

# 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 on Tuesdays - 7:00PM

For location, please visit our website:

[mawovancouver.org](http://mawovancouver.org)

e. [info@mawovancouver.org](mailto:info@mawovancouver.org)

t. 604-322-1764

f. 604-322-1763

\* Next Organizing Meeting \*

TUESDAY July 29 at 7 pm

Britannia Community Center - Learning Resource Centre  
1661 Napier Street

MAWO Newsletter #47 Created by: Tamara Hansen, Alison Bodine and Ali Yerevani

### Who is Private Manning "Soldier of Humanity"?

To find out more about the case of whistleblower Private Manning, pick up a brochure and petition from a MAWO info table or download one from our website [www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org)

Endorsed by MAWO:

## 105th Monthly Protect Action!

# FREE ALL THE CUBANS HELD IN U.S. JAILS!



Rene Gonzalez with his family in Cuba Served 13 years unjustly in U.S. jail



Fernando Gonzalez with his family in Cuba Served 15 years unjustly in U.S. jail



Ramiro Gonzalez Served 25 years unjustly in U.S. jail



Antonio Guerrero Served 16 years unjustly in U.S. jail



Gerardo Hernandez Served 14 years unjustly in U.S. jail

**Tuesday August 5**  
**Picket: 4-5pm**  
**U.S. Consulate**  
**1075 W. Pender St. - Downtown Vancouver, Canada**  
**@freeThe5van** **Free the Cuban 5 Committee Vancouver**  
**www.freeThe5van.org**

stop the war! stop the occupations!

[www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org)

# MAWO 48

newsletter

1st Edition

July 2014

mobilization against war & occupation

## End the Siege on Gaza! End the Massacre of Palestinians! Israel Out of Gaza Now! Self-determination for Palestine!

Statement from Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO

July 19, 2014

For more than two weeks, Israel has been pounding the people of Gaza, one of the most densely populated territories in the world, from the air, ground and sea. Thousands of air strikes and intense shelling have hit Palestinian homes, mosques, physical rehabilitation centres, roads and entire communities, killing more than 400 Palestinians, and injuring more than 2,000 people, most of them civilians.

Israel is once again blaming its current aggression on Hamas, as Hamas has been responding to the Israeli bombardment by launching homemade rockets into Israel. However, the origins go beyond the stories we hear in mainstream imperialist media and the real reason has nothing to do with rockets.

On April 23, 2014, Fatah, the political leadership of Palestinians in the West Bank formed a unity government with the more militant Hamas, which is the elected leadership of Palestinians in Gaza since 2006. Upset with a show of unity and strength among Palestinians, Israel needed to find a way to punish Palestinians and try to divide their leadership. While pushing Fatah to end its coalition with Hamas, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu immediately blamed Hamas for the disappearance of three

Israeli settler teenagers in June and used it as a pretext for collective punishment as Israel launched 'Operation Brother's Keeper', where more than 700 Palestinians in the West Bank were arrested, thousands of homes were raided, five Palestinians were killed, and the West Bank was locked down. When the three Israeli teenagers turned up dead, Netanyahu put the blame squarely on Hamas and the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) then bombed

Gaza 34 times. While Hamas denies any responsibility, it resisted the Israeli bombings with its homemade rockets. At the same time, anti-Palestinian hysteria gripped Israeli society and a young Palestinian teenager was immediately kidnapped, tortured and killed by racist Israeli settlers.

The argument that Israel and imperialist countries use, that Israel is simply defending itself against terrorists, is ironic because Israel, itself, is a country built and maintained on terrorism. Its very foundation on Zionism and colonialism in 1948 is with Palestinian blood. The ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their homes, towns and cities allowed for the appropriation of more land by the Zionist state. And today, after more than six decades, Israel keeps Palestinians locked down in the West Bank and Gaza, which get smaller and smaller as Israeli forces and settlers continue to confiscate more



Continued on page 2

### MONTHLY ANTI-WAR RALLY & PETITION CAMPAIGN



## STOP ISRAEL'S ASSAULT ON PALESTINIANS! ISRAEL HANDS OFF GAZA! END THE BLOCKADE OF GAZA!

US, EU, Canada, NATO Hands Off Ukraine! US Hands Off Venezuela, Yankee Go Home! Imperialists Hands Off Syria! Lift All Sanctions Against Iran! Free Private Manning, Soldier of Humanity! No to US Drones! US & All Imperialists Out of Afghanistan Now! No to a New US War on Iraq! No to War & Occupation! Yes to Self-Determination! Self-Determination for Indigenous Nations & All Oppressed Nations! Money for Housing, Healthcare, Jobs & Education, Not for War & Occupation!

