

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

@MAWOvan

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stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 56

newsletter

December 2015

mobilization against war & occupation

Assad Must Stay! Imperialists Must Go! Colonial Powers Advocate & Impose Terrorism in Syria!

By Azza Rojbi

Since 2011, the "Civil War" in Syria, created and fueled by the U.S., its puppets and proxy groups has claimed over 220,000 lives, with at least 680,000 injured according to a United Nations estimate. Furthermore, the UN estimates that over 10 million people were displaced and 13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. In the year 2015 alone, one million Syrians have been forced to flee their homes, some of them for the second or third time. Another tragic milestone was recorded in early July 2015 when the number of registered refugees reached four million – the largest refugee population from a single conflict worldwide in over a quarter of a century according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHRC).

The New Era of War & Occupation

The U.S. and its allies used the justification of "humanitarian interventions" and fighting terrorism to start and fuel the war against the independent government of Syria. When we look at the global scale we see many other examples of imperialist war and destruction.

With the excuse of 9/11 (September 11, 2001) imperialist forces launched the new era of war and occupation, starting with the invasion and still ongoing occupation of Afghanistan. Since then the U.S. and its allies have targeted every country in the Middle East and North, East and West Africa that has an independent and anti-

imperialist government. Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya are completely destroyed and currently Syria and Yemen are fighting against the ongoing imperialist aggression.

What they have done to Syria?

A recent UN-backed report says the war in Syria has plunged 80 percent of its people into poverty, reduced life expectancy by 20 years, and led to massive economic losses estimated at over \$200 billion since the conflict began in 2011. This report released by the Syrian Center for Policy Research, also reveals that unemployment rate has surged to 57.7 percent from 15 percent in 2011, four out of five Syrians are now living in poverty while two-thirds are unable to secure basic food and essentials for daily living. The report also cited that education is also "in a state of collapse" with 50.8 percent of school-age children no longer attending school during 2014-2015 and almost half losing three years of schooling. The country's health care system also deteriorated greatly since the start of the imperialist war and aggression on Syria. Over half of the country's hospitals were destroyed which leaves many ill and injured without access to basic medical care.

The U.S. and its allies have never cared about the interest or the well being of the people of Syria. Their only demand and concern was the overthrow of the independent Syrian govern-

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In Venezuela the Struggle Continues!
¡En Venezuela la lucha continúa!

"Let the dogs of the empire bark, that's their job; ours is to battle to achieve the true liberation of our people" -Hugo Chavez

2 EVENTS
TUESDAY JANUARY 5
On the opening day of Venezuela's new national assembly
1>> PROTEST ACTION:
U.S. HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!
4-5pm
U.S. Consulate
1075 West Pender at Thurlow Street

2>> INFO TABLING & PETITION
MADURO IS OUR PRESIDENT!
5-6pm
Vancouver Art Gallery
Robson at Howe Street
Downtown Vancouver, Canada

Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice (FTT)
WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET

MONTHLY ANTIWAR RALLY & PETITION CAMPAIGN
US/UK/CANADA/France/NATO:
NO TO WAR!
NO SYRIA
IRAQ/YEMEN/
AFGHANISTAN



Saturday January 23
2pm- Vancouver Art Gallery
Robson Street at Howe Street
Downtown Vancouver, BC



MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION
@MAWOvan | info@mawovancouver.org
WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

No U.S. Ground Troops in Syria! U.S. Out of Syria!

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Antiwar forces in the U.S. must join together to plan actions to protest the growing U.S. intervention in Syria. The most recent step has been to introduce up to 50 Special Forces combat troops to work with what are called "moderate" rebel groups to fight against Islamic State/Daesh. This violates earlier promises by the Obama administration not to send troops to Syria.

Contrary to the official White House announcement, the mission is a combat one and troops are likely to face combat. This is an escalation of what is already a major intervention and war.

The intervention is an illegal invasion under international law; the Syrian government has not invited U.S. troops.

The so-called moderate forces supported by Washington are part of a broader alliance that includes the Syrian Al-Qaeda affiliate, the Al-Nusra Front. U.S. forces could end up in combat with Russian forces, in Syria at the government's invitation, that are in combat against Al-Nusra. Both Al Qaeda and Islamic State are aligned with the U.S.-allied Saudi Arabian regime. In Syria, as in Yemen, the Saudis are waging war with active U.S. support.

We reject the ongoing provision of U.S. weapons to forces waging war in Syria -- also a violation of international law and an act of war. Likewise the traffic in illegal oil and weapons to and from Syria by U.S. allies must be exposed and stopped.

No foreign country has the right to wage war against Syria or to demand regime change in Syria -- the Syrian people must decide their future.

