammed him into a corner.

When back-up Transit and RCMP officers arrived, they made the total officer count more than ten, and took Mike and Shakeel out of the station in handcuffs. On the street outside of the station, both had their bags searched without consent and were put in the back of two RCMP patrol cars. Thomas was kept in the station and continued to ask the officer what laws he had broken and why he was being arrested until he was viciously rammed up against the stair railing by three officers, tackled to the ground, handcuffed, and taken out of the station. During this, Thomas was told he was being arrested for “creating a disturbance”. Thomas was put in the back of an unmarked SUV. After some time in the vehicles Thomas, Mike and Shakeel were each told separately that they would be released without any

charges but banned from the Transit system for 24 hours. It was clear that the police officers had no reason for arrest, as Thomas, Shakeel and Mike had broken no Transit rules and had been targeted because of the political nature of the FTT newspaper.

Thomas, Shakeel and Mike were separately driven to a Burnaby Community Police Station and released. All three of us had to visit the Emergency Room for medical treatment following the assault.

Following the harassment and assault, we were never issued a ticket or any written documentation. We were never told on what basis we were asked to leave the Skytrain station in the first place. During this incident 150 of our newspapers were taken and we have video footage of a police officer holding some of them. Immediately upon his release from police custody, Shakeel checked his phone for the video footage he had taken during the assault and it was not there. This video had been erased during the time that an RCMP officer had his phone.

This was not an isolated incident, but the culmination of four months of repeated harassment of FTT activists distributing the newspaper. However, in most cases Transit officials and police officers were forced to allow us to continue distribution after we pointed out the publicly posted Transit rules and defended our right to continue distribution. The August 31 assault was an escalation of this campaign of harassment and intimidation. We have video footage available for many of these incidents.

Stand Up for Democratic Rights!

Why is it that after over an hour of harassment and brutal assault we were released without charges and without being told that we were in violation of any Transit rules? Without a doubt if police had had any justification or valid legal reason they would of pursued further action or charges. This makes it clear that the police and transit authorities were politically targeting Fire This Time activists.

This assault on our democratic rights is happening in the context of the new era of war and occupation. Since September 11, 2001 the U.S. and its imperialist allies including Canada have begun a new era of increasing war and occupation; from the continued occupation of Afghanistan to the bombing and war against Libya and now threats, sanctions and covert foreign intervention in Syria and Iran. Whenever imperialist governments like the U.S. and Canada wage brutal and devastating wars abroad it is always accompanied by a crack-down against those who defend social justice and protest war at home. As an independent social justice newspaper, Fire This Time spreads a message against this war on working and oppressed people at home and abroad. This assault and continued harassment is an attack on our democratic rights and freedom of speech and expression in order to silence independent voices for peace and social justice.

Incidents like these remind us that if we do not defend our rights we lose them. We will vigorously defend not only the right of our organization to organize and publish its ideas, but the right of all poor and working people to do the same even if they contradict the current government’s policies and practices. We absolutely refuse to be intimidated by violence and harassment, and call on all peace and social justice loving people to join with us in defending our fundamental democratic rights. United we can defend and extend the rights past generations fought so hard to establish! United we can win!

We must join together to demand:
**STAND AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY!
STOP HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT OF POLITICAL ACTIVISTS!
OPPOSE SUPPRESSION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION!**

www.youtube.com/firethistime
stopassaultonpoliticalactivists.wordpress.com