

# 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](mailto:info@mawovancouver.org)

t. 604-322-1764

f. 604-322-1763

**\* Next Organizing Meeting \***

**TUESDAY March 3rd at 7 pm**

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

MAWO Newsletter #52 Created by: Tamara Hansen, Janine Solanki, Thomas Davies 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:

**MARCH 8  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**WOMEN & THE  
CUBAN  
REVOLUTION**  
A REVOLUTION WITHIN  
THE REVOLUTION

Featuring political and cultural presentations  
from women around the world!  
**FILM, LIVE MUSIC & POETRY**

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 7<sup>2015</sup> 6PM**

**Vancouver Public Library  
Peter Kaye room  
350 West Georgia Street  
Downtown Vancouver, Canada**

International Greetings:

**Miraly González González**

First Secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa

**Carolina Escarrá**

International Relations of the Youth of the  
United Socialist Party of Venezuela (JPSUV)

Some remarks & poetry by:

**Tamara Hansen**

**Azza Rojbi**

**& Mayra**



**VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA - VCSC**  
[VANCUBASOLIDARITY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VANCUBASOLIDARITY@GMAIL.COM) | 778.882.5223 | @VANCUBA\_VCSC #VANCUBA  
**WWW.VANCUBASOLIDARITY.COM**

**stop the war! stop the occupations!**

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

**MAWO 52**

newsletter

1st Edition

February 2015

**mobilization against war & occupation**

**NEW MAWO STATEMENT**

## No War on Syria!

**This is Not a War on ISIS/ISIL!  
It is the New Imperialist War Drive  
in the Middle East!**

February 20, 2015

For almost four years the United States and other imperialist governments have been actively engaged in a bloody campaign to overthrow the government of Syria. They have been limited so far to imposing a cruel civil war upon the country by pumping it full of anti-government mercenaries. Throughout this entire time they have been constantly searching for an excuse to justify a full scale military intervention. Now they think they finally have one in a so called "the war against ISIS/ISIL".

More than 190,000 people have been killed and 22 million displaced because of the installed civil war in Syria. Within this fiery chaos also emerged the armed group ISIS/ISIL. Nobody benefited more from the hyper-injection of foreign military aid and funding than they did, and thanks to the vacuum of power created in war torn areas, they also expanded across Syria and moved into Iraq.

Never ones to miss an opportunity to justify increased war and occupation, the US used this as a justification to re-escalate their occupation of Iraq through hundreds of air strikes and an expanded military presence. The Canadian military joined the war drive by sending almost 700 soldiers, six CF-18 warplanes, two surveillance aircraft and an air-to air-tanker. The first six months of the Canadian mission alone will cost taxpayers 166 million dollars. This is despite repeated demands by Iraqis that all foreign troops leave the country immediately.

Now they are using a supposed war against ISIS/ISIL, a group they helped create, to try and finally accomplish what they've been aiming for the whole time: large scale direct military intervention in Syria. US President Barack Obama has asked for authorization to dispatch ground troops to fight against ISIS/ISIL, and to remove any geographic boundaries in the fight. The US is already in Iraq, so where else would they go besides Syria?

We have seen these warn out boogie man excuses time and time again since September 11, 2001. They have been used by the US and other imperialist countries to try and justify their wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Libya, Mali and beyond. In Afghanistan it was the Taliban, which they also created! In Iraq it was weapons of mass destruction, which never existed! Now over a decade later and millions of people dead and displaced by these wars, they want us to once again believe they have only the best of intentions in their newest offensive.

In August of 2013, the US and UK were literally hours away from bombing and direct military intervention in Syria. Pressured by the mobilization of poor and working people across the world, the government of the UK lost a key vote to authorize the military action the strategy fell apart from there. Even US President Obama had to concede the defeat in a televised address. This was an important victory for all peace loving people!

Now in February 2015, it is crucial that we once again rise up to demand an end to imperialist war and occupation, and especially against a new war in the Middle East: the war on Syria. The new era of war and occupation these governments have been imposing on oppressed people around the world must be brought to an end, and we cannot allow them to expand their bloody campaign further into Syria. We must unite to educate, organize and mobilize against imperialist war and occupation! We must demand, "No War on Syria!", "Imperialists Out of the Middle East!"

