

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 August 25, 2015 at 7 pm

Britannia Community Center - Learning Resource Centre

1661 Napier Street

MAWO Newsletter #55 Created by: Janine Solanki, Ali Yerevani, Noah Fine

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tory over Iranian "hawks" and an easing of a war threat from Iran. This is totally misleading. The war threat on a global scale, and most especially in the Middle East, and the responsibility for war, invasion, occupation and cynical sectarian divisions lies with U.S. militarism. The most powerful U.S. corporations — Big Oil and the military industries that profit from war — drive the right-wing forces mobilizing against any normalization of relations with Iran.

They realize that with the end of sanctions, foreign investors will not have gained unlimited access to Iran. As the March 30 Wall Street Journal laments: "The country launched a privatization program a decade ago that has, albeit fitfully, moved share ownership from companies directly controlled by the government into the hands of Iranian pension funds. Those pension funds are also controlled by government entities — leaving the bulk of the market still under government sway, a concern for some potential investors."

Israel and Saudi Arabia, as dependent U.S. proxies in the region and whose position and billions of dollars in military equipment are based on their role promoting war and instability, are both threatened by any form of agreement with Iran.

These driving interests are the basis of the large militarist factions in the U.S. ruling class that are still determined to push for war with Iran. They have plans to mount a massive media and lobbying campaign in the 60 days that the U.S. Congress has to approve the agreement. "Bomb Iran" is their theme. "War is inevitable" is their message. War profits is their motive.

It is the hawks like Sen. John McCain, funded by powerful U.S. corporations with a profitable stake in war and militarism, that are determined to sabotage even this short-term agreement. These are the hawks who have lined up a series of right-wing and reactionary think tanks to mobilize a multimillion dollar campaign to defeat the agreement in Congress and possibly to incite military provocations.

A multimillion dollar TV, print, radio and digital campaign will be paid for by well-funded think tanks such as United Against Nuclear Iran, Secure America Now, the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, the American Security Initiative and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. They are all busy preparing a full court press in Congress and public opinion.

But the problem U.S. banks and corporations face is that with this agreement finally set, there is a stampede to Tehran. Business hotels in Tehran are packed and U.S. corporations fear being left out of the deals being made, based on Washington's own intransigence.

Those forces in the U.S. ruling class that are more aware of the shrinking position of U.S. power, including the fallout from its disastrous wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, are anxious to achieve a regional realignment. They desperately hope to weaken the alignment of Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas through sectarian division and destabilization.

They well understand that it was the revolutionary overturn of the brutal U.S.-imposed Iranian monarchy in 1979 that fundamentally decreased U.S. influence in the entire region.

The unsolvable contradiction is that U.S. imperialism has both failed to destabilize Iran and has utterly failed to stabilize its rule in Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan, despite massive destruction. Its plans for a quick overturn in Syria have also met determined resistance, despite billions of dollars in funds, equipment and the training of mercenary forces.

This agreement may be only a temporary reprieve. But for Iran it is a hard-fought step forward in a continuing struggle to maintain both Iranian sovereignty and economic development in the face of U.S. imperialist threats and provocations.

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stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 55

newsletter

August 2015

mobilization against war & occupation

Nuclear Agreement – An historic moment for Iran



By Sara Flounders

The agreement reached July 14 between Iran and the "5+1," the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (U.S., Britain, France, Russia and China) plus Germany, is a huge achievement — for Iran.

Whenever any oppressed country, besieged by imperialism, is able to gain a treaty, gain even a temporary agreement or forestall an outright war while maintaining its sovereignty, it should be acknowledged as a victory over U.S. intransigence.

Speaking with reporters in Vienna, Iran Foreign Minister Javad Zarif called the agreement a "historic moment." "We are reaching an agreement that is not perfect for anybody, but it is what we could accomplish, and it is an important achievement for all of us," he stated.

U.S. imperialism has attempted through decades of ever-tightening economic sanctions, endless forms of industrial sabotage, political subversion, assassinations, isola-

tion, military encirclement, destabilization campaigns and endless media vilification to bring down the Iranian government and restore a subservient regime such as ruled Iran before the 1979 Iranian Revolution.

The complete failure of these decades-long efforts has finally forced a new agreement. But this limited agreement does not mean an end to Washington's continuing efforts to sabotage Iran's independent development. The 159-page agreement and the complex inspections and conditions for step-by-step lifting of the walls of sanctions provide numerous opportunities to use the International Atomic Energy Agency inspections to continually investigate and gain access to all manner of Iranian facilities and to make new demands, create new crises or attempt to sabotage the whole agreement.