Antiwar unity, based on the principle of self-determination for the Syrian people, is necessary to push back the new U.S. ground intervention. We must also oppose calls for an expanded U.S. air war, "no-fly" zones, and the like. These are acts of war by other means. Because of the seriousness of the situation, we must make every effort to organize visible, coordinated actions, as we did to ward off the last attempt to violate Syria's sovereignty. We cannot remain silent as the U.S. and its allies expand their destruction in the Middle East and the numbers of refugees rise exponentially.

U.S. troops out of Syria! No air war against Syria!

No weapons to U.S. allies in Syria!

Reparations for the war on Syria!

Open borders and aid for resettlement of the refugees!

Statement of the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC)

November 11, 2015

www.unacpeace.org

DON'T LET THEM USE PARIS AS A PRETEXT!



Just counting recent catastrophes, The International Action Center mourns the tragic loss of 30 people killed by U.S. airstrikes on a charity hospital in Afghanistan; the 224 passengers and crew lost on a Russian plane that exploded over Egypt; the 102 lives cut short by an attack on a Peace Rally in Ankara, Turkey; the 34 killed in Beirut; the many, many families blasted by U.S. drone attacks on wedding parties across West Asia and Africa, and the thousands who have died trying to cross the Mediterranean as they flee war and the loss of lives and homes.

We mourn the loss of hundreds of African-American lives to racist police in the United States.

And we mourn the killing of at least 120 mostly young people in Paris on the night of Nov. 13-14.

This latest massacre has produced the greatest threats — from the U.S., France and NATO. Even more war and destruction perpetrated by these highly militarized powers is the greatest threat to workers and peoples around the world, including those in the new civil rights movement inside the United States.

Who is ultimately responsible for what happened in Paris, what new aggres-

sion is being planned right now, and how can we counter it?

The media report that the French regime blames the Islamic State for the killings and that the I.S. has claimed responsibility. That story will dominate. But from beginning to end, it is U.S., French, British and other NATO imperialist powers and their client regimes in Israel and Saudi Arabia that are ultimately responsible for creating the unbearable conditions that led to these attacks.

The ongoing U.S.-NATO wars across Western Asia and North Africa have destroyed that region's stable states and societies, killed millions of people and uprooted tens of millions from their homes. As they wage constant warfare, leaving the people in turmoil and misery, the imperialists have deliberately stirred up religious and national antagonisms and also driven hundreds of thousands to seek asylum in Europe.

There are three obvious threats following the Paris attack:

The first is that the rulers of France, the U.S. and other NATO powers will use the attack as a pretext to step up their already dangerous military intervention in Syria. This could open up a regional war involving Iran and Russia.

The second is that the racists will heat

ment in favor of expanding their hegemony in the Middle East & North Africa. The monotone slogan "Assad must go" became like a broken record repeated by their politicians and media. At a press briefing on September 14, 2015 the White House Press Secretary Joshua Earnest said responding to a reporter question about Syria,

"The international community has decided that it's time for Assad to go. He clearly has lost legitimacy to lead..."

Who is this international community that decided what's best for the Syrian people? The one that led the destruction of Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya? The one that keeps its eyes closed to the Israeli occupation and massacre of the Palestinian people? The one that keeps its doors and borders shut to the refugees fleeing wars and occupations? Or maybe the one that avoids to talk about the Saudi mass killings of the Yemeni people?

The hypocrisy and arrogance of the U.S. and its allies is flagrant. What legitimacy does the U.S. have to dictate the fate of other independent nations or to pretend to be a champion of human rights? The fact is that the UN Torture Report released in 2014 condemns the U.S. government as the leading violator of human rights. This same U.S. government that claims the right to bully, blockade, and attack any country in the world in the name of "human rights" and "democracy" is guilty of the most heinous crimes.

Therefore to the war mongers in Washington chanting "Assad Must Go" the appropriate response is "No, Imperialism Must Go!"

Assad is Not the Problem, the U.S./ France/Canada/NATO are the Problem!

On October 9, 2015, the U.S. government announced an "operational pause" of the disastrously failed 500 million dollar Pentagon program for arming and training "vetted rebels" in Turkey and sending them back across the border into Syria. Instead, the U.S. announced it is shifting its policy to support the already existing groups on the ground by providing them with arms and ammunition as well as close air support from warplanes deployed by the U.S. and its so-called coalition.

Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have also been playing a big role in facilitating the training and arming of these terrorist groups in Syria. They carried out the dirty work of the U.S. and other imperialist governments in the hope to get a piece of the pie and to serve their own regional aspirations and interests including consolidation of their own unstable and shaky governments with the help of imperialist powers.