**SATURDAY August 23**  
**2pm - Vancouver Art Gallery**  
**Hornby St & Robson St**  
**Downtown Vancouver, Canada**

Mobilization Against War & Occupation [f](https://www.facebook.com/MAWO_Van) [t](https://www.twitter.com/MAWO_Van) [www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org)



Palestinian land.

Today, Gaza is described as the 'the largest open-air prison in the world' with 1.7 million Palestinians virtually locked within a 350km2 strip along the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. As a result of the Israeli blockade, unemployment in Gaza is soaring beyond 38.5%, which surpasses the rate of 25% in the Great Depression-era of the United States. 13.2% of children in Gaza suffer from acute malnutrition and another 18.9% suffer from anemia.

"The blame on all of this is those terrorists who are firing on civilian populations." - John Baird, Foreign Minister of Canada, July 10, 2014.

Canada's unwavering support for the Israeli Zionist racist state dictates its foreign policy, Baird is once again placing every death, every injury, and every leveled building squarely on the shoulders of Hamas and the Palestinians. Baird also criticized Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, when she suggested that Israel's air campaign on Gaza may violate international laws prohibiting the targeting of civilians and that there should be an immediate ceasefire. Baird's statement in response was clear: "Canada rejects UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay's uncalled-for criticism of Israel's response to rocket attacks from Gaza. Focusing her comments on Israel is neither helpful nor reflective of the reality of this crisis." The reality that Baird is referring to is painted with brush of lies and manipulations by imperialist media across the world, including Canada, depicting Israel's current siege on Gaza as a somehow equal war or a measured response to "Hamas terrorists."

Canada not only doesn't recognize the democratic decision of Palestinians in Gaza who overwhelmingly voted in the militant Hamas as their elected leadership, but Hamas remains on its list of terrorist organizations.

Palestine will never die! Long live Palestine!

As protests in solidarity with Palestine erupt across the world, it is encouraging to see some governments of the world call for an end to Israel's violence. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, who broke diplomatic ties with Israel after the 2009 siege on Gaza, is trying to have Israel face the International Court of Justice for its crimes against humanity. The Cuban Foreign Ministry, who also cut diplomatic relations with Israel, denounced "that Israel uses its military and technological superiority to execute a policy of collective punishment with out-of-proportion use of force, which causes the death of innocent civilians and huge material damage." Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro launched an "SOS Palestine" campaign to demand an end to Israel's war on Gaza. "The Palestinian people have the right to live in their ancestral lands in peace...our international position over the issue of Palestine is just and follows the policy of Comandante Hugo Chavez." Venezuela also hasn't had diplomatic ties with Israel since the 2009 siege on Gaza.

For more than six decades, Palestinians have endured the most brutal form of military occupation, displacement and genocide from the Zionist Israeli state. It is their resilience and determination to fight for what is rightly theirs--their land, their self-determination and dignity as a people--that is the reason they will once again be victorious against this new military onslaught by the criminal Israeli Defense Forces. It is their struggle that continues to inspire people in every corner of the world to fight for justice. It is why the Palestinian flag is such a strong symbol in our fight for a world free of injustice, wars and occupations.

In Canada, we need to hold the government of Canada accountable for its blind support for the illegal settler state of Israel. All working, poor and oppressed people need to stand together against the bloodshed Israel is committing against our Palestinian brothers and sisters.



Canada England



Yemen



Afghanistan

# WHAT THE MEDIA AREN'T TELLING YOU ABOUT THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE & CRIMEA

Corporate media have always lied about the reasons for war, from Vietnam and Iraq to Libya and Syria. If you turn on CNN or FOX News, read the New York Times or listen to NPR, you aren't getting the real story. Here are 10 things the U.S. corporate media won't tell you about what's happening in Ukraine.