The agreement on the part of U.S. and Western corporate power is based on the arrogant hope of ensnaring Iran in a web

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Artwork by [bijan sayfourisayfouris.com](http://bijan.sayfourisayfouris.com)

free public forum
One Step Closer to Peace
Why Iran and the P5+1 Nuclear Deal is a Turning Point in the Middle East
speakers.multimedia.discussion
Friday August 21 7pm
Joe's Cafe
1150 Commercial Dr, Vancouver
speakers:
> Ali Yerevani,
Participant in the 1979 Iranian Revolution, social justice organizer, political editor of Fire This Time newspaper and Battle of Ideas Press
> Phil Wilayto,
Speaks through video conference
U.S. researcher, social justice organizer, editor of the virginia defender newspaper, author of "in defence of iran"
mobilization against war & occupation (MAWO)
www.mawovancouver.org | info@mawovancouver.org

No War on Yemen!

U.S./SAUDI ARABIA HANDS OFF YEMEN!

U.S./SAUDI ARABIA STOP BOMBING YEMEN!



Statement from Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO

April 22, 2015 (Updated May 22)

People all around the world are asking when this inhuman and criminal bombing against the innocent people of Yemen will be stopped. Since March 19, 2015, for over two months, Saudi Arabia, backed by the U.S., has carried out a brutal and devastating bombing campaign against the people of Yemen. A short-lived 5-day ceasefire - which Saudi Arabia never respected - to allow humanitarian aid to reach the Yemeni people ended last Sunday, May 17. It was followed with the prompt return of Saudi airstrikes bombarding Yemeni cities and infrastructure, showing that Saudi Arabia and the U.S. are still intent on continuing the humanitarian crisis, destruction and indiscriminate killing in Yemen.

According to UN estimates, over 1,850 innocent Yemeni people have been killed and more than 7,390 injured since the Saudi Arabian assault began. However, these are conservative estimates and other sources almost double the number of people killed.

The indiscriminate bombing campaign against Yemen has created a humanitarian crisis where basic infrastructure has been destroyed, over half a million people have been displaced from their homes, and 12 million people in Yemen do not know where their next meal is coming from. Millions of Yemeni people are suffering from shortages of food, water, fuel

and medicines because of the bombing and the air, land and sea blockade. Planes and ships attempting to bring humanitarian aid to Yemen are often blocked and even targeted by Saudi airstrikes, including United Nations UNICEF humanitarian aid ships, which were fired upon on May 17, right after the ceasefire ended.

Under international condemnation and pressure, on Tuesday April 21, 2015 Saudi Arabia announced that their "Operation Decisive Storm" bombing campaign was over as 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, and are still continuing a month later. 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 and sovereignty. 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.

Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)

Hands Off Syria! Stop Saudi/US War on Yemen!

Stop Bombing Yemen!

MAWO Continues Organizing Against War & Occupation

On August 3rd, 2015 the Associated Press released an article in which it provided information from a new poll taken in Syria and Iraq. The Airwars poll showed that in the past year alone 459 innocent civilians have been killed by US air strikes. This includes the deaths of 64 civilians, 31 of which were children from a US-led coalition air strike on the village of Bir Mahli, Syria on May 4th.

Meanwhile in Yemen, US-backed Saudi airstrikes continue to destroy the ancient and beautiful cities and landscapes of that country as Saudi Arabia threatens to send more troops and bombs to continue its campaign of killing Yemeni people.

As threats to human life around the world continue at the hands of the imperialist war makers, Vancouver antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) continues to educate, organize and mobilize against war and for peace.

During the summer month of July, MAWO organized two important actions to bring people together against war. The first of the activities took place on Tuesday July 7th, where supporters of peace gathered together in East Vancouver for a public forum titled, "STOP BOMBING YEMEN! USA/Saudi Arabia Hands Off Yemen!" After watching a number of multimedia and videos about the war on Yemen, participants got to hear from speakers Janine Solanki, MAWO's chairperson as well as Azza Rojbi, executive committee member of MAWO and Tunisian social justice activist. The presentations were followed by a lively discussion on the importance of building an antiwar movement against the US/Saudi aggression on Yemen.

Later that month, on July 24th, MAWO activists and supporters from all different cultures and backgrounds joined in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery in busy downtown Vancouver for MAWO's monthly antiwar petition drive and rally. Among the speakers at the rally was Iraqi antiwar activist Mamdoh Ashir who spoke about the US attempts to divide Iraq and the criminal, ongoing US war on his country. Throughout the afternoon activists collected petition signatures against the war and opened up countless discussions and debates about war and occupation with passers-by.

As the summer season comes to a close and fall begins MAWO will be on the streets, campuses and all over the lower mainland. Mobilization Against War & Occupation will be campaigning against war and occupation and invites people to join in the fight against against war & occupation and for a better world.