**• PUBLIC FORUM & DISCUSSION •**

**STOP!  
NO WAR ON SYRIA!**

**STOP!  
THIS IS NOT A WAR ON ISIS/ISIL,  
IT IS THE NEW IMPERIALIST WAR  
DRIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST!**

**Multimedia • Speaker • Discussion**

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24  
7pm Joe's Cafe**

(in the Large North Hall)

**1150 Commercial Drive @ William Street  
Vancouver, Canada**

**MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION  
INFO@MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG | @MAWO\_VAN  
WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG**



# STOP BILL C-51!

## Reasons to worry about the new, unnecessary anti-terror bill

BC Civil Liberties Association,  
February 3, 2015

Reprinted and shortened from:

<https://bccla.org/2015/02/bill-c-51-is-unnecessary/>

Friday, the federal government introduced Bill C-51, the Anti-terrorism Act 2015, which will dramatically expand the powers of Canada’s national security agencies and violate the rights of Canadians without making us demonstrably safer. The Prime Minister admitted that he doesn’t know whether these new legal measures could have prevented the recent tragic killings in Ottawa and Québec. That is no surprise, as there is no credible evidence that giving more power to spies is necessary as a result of those attacks. But the government proposes to expand the power of national security agencies anyway – despite the fact that they are so terribly lacking in accountability and transparency.

Simply put: this bill will give even more extraordinary and draconian powers to national security agencies, without evidence that this will enhance public safety and with no appropriate accountability and review mechanisms to curb the practically inevitable abuses of these sweeping powers. The BC Civil Liberties Association is gravely concerned by the provisions in Bill C-51, and we believe Canadians should be too.

Here are just a few provisions of the new bill that Canadians should be deeply concerned about:

**The bill makes it easier to throw people in jail without charge or even a suspicion of criminal activity, expanding the power of “preventive detention.”**

The new measures would let law enforcement agencies arrest someone if they think a terrorist act “may be carried out” instead of the current standard of “will be carried out.” They would also increase the period of preventive detention from three days to seven days.

The expansion of police powers to detain people without charges must be examined with the utmost scrutiny. Preventive detention permits holding an individual without charges based on mere suspicion of dangerousness. It is necessarily based on guess work, because if there were grounds to lay charges for a criminal offence – and by the way, you can be charged for even planning a criminal offence, that’s called conspiracy – a suspected individual could be detained under the usual criminal law procedures. The three-day preventive detention power with the current legal threshold to trigger it has never been used. Advocates for preventive detention say this shows that law enforcement was appropriately restrained in the use of this extraordinary power. We say this is evidence that such sweeping powers are simply unnecessary, and we ask: if three-day preventive detention has never been used, why on earth would we extend it to seven days?

Stripping an individual’s liberty where no criminal offence is committed – or where no offence is even suspected to have been committed – runs against the most basic principles of fundamental justice and, in our opinion, is unconstitutional.

**The bill makes criminals of people who**

supposedly “promote” terrorism but who have neither committed nor plan to commit a n y criminal or violent act.

It is already illegal to counsel or actively encourage someone to commit a specific terrorism offence. Bill C-51 would broaden that to ban the promotion of terrorism or intentional advocacy of it more generally.

As the world joins in solidarity to stand firm on the democratic necessity of free speech, Canada has announced its plans to criminalize words and sentiments in the misguided notion that this will make us safer. We will not be safer. We will be less free, less democratic, and less likely to know who to keep an eye on, because the people we might be concerned about won’t be discussing their troubling views.

This bill could also make a criminal out of any person who, for whatever reason, spouts off on social media in support of some awful violent event or another, whether in Canada or abroad — even if that individual has neither committed nor planned any criminal action. Simply saying that you support whatever happened would be enough to make you a criminal. As reprehensible as it might be to make statements in support of violence, it should not be a crime just to sit at home and write about it on Facebook without any intention to act violently or to incite others.