A leaked call between Estonian and European Union officials reveals that people behind the new government hired snipers to kill protesters and police in Kiev. President Yanukovich was blamed for the killings and this was used to justify the coup.

## 1. Washington planned the coup in Ukraine.

U.S. State Department official Victoria Nuland was caught on tape plotting who would be the next head of Ukraine. She bragged that the U.S. had spent \$5 billion funding the so-called democracy movement there. Senator John McCain went to Kiev, spoke at rallies and was photographed with the leader of the fascist Svoboda party. Neo-Nazi forces took over buildings and threw out the elected government in a coup d'etat, then passed new laws with no quorum in the parliament.

## 2. There has been no Russian invasion.

Washington officials have threatened Russia for "invading" Ukraine. It's a Big Lie meant to cover up U.S. involvement in the coup. Russia has a military base in Crimea, a predominately Russian ethnic area, and is legally allowed to station up to 25,000 troops in the country. On March 16, nearly 97 percent of Crimean voters who participated in a referendum chose to leave Ukraine and affiliate with the Russian Federation. Russia has said it may act to protect civilians if they are threatened by the neo-Nazis in Kiev. That is all.

## 3. The U.S. war buildup.

The Navy has deployed the USS Truxton, a warship armed with guided missiles, to the Black Sea. Six F-15 fighter jets and 60 military personnel have been sent to Lithuania, in addition to those already stationed there. The U.S. and EU are imposing sanctions and travel bans on Russian officials. Politicians from Hillary Clinton to John McCain have compared Russian President Vladimir Putin to Hitler. When preparing for war, the U.S. always uses this bogus comparison to demonize leaders of opponent countries.

## 4. Neo-Nazis dominate the new government.

The openly racist, anti-Semitic and pro-Hitler Svoboda party is one of three major parties in the government. Svoboda led the street actions that forced elected President Yanukovich to flee. The Right Sector, armed fascists who have beaten opponents and vandalized public property, are now in charge of the military. Immediately after the coup, Ukraine's chief rabbi, Moshe Reuven Azman, urged Jews to flee Kiev. The government's first act was to ban the use of Russian and other minority languages. Opponents of the coup have been beaten, disappeared, or had their offices and homes vandalized and burned. On March 14 in the city of Kharkov, two anti-fascists were shot dead and three people were taken hostage by neo-Nazis sent from Kiev.

## 5. Coup leaders hired snipers to justify takeover.

## 6. Wall Street and Big Oil want to control Ukraine - and Russia.

Oil and gas pipelines in Ukraine bring fuel from Russia to Europe. Big Oil wants to cut the flow from Russia and hike their own profits. The U.S. has even offered the new government gas from dangerous fracking drilling here! Russia is the world's largest producer of gas, oil and industrial minerals. They want to break up Russia too. Wall Street would love to get its claws deeper into Ukraine and Russia - to drive up profits and push down wages for workers here and there.

## 7. NATO's drive to expand.

As part of the Western drive to dismantle Russia, the Pentagon wants to establish military bases on the Ukraine/Russia border. The U.S.-dominated NATO alliance has expanded aggressively into eastern Europe in the past 20 years, adding 12 countries to its roster so far. Since their criminal bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999, the U.S./NATO forces continue to occupy Kosovo, a province of Serbia, and are still present in Afghanistan to the south.

## 8. Billions for coup in Ukraine, cuts for food stamps in U.S.

In early February, Congress and the Obama administration agreed to cut SNAP food assistance benefits for hungry families by \$8.7 billion, claiming there's no money. Yet just weeks later, they announced \$10 billion in assistance to the neo-Nazis in Kiev. Secretary of State John Kerry personally delivered the first billion on March 4.

## 9. Power for the 1%, misery for workers.

The new regime has appointed wealthy oligarchs as governors of rebellious regions of Eastern Ukraine. It's also agreed in principle to accept an IMF austerity plan drafted by Washington to cut workers' pensions, unemployment insurance and social programs - just like the cut-backs workers from Detroit to Greece face.