An ISIS commander told the Washington Post on August 12, 2014 that fighters from ISIS/ISIL and the al-Nusra Front — an al-Qaeda offshoot — were treated at Turkish hospitals. He also said in the same interview "Most of the fighters who joined us in the beginning of the war came via Turkey, and so did our equipment and supplies."

It is clear that the goal for the U.S. led coalition to fight ISIS/ISIL was never to eliminate the terrorist group. Their main goal is to create more chaos and destabilization in Syria like they have done in Libya.

Russia and Iran Helping Syria

On September 27, 2015 Iraq said it had reached a deal to share intelligence with Russia, Iran and Iraq as part of an effort to defeat ISIS/ISIL. After a formal request from the Syrian government for military help against terrorist groups in Syria, the coalition of Russia, Iran and Syria started its campaign to eradicate ISIS/ISIL and other terrorist groups. Since then the Russian military air campaign has destroyed hundreds of terrorist camps and facilities in Syria and helped decisively the Syrian army to launch many new successful military offensives against terrorist groups.

On an interview with CBC's Power & Politics,

up Islamophobia and the hatred of all foreigners to bolster their violent campaigns against migrants, in Europe against Africans and West Asians, in the U.S. against Latin Americans.

The third, within the U.S., is that the cops challenged by the Black Lives Matter movement will use the Paris attacks to excuse their ongoing war against

the Russian ambassador to Canada Alexander Darchiev said that Canada's participation in the U.S.-led coalition air strikes — which began more than a year ago — have been a failed mission with few tangible results.

Darchiev said, "You can't have political process [to end the civil war] unless you defeat ISIS, and Western obsession with toppling Assad was one of the major reasons why ISIS was able to expand so dramatically."

Darchiev responded to the U.S. claims that more than 90 percent of Russian air strikes have been directed at the so-called moderate forces in Syria "There is no such species, militarily, as the so-called moderate opposition. We are asking our American friends to show us who these people are...We cannot distinguish between good and bad terrorists, this is [the] wrong strategy."

What is the Solution, Political or Military or Both?

The latest round of negotiations held in Vienna, were much like their predecessors: more fanfare and talks with no significant actions or concrete plan to fight terrorism and bring peace back to Syria.

Terrorism needs to be wiped out of Syria and Iraq. An organized military action plan coordinated with the government of Syria and Iraq is needed to fight against such brutal and atrocious terrorist groups like ISIS/ISIL and Al Nusra Front. The priority now in Syria needs to be to militarily defeat of ISIS/ISIL and other Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist groups. Demanding the overthrow of the Syrian government is equal to calling for more local and regional destabilization of the region which will create a political vacuum and space for organized terrorist groups like ISIS/ISIL to take advantage of the situation, therefore intensifying the humanitarian crisis in Syria and Iraq. Remember what happened to Libya! We say yes for a political solution to bring peace to the Syrian internal conflict but only after defeating and eradicating ISIS/ISIL and Al-Qaeda affiliated groups. Anything else is just a continuation of the present situation. The questions are very clear after doing some critical thinking: Who really represents the so-called opposition groups and how influential and popular are they in Syria? Is it possible to stabilize Syria with a weak and fragmented opposition? Is it really possible to form a coalition with the terrorist groups in Syria? Even if a coalition of Syrian government and opposition groups is possible, how do they deal with two-thirds of Syria in the hand of various terrorist groups?

Working and Oppressed People Unite to Build a Peace and Antiwar Movement

The last 14 years proved that imperialist countries such as the U.S., Canada, U.K and France don't shy away from allying themselves with despotic and brutal regimes such as Saudi Arabia or even directly with terrorist groups. All that matters to them is if these alliances serve and advance the interests of imperialist countries. Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya were completely destroyed by imperialists so called "humanitarian interventions" and "democracy building" projects. Today we must stand with the Syrian government and the Syrian people against any further imperialist interventions and U.S. backed terrorism. The brave people of Syria have the right to decide who their friend is, who their enemy is or who they want to lead their country without imperialist intervention for plundering their resources and dictating them their fate. The antiwar movement around the world must continue campaigning "U.S. out of the Middle East and Africa". "Bring the troops home now" is more relevant than ever. "Self-determination for all oppressed nations and countries" must be our guideline to defend humanity and civilization. We must continue to demand, "imperialists, Turkey, Saudi and GCC hands off Syria!" And "no to terrorism by imperialist countries and their puppets!"

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www.firethistime.net

Black and Brown people. "Homeland security" and the Wall Street interests it serves will try to expand surveillance and repression against protest movements.

Statement of the International Action Center

November 14, 2015
www.iacenter.org