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

No to war! No to occupation!
US/UK/CA/NATO:
Open the Borders to Refugees!
Iraq/Yemen/Afghanistan

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 (UNHCR).

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.

Who are the imperialists? 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 government.

What have they 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.

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Antiviral forces in the U.S. must join together to plan actions to protect 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 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 al- liance 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 invita- tion, that are in conflict against Al-Nusra. Both Al Qaeda and Islamic State are aligned with the U.S. and Saudi Arabian regimes. 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 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.

Antiviral unity, based on the principle of self-determination for the Syrian people, is necessary and possible. In Syria the resistance, coordination, 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 Antiviral Coalition (UNAC)
November 11, 2015

www.unacpeace.org

Continued from page 1

ment in favor of expanding their hegemony in the Middle East & North Africa. The moniker slogan “Assad must go” become like a broken record repeated by their politicians and media. At a press briefing on September 14, 2015 the White House Press Secretary answered out of the Middle East and 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 de- cides who should govern a majority-Syrian people? One that led the destruction of Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya? The one that keeps its eyes closed to the Israeli provocations and massacre of the Palestinian people? The one that keeps its borders and doors shut to the refugees fleeing war and persecution? Or maybe the one that avoids to talk about the Saudi mass kill- ings of the Yemeni people? The hypocrisy and arrogance of the U.S. and its allies is that “all the evidence” suggests the U.S. and its allies have to dictate the fate of other independent nations or to pretend to be a champion of human rights? This is the fact that the U.S. Torture Report released in 2014 condemns the U.S. government as the leading violator of human rights. Is this the “human rights” and “human dignity” is guilty of the most heinous crimes.

Therefore to the war mongers in Washington chanting “Assad Must Go!” the appropriate re- sponse is “No, Imperialism Must Go!”

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

On October 9, 2015, the U.S. government an- nounced another “coordinated” raid, accu- mately failed 500 million dollar Pentagon pro- gram for arming and training “vetted rebels” in Turkey and sending them back across the border into Syria. Instead, the announced it is shifting its policy to support the already ex- isting groups in the Syrian fight, by providing them with arms and ammunition as well as close air support from warplanes deployed by the U.S. and their client regime.

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 cannot be blamed for the dirty work of the U.S. and other imperialist governments in the hope to get a piece of the pie. Arabia and its client regimes are hoping to profit from the conflict and interests including consolidation of their own unstable and shaky governments with the help of the U.S. and its allies.

An ISIS commander told the Washington Post on August 12, 2014 that fighters from ISIS/ ISIL and the-al-Nusra Front -- or al-Qaida off- shoots or front groups of the Turkish government -- also said in the same interview “Most of the fighters who joined us in the beginning of the war were from Turkey, and so did our equip- ment and supplies.”

It is dear that the goal for the U.S. led coali- tion to fight ISIS/SISIL was never to eliminate the “terrorist” groups in Syria, but instead to create more chaos and destabilization in Syria like they have done in Libya.

Russia and Iran Easing Syria

On October 13, 2015 said it had reached a deal to share intelligence with Rus- sia, Iran and Iraq as part of an effort to defeat ISIS/ISIL. After a request from the Syr- ian government for military help against ter- rorist groups in Syria, the coalition of Russia, Iran and Syria formed the campaign to eradicate ISIS/ISIL and other terrorist groups. Since then the Russian military air campaign has de- stroyed ISIS/ISIL affiliates and a number of terror- ists in Syria and helped decisively the Syrian army to launch many new successful military offensives against terrorist groups.

The Black Lives Matter Movement, up Islamophobia and the hatred of all foreigners to bolster their violent despotic and brutal regimes such as Saudi Ara- bia, and that the I.S. has claimed responsibil- ity for what happened to Libya! We say yes for a humanitarian crisis in Syria and Iraq. Remem- ber what happened to Libya! Referendum for a public solution to bring peace to the Syrian internal conflict but only after defeating and disarming ISIS/SISIL, and Al-Qaeda affiliated groups. Anything else is just a continuation of the present situation. The questions are: Why the U.S. and its allies are in Syria? Is it possible to stabilize Syria and the region with a weak and fragmented opposition? Who really represents the so-called opposition groups and how influential and popular are they in Syria? Is it possible to work with a weak and fragmented opposition? Is it possible to form a coalition with the so-called “moderate” groups in Syria? Even if a coalition of Syrian government and opposition groups is possible, how do they deal with two-thirds of the Syrian people who do not support the opposition? Working and Oppressed People Unite to Built a Peace and Antiviral Movement

The last 14 years proved that imperialist coun- tries such as the U.S., Canada, U.K and France do not shy away from allying themselves with despotic and brutal regimes such as Saudi Ara- bia or even directly with terrorist groups. All that matters to them is if these alliances serve their cause. We must advance the interests of imperialist coun- tries, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya were completely destroyed by imperialist countries and the so-called “humanitarian interven- tions” and “democracy building” projects. Today we must stand with the Syrian people against any further imperialist interventions and U.S. backed terrorism. The brave people of Syria have been fighting against the enemy who they know who their enemy is or who they want to lead their country without imperialist intervention and with their right to choose their own destiny and dictate their own fate. The antiviral movement around the world must continue campaigning “U.S. Out of Syria! No Air Force! No U.S. troops home now!” is more relevant than ever. “Self-determination for all oppressed nations and peoples is the best and the only way to defend humanity and civilization. We must continue to demand, “Imperialists, Turkey, Saudi and GCC have to shut their doors and borders to the refugees and imperialist countries and their puppets!”

Reprinted from Fire This Time Newspaper

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