## 10. People across Ukraine are fighting back.

People in Eastern Ukraine and throughout the country are organizing against the coup. Some have taken over regional and city buildings and refused to hand them over to the new authorities. Others are marching on military bases and demanding that the troops not obey the commands of the neo-Nazis in Kiev. Some are calling on the Russian government to protect and assist them. The people of Ukraine remember well what Nazi rule was like during World War II, and they will not stand for it again.

International Action Center  
www.iacenter.org

## MAWO IRAQ STATEMENT - July 7, 2014

# NO TO ANOTHER U.S. WAR IN IRAQ!

### SELF-DETERMINATION - NOT MORE TROOPS AND OCCUPATION!

Since the beginning of June, 2014, the open wounds of Iraq caused by sanctions, wars and occupations have grown deeper. This is when the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS, also known as ISIL) began an onslaught against Iraq, establishing control of important border crossings, cities and territory in Iraq through terrorist actions directed against Iraqi civilians. As of June 29, ISIS had taken control of Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, and declared a "Caliphate" state in the areas under their control in Northern Iraq in opposition to the Iraqi state. Fighting between ISIS and the Iraqi military forces continues, imposing more violence and destruction on the people of Iraq who are already facing the daily reality of a country devastated by over 11 years of U.S.-led war and occupation.

In response to the ISIS terrorist attacks, the U.S. government has sent 770 troops into Iraq. The majority of them, 470, are charged with security of the gigantic U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. The remaining have been assigned as so-called 'military advisers' to assess the training and condition of the Iraqi Army which the U.S. government built-up and trained as part of the ongoing occupation of Iraq. Increased U.S. troop presence in Iraq has been accompanied by F-18 jets, Apache helicopters and drones on surveillance missions and their influence has been expanded to also include the protection of Iraq's main airport in Baghdad.

The U.S. government has justified their increased troop presence by claiming that they are sending troops and military equipment to Iraq in order to help bolster the efforts of the Iraqi army in their fight against ISIS in Iraq and to help Iraq achieve stability. But how is this possible when, in fact, it is the U.S. government itself that is the biggest destabilization and terrorist force in Iraq? U.S.-led war, occupation, destruction in Iraq over more than 20 years has caused the deaths of at least 3 million people. 500,000 children alone were killed by 12 years of devastating U.S. sanctions that began in the 1990s. Sanctions were followed by 11 years of the occupation of that began with the March 2003 carpet bombing and invasion and continues on to today. This occupation has resulted in the complete destruction of medical, educational and sanitary infrastructure, with all

factors of quality of life in Iraq plummeting under the assault of the full force of the U.S. military.

These are the open wounds in Iraq created by the US government and their allies. But, really, the question must be asked: what are the roots of an organization like ISIS? First of all, ISIS is the product U.S.-led war and sanctions, that combined left Iraq broken and divided. Western occupying forces utilized the age-old strategy of "divide and conquer" as they fomented a bloody sectarian war in Iraq that turned brothers into enemies in order to defeat a powerful Iraqi resistance to U.S./U.K. occupation. ISIS has also benefited from Western military, financial and covert intervention in Syria. They are one of the many so-called rebel forces in Syria that operate with the support and backing of the U.S. government, and funding and support from U.S.-allies Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait. On top of this, it is also clear who is benefiting from the ISIS attacks on Iraq. The U.S. government and their allies need an unstable and divided Iraq in order to continue their occupation, resource theft and struggle for complete hegemony in the Middle East.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) is standing with antiwar coalitions and peace-loving people around the world in demanding "No to Another U.S. War in Iraq!" What the people of Iraq need is not more U.S. troops, drones and war-planes; the people of Iraq demand their self-determination. People in Iraq are completely capable of defending themselves against any foreign intervention including ISIS. The march of ISIS is not the result of a sectarian battle in Iraq, as Western media might have us all believe. It is the product of imperialist intervention in Iraq, Syria and across the Middle East. It is the result of the new era of war and occupation that began with the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

MAWO is committed to continuing to organize against any form of imperialist intervention in Iraq. We invite all peace-loving people to join with us and demand:

**No to Another U.S. War on Iraq!**  
**Hands Off Iraq Now!**  
**U.S. Out of Iraq Now!**

Endorsed by MAWO: