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!



Meetings & Forums on Tuesdays - 7:00PM For location, please visit our website: mawovancouver.org