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of economic indebtedness, political compromises and social instability to ultimately regain control of Iran's rich resources. So the agreement is hardly a finished product. It reflects an ongoing struggle.

U.S. military threats will continue and possibly escalate through constant movements of aircraft carriers and all of their accompanying warships, destroyers, jet bombers and Trident nuclear submarines, capable of destroying all life on earth in one launch, off the coast of Iran. U.S. wars in the region directly and through its proxies of Saudi Arabia, Israel and countless mercenary, marauding bands will continue.

Sanctions = extortion

Sanctions are a form of warfare. They are economic extortion by a group of nuclear-armed pirates. The sanctions on Iran predate Iran's decision to revive a nuclear energy program that had begun, with full U.S. support, during the rule of the brutal, U.S.-backed Pahlavi monarchy. U.S. sanctions began soon after the Iranian Revolution along with the seizure of Iranian assets held in U.S. banks.

These were followed by U.N. Security Council sanctions, imposed under U.S. pressure in 2006, 2008 and 2011, and by European sanctions in 2010 and 2012. Finally, U.S. sanctions legislation demanded that every country in the world participate in a blockade of Iran or face severe U.S. penalties and be cut off from the vast network of U.S. banking, loans and credits.

Russia and China were consistently for ending the sanctions. They face sanctions and encirclement themselves. The Western imperialist powers of Germany, France and Britain — the European Union — were willing to participate if U.S. schemes could be accomplished and the sanctions could achieve the goal of regime change. But in the long run the European powers have little interest in doing what is not favorable to their own capitalist interests. In the 5+1 talks, divisions among the European imperialists became an added pressure, making it difficult for the U.S. to make impossible demands or to just walk away from the negotiations.

While creating enormous hardships and shortages, the sanctions failed to destabilize the government or create an overwhelming reactionary upsurge. By the time of the agreement, the Iranian government was even able to bring inflation, due to shortages, down to 15 percent annually from the almost out-of-control 45 percent.

The immediate money flowing to Iran under the agreement is Iran's own money. Billions of dollars of Iranian assets had been unilaterally seized and many Iranian assets frozen. Over the course of 20 months of painstaking negotiations, Iran regained \$12 billion of its own money. While this is hardly a gift from the banks that illegally held it, its return is a significant accomplishment. There are more than \$100 billion in Iranian funds seized and frozen in accounts around the world. Hundreds of billions more were confiscated through lost oil and gas revenue due to the blockade.

Hypocrisy of nuclear threat

The greatest hypocrisy was that of countries with stockpiles of nuclear weapons sanctimoniously lecturing and wringing their hands at Iran's development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. They endlessly claimed it was a threat to world peace and used it as leverage to achieve concessions. Meanwhile, the U.S. has aided Israel in building hundreds of nuclear weapons, continually threatens first strikes against countries with no nuclear weapons and is further modernizing its own nuclear stockpile.

Of course the negotiations were never really about nuclear weapons. The "great Iranian nuclear threat" was just a pretext to pull in other countries.

As a signer of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran — unlike Israel — has the right to enrich uranium to any levels. But in order to end the economic strangulation, Iran agreed to a deal that severely limits it from what every other one of the 93 signers has the internationally recognized right to do.

Nevertheless, it is no small accomplishment that Iran was able to maintain its right to a peaceful nuclear program

Wall Street considers Iran a threat

Wall Street and the dependent proxy states in the region — especially Israel, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf monarchies — consider Iran a threat. Why? Ever since the Iranian Revolution broke decisively over U.S. corporate domination of its resources and liberated Iran's oil and gas resources from the unequal contracts serving the giant oil corporations Exxon, Mobil and Shell, it has served as a revolutionary example.

Iran has a capitalist class that is anxious to increase its own profits and position. But the Iranian Revolution was forced to make a sharp break with imperialist domination as the only way forward. A radical Muslim clerical leadership with a strong anti-imperialist focus has maintained this fundamental break for 35 years.

By developing its economy independent of Wall Street theft and domination and controlling its own resources, Iran has transformed itself within three decades from an underdeveloped country with massive poverty into a modern state with a highly educated population. While capitalist relations prevail, the population was still able to win guaranteed, comprehensive, free medical care; free education, including at the university level; a modern infrastructure; and housing with full electrification.

Women's education has improved from majority illiteracy to full literacy. More than 60 percent of university students are now female.

Who are the hawks?

In applauding the new nuclear agreement, some U.S. peace forces describe it as a vic-

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#SupportIranDeal rally, Seattle, Washington, Aug 8, 2015.

SupportIranDeal.com