Moreover, the breadth of bill’s definition of terrorism and jeopardizing the security of Canada can only create a significant chill on legitimate political speech.

It seems highly likely to the BCCLA that this aspect of the bill is unconstitutional.

**The bill repeats the mistakes of history.**

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) was created in the early 1980s after an inquiry into the illegal activities and civil rights abuses of the RCMP, which originally also acted as Canada’s intelligence-gathering service. The RCMP at the time was engaged in repeated lawbreaking as it tried to interfere with the activities of groups that it targeted – for example, Québec separatists. This kind of undemocratic activity was so shocking that a commission of inquiry recommended that the power to conduct espionage and intelligence gathering be taken away from the RCMP, and that policing and intelligence gathering be separated in order to prevent future foul play by Canadians spies. Now, CSIS is being given extraordinary new police-like powers to “disrupt” the activities of suspected terrorists, instead of leaving those powers in the hands of police, without extending appropriate supervision and oversight to CSIS in exercising this new authority. While warrants will be required for disruption activities, there remains a significant problem in that CSIS’ oversight mechanism is ill-equipped to properly review the agency’s growing mandate.

Let us be clear – the government has presented absolutely no policy rationale, nor any evidence, to demonstrate why



## VANCOUVER ANTI-WAR RALLY DEMANDS:

### NO TO WAR! NO TO OCCUPATION NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA!

On Saturday January 31, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) called upon peace-loving people in Vancouver to join them in the streets of downtown Vancouver for their first antiwar rally and petition campaign drive of 2015. A quick look back on the last 12 months demonstrates clearly that the US-led war machine has continued the assault on oppressed people around the world through the ever-expanding new era of war and occupation with massive military aggression. Since October of 2001, with the start of the new era of war and occupation, the world has already seen the complete destruction of Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, and now Syria is left in a constant state of U.S. fomented division and civil war.

Following the attack on the offices of the Charlie Hebdo magazine in France, there has been a huge rise of Islamophobia in imperialist countries, coupled with the introduction of more and more so-called anti-terrorist legislation that threatens basic civil liberties. Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) in their rally condemned the terrorist attack in France, however also used the opportunity to condemn all forms of terrorism, including state terrorism, which is used by western colonial powers including France, Canada, the U.K. and the U.S. “We stand strongly against Islamophobia and the assault on civil liberties that is being organized and promoted by imperialist governments



CSIS’s mandate should be expanded. After much study and an entire commission of inquiry, much controversy , and the hard lessons of serious law-breaking and abuses committed in the name of “national security,” Canada decided to appropriately contain the powers of the newly created CSIS. This was deliberate. Now, the government seeks to up-end the approach of necessary constraint and license a de facto ‘secret police’ with a minimum of public discussion. The BCCLA opposes this expansion of powers, not least because there is no demonstrated need for them and a demonstrated history of their abuse.

As Canadians learn more through last week’s Snowden revelations about Canada’s activities in mass electronic spying, we know that what we need is transparency and accountability in the use of CSIS and CSEC’s existing, extraordinary

and the Western mainstream media,” stated Thomas Davies, an organizer and a founding member of MAWO who spoke during the rally.

Canada’s role in Iraq was also protested during the rally where it was stated that over 600 military personnel and special forces, six CF-18 fighter jets, a refueling tanker aircraft and two surveillance planes are operating there as part of an air combat mission. MAWO organizers made it clear that the government of Canada is fully complicit in this newest brutal addition to the legacy of foreign wars and occupations that have devastated Iraq and killed millions of people.

During the rally, organizers and activists with Mobilization Against War & Occupation distributed information against war to people walking by the busy downtown location while collecting signatures on their petition against the US led bombing campaign against Iraq. The petition also demands that the governments of Canada and the U.S. stop all material and financial aid to the ISIS/ISIL groups in Syria and Iraq.

MAWO organizers while finishing their protest and petition drive encouraged supporters to join them again next month as they continue their monthly rallies and forums to protest against war and occupation and building an effective antiwar movement.