

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

e. info@mawovancouver.org

t. 604-322-1764

f. 604-322-1763

*** Next Organizing Meeting ***

TUESDAY October 7 at 7 pm

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

MAWO Newsletter #50 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

Endorsed by MAWO:

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION! 107th MONTHLY PROTEST

Marking the 38th anniversary of the air Cubana flight bombing by terrorist Luis Posada Carriles

Terrorist
Luis Posada Carriles



BOMBED



THESE 5 CUBAN ANTI-TERRORISTS, SAVED LIVES.
YET... 3 REMAIN UNJUSTLY IN
U.S. PRISONS



**FREE ALL THE
CUBAN 5
NOW!**

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 5th
3:30-5PM
U.S. CONSULATE
1075 W. PENDER ST.**

[@FREETHES_VAN](https://twitter.com/FREETHES_VAN) [FREE THE CUBAN 5 COMMITTEE-VANCOUVER](https://www.facebook.com/freethecubans)
WWW.FREETHESVANCOUVER.CA

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 50

newsletter

1st Edition

September 2014

mobilization against war & occupation

MAWO IRAQ STATEMENT

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!**

U.S. / FRANCE & CANADA HANDS OFF IRAQ & SYRIA!



Public Forum

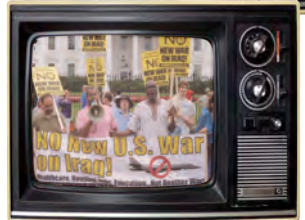
* Multimedia * Speakers * Discussion *

**Tuesday September 30
Joe's Cafe**

In Large North Hall

1150 Commercial Dr. at William St., Vancouver, Canada

7PM



[Mobilization Against War and Occupation](https://www.facebook.com/MobilizationAgainstWarandOccupation) [@MAWO_Van](https://twitter.com/MAWO_Van)
WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG



NO TO A NEW WAR ON IRAQ!

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 home-made 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 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 dictating 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

The World Stands with Palestine!



Canada

England



Yemen



Afghanistan

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.



WHY OBAMA’S ‘WAR ON ISIS’ MUST BE OPPOSED

September 16, 2014

President Barack Obama announced Sept.10 that the U.S. military would build an international coalition to make “war on the Islamic State.” He said there were already 10 countries in this coalition. Administration spokespeople on the Sept. 14 Sunday morning talk shows said they were still building the coalition. The next morning a conference of 30 countries opened in Paris on this theme.

The electronic media and the pages of major newspapers — the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and Christian Science Monitor, for example — were filled with debate on Obama’s new war policy. Active and retired Pentagon officers, State Department officials, policy strategists from the imperialist think tanks and op-ed writers all put out their critiques of Obama’s strategy of opening another long U.S. war while promising no U.S. “boots on the ground.”

Arguments raged from “just right” to “too little, too late,” with only a few saying “no way.” Many of the retired officers — for example, General Jack Keane, who urges a policy even more aggressive than what Obama proposes — are currently sitting on the boards of military contractors. That’s one sector of U.S. capitalism that gains from war, whichever way the battle goes.

That this debate is going on in front of the public reflects hesitations within the U.S. ruling class about the wisdom of waging yet another open-ended U.S. war of conquest in West Asia. More important than reviewing their arguments is the need to stress what this debate is really about: They are discussing what foreign policy will best defend and expand the

What U.S. policy did

Starting with the war in 1991 and the subsequent sanctions against the Iraqi people, followed by the invasion in 2003 that led to eight years of occupation, U.S. war crimes tore Iraqi society apart. U.S.-led wars and sanctions killed between 1 million and 2 million people. They demolished Iraq’s economic infrastructure and drove 5 million more into exile. U.S. occupation policies divided Iraqi society and provoked a sectarian civil war.

Washington and its allies in NATO and West Asia have also caused great loss of life and destruction in Syria. NATO, including Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf monarchies, weaponized the groups fighting the Syrian government. Most arms wound up in the hands of groups like al-Nusrah Front and ISIS (also called ISIL or just I.S.). Hundreds of thousands of people were killed; millions became refugees. Without NATO and Saudi Arabian aid, ISIS would have stayed local.

Various media claim that the repeated showing of two reporters from the U.S. and one from Britain being executed by ISIS have whipped up some popular fervor for “revenge” — although this mood falls short of support for another Iraq-type war.

While popular revulsion to the televised beheadings is understandable, think of what U.S. imperialism has done. U.S. weapons killed millions of Iraqis and Syrians. They, like the reporters, were victims of terror.

Much ruling-class debate involves what relationship the U.S. should have with the governments of Syria and Iran. Washington has demonized these two governments and steadily worked to overthrow Bashar al-Assad in Syria and sabotage the economy of Iran. Yet both Syria and Iran have been on



strategic and economic interests of the U.S. ruling class.

What’s at stake are the interests of the richest one hundredth of the 1%, those who own the oil companies, the weapons industry, the banks and the other major monopolies. To the debaters, this tiny but super-wealthy and powerful group’s interests are paramount.

Far from aiding Syrians or Iraqis, U.S. imperialism’s aims are antagonistic to the interests of the masses of people there. Washington’s new war also has nothing to do with defending the interests of the working class in the United States. It will not protect the Black people of Ferguson, Mo., from racist cops. It will not protect workers from low wages and layoffs. There is already talk of raising the Pentagon budget, thereby exempting it from sequester cuts imposed on the federal budget.

the front lines fighting against ISIS.

So far, U.S. spokespeople insist they will make no agreements with Syria or Iran. Actually, there is good reason to suspect that — should the “war on ISIS” be successful — it will quickly morph into a U.S. war against Syria.

It is the pinnacle of imperialist arrogance to pose, as many have in the ruling-class debate, the question: “Should the U.S. help resolve the conflicts in the Middle East?”

Washington’s past interventions have brought only misery and suffering to the region. From the point of view of the interests of all the people involved in the region, as well as those of the working class here, the only thing the U.S. can rightly do is get out, stay out and pay reparations to rebuild what it has wrecked.

By John Catalinotto

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