

# 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 April 5, 2015 at 7 pm**

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

MAWO Newsletter #53 Created by: Janine Solanki 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)

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

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

# MAWO 53

newsletter

April 2015

**mobilization against war & occupation**

### NEW MAWO STATEMENT

## No War on Yemen!

### U.S./SAUDI ARABIA HANDS OFF YEMEN!

### U.S./SAUDI ARABIA STOP BOMBING YEMEN!

April 22, 2015

For one month Saudi Arabia, with the backing of the US, has devastated Yemen with a brutal and criminal bombing campaign. According to UN estimates, over 1,100 innocent Yemeni people have been killed. UNICEF last week released a report that by conservative estimates, more than 115 children have been killed by the Saudi-led war on Yemen. The indiscriminate bombing campaign against Yemen has created a humanitarian crisis where basic infrastructure has been destroyed, over 150,000 people have been displaced from their homes, and 12 million people in Yemen do not know where their next meal is coming from.

Under international condemnation and pressure, on Tuesday April 21, 2015 Saudi Arabia announced that their "Operation Decisive Storm" bombing campaign was over, and they announced the start of "Operation Renewal of Hope". This attempt of Saudi Arabia to appear less brutal is a complete farce. Less than 6 hours after this announcement, Saudi

airstrikes on Yemen continued. An air and naval blockade has been imposed on Yemen including at least seven U.S. combat ships blocking Yemen's ports. The U.S. and Saudi Arabia are not only breaking and undermining international laws but also are denying the people of Yemen of their self-determination, as well as are attacking Yemen's sovereignty.

## STOP BOMBING YEMEN!

Yemen's struggle to determine their own future free of U.S.-backed regimes is now facing foreign intervention and war with the help of the U.S.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation categorically condemns the Saudi Arabian bombing campaign against the innocent people of Yemen and the complete destruction of infrastructure of cities including roads, hospitals, schools, food and water sources, mosques and electrical power in Yemen.

>> STOP THE NEW CRIMINAL WAR BY UNITED STATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST!

>> U.S./SAUDI ARABIA HANDS OFF YEMEN!

>> SELF-DETERMINATION FOR YEMEN!

MultiMedia+Forum+Discussion

# SAUDI ARABIA/USA HANDS OFF YEMEN!

## اليمن



Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO



@MAWOvan

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

#### Speakers:

- > Asaad Abdullah, Yemeni activist
- > Azza Rojbi, MAWO organizer and Executive member
- > Ali Yerevani, Political editor of Fire This Time newspaper



# US supports Saudi bombings while Yemenis suffer

By Jane Cutter  
Apr 14, 2015



The U.S.-based media coverage of the Saudi war in Yemen rarely describes in detail the impact of the bombing campaign on civilians in the impoverished nation. A simple Tweet from @Rooj129 says it all: “2 know what it is like in #Yemen, turn off electricity, water, heating, eat once a day, fear for ur life.” According to the Wall Street Journal, at least 648 civilians have been killed so far, many of them children. Targets have included refugee camps, hospitals, schools, urban neighborhoods and soccer stadiums. The country is facing a serious humanitarian crisis.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is increasing its role in the brutal bombing campaign, both by vetting the Saudis’ target list, and by moving to intercept alleged Iranian aid to the Houthi rebels. This increased and direct assistance to the Saudi bombing effort is in contrast to the Obama administration’s stated desire for the Saudis to scale back the bombing campaign, focusing on halting Houthi advances and forcing all parties back to the negotiating table.

The Saudis, on the other hand, have as their stated goal the destruction of the Houthis military capability and the restoration of Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to the presidency—a goal some in the administration believe is unrealistic, given that 17 days of aerial and naval bombardment have failed to halt Houthi advances, although they were unable to hold Aden.

The reasoning behind the Obama administration’s advocacy of a more limited bombing campaign is grounded in some understanding of reality on the ground. While the Houthis are not universally loved in Yemen, the Saudis are probably even less popular, especially given that they are causing massive civilian casualties. Thus, the bombing campaign is likely to politically strengthen the Houthis and other anti-U.S. forces, including Al Qaeda in the Arabic Peninsula and/or Sana’a Province, an Islamic State affiliate.

If this is the administration’s understanding, why are they providing so much support to the bombing campaign? According to unnamed sources quoted by the WSJ, they are attempting to advise the Saudis on their target list, thus reducing the likelihood of civilian casualties, while continuing to counsel the Saudis to modify the goals of the operation. While it might seem laughable that the U.S. is concerned about civilian casualties in Yemen, given its history of drone attacks and the extra-legal assassination of U.S. citizens in Yemen, what the administration is concerned about is the scope of civilian casualties, which they wish to hold down to a more modest number.

The other direct support being given the Saudi effort takes the form of an attempt to “intercept” Iranian arms allegedly being sent to the Houthis. Secretary of State Kerry claimed that the U.S. knows that the Iranians are arming the Houthis, despite Iranian denials. On PBS NewsHour (April 7), he said: There are obviously supplies that have been coming from Iran...there

are a number of flights every single week that have been flying in. We trace those flights, and we know this. We are well aware of the support that Iran has been giving to Yemen, and Iran needs to recognize that the United States is not going to stand by while the region is destabilized, or while people engage in overt warfare across lines—international boundaries of other countries.”

Of course, this statement does not make a lot of sense at the present moment, given that there are no flights going in and out of Yemen due to the Saudi air blockade. The New York Times charitably opined that perhaps he was talking about “past support and not current activities.”

As reported in the WSJ, the U.S. Navy came up empty in its April 1 search of a Panamanian-flagged ship suspected of delivering Iranian weapons. Since that incident, the U.S. has stepped up its surveillance of the region.

Kerry’s remarks on the NewsHour were in the context of his explaining that the U.S. could “do two things at the same time” (like the man who can chew gum and walk), by which he meant that the U.S. could both “push back against Iranian attempts to project its influence around the region, while at the same time rewarding Tehran for providing guarantees that it was not building nuclear weapons.” (NYT, April 9)

This raises another question: Why go making claims about Iranian support for the Houthis and intercept ships while at the same time pursuing a new relationship with Iran? Even sources in the U.S. military are not convinced that Iran is deeply involved in aiding the Houthis: “I don’t get the sense that the Iranian level of commitment at this point is of such a magnitude that they are going to take a big risk of being exposed any more than they already are. . . . If they can do it and it’s not going to cost them a whole lot, I think they’ll do it. But the Houthis are not some ally that they are going to go to the mat for.” (WSJ April 13)

This whole situation is emblematic of the current global state of affairs, in which the U.S. is losing its position as the dominant global power and is flailing about, still quite lethally, without a real strategy. It is also indicative of divisions within the U.S. ruling class as to which way to go forward in advancing U.S. interests internationally. While in the past, one would assume that Saudi Arabia would not initiate a bombing campaign without explicit U.S. approval, now the client state is taking the lead to protect what it sees as its own regional interests, recognizing that the U.S. may leave them on their own when push comes to shove.

The U.S. now seems to be jumping on board with the anti-Iran/anti-Houthi rhetoric, while simultaneously allying with Iran versus IS in Iraq. U.S. policy seems to reactively jump from crisis to crisis without a clear vision or strategy. In the meantime, Yemen is suffering and faces disaster. All the more reason all progressive and revolutionary people need to work together to put U.S. imperialism in the dustbin of history where it belongs.

From: **Liberation**  
<http://www.liberationnews.org>

# 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 war against

**U.S. HANDS  
OFF SYRIA!**

“ t h e  
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!”

## Secretary General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah, the leader of the resistance movement in Lebanon:

“Saudi Invaders, Yemeni People will Triumph, You’ll be Defeated”

By Marwa Haidar (an excerpt)

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah lashed out at Saudi Arabia over its war on Yemen, stressing that the failure of Riyadh’s foreign policy is the real reason behind the Kingdom’s attack against its neighbor. Sayyed Nasrallah called on Saudi Arabia to halt its military attack on Yemen, saying there’s still a chance for the Kingdom to change its mind over the assault. In this context, the Lebanese resistance leader stressed that the only solution for the Yemeni crisis is political, “or else the invaders will be defeated.” Meanwhile, his eminence said that the problem in Yemen is not because Saudi Arabia wants to defend a government or a president; it is rather because Saudi Arabia has lost its influence in Yemen.

“If the aim of the war on Yemen is to save the Yemeni people, then why did Saudi Arabia abandon the Palestinian people for long decades?”

Sayyed Nasrallah meanwhile said that the latest developments in Yemen prove “that Arab states have never considered Israel an enemy.”

“Saudi Arabia has opposed the revolution which had overthrown Hosni Mubarak. Why didn’t they form a coalition to strike Egypt?”

“Pretext that Yemen represents a threat to Gulf states is baseless,” Sayyed Nasrallah said, adding that “one of the most big lies Saudi Arabia has been propagating is that Iran is occupying Yemen.”

The major mentality of Saudi Arabia is that it does not recognize the rights of the peoples of the region, his eminence said.

“Where are the achievements of Saudi Arabia’s foreign policy since 30 years ago?” Sayyed Nasrallah wondered, stressing that the failure of Riyadh’s policy “is prompting the people of the region to resort to Iran.”

“What did you do for Iraq? You had funded the war waged by Saddam Hussein against Iran. You supported Saddam Hussein as he was committing genocide against Iraqi people. You had also supported George Bush in his war on Iraq. And when the Iraqi people resisted the US occupation you had supported al-Qaeda-linked groups and Takfiri militants, and ISIL is your latest crime.”

“The Saudi intelligence was sending the booby-trapped cars and funding the suicide attacks on the Iraqi cities. You have sent the Takfiri monsters to Syria not to save the Syrian people, but to subdue Syria. However Syria will remain free and independent,” Sayyed Nasrallah said referring to Saudi Arabia.

Sayyed Nasrallah stressed that it’s the Yemeni people’s right to defend their country against the Saudi airstrikes. On the other hand, Hezbollah S.G. stressed that the dialogue between the resistance party and the Future movement is still going on, noting that the move is a national interest.

“We will go on with the dialogue with Future movement since it is considered a national interest.”

Responding to claims that Iran is hindering the preidnetial elections in Lebanon, Sayyed Nasrallah said: “Iran has not interfered in the presidential elections, and will not do so. Tehran is not responsible for the current deadlock.”

His eminence however, stressed that Saudi Arabia is hindering the presidential vote. “Saudi FM, Saud al-Faisal, he who is vetoing the election of the candidate who has the majority within the Christians in Lebanon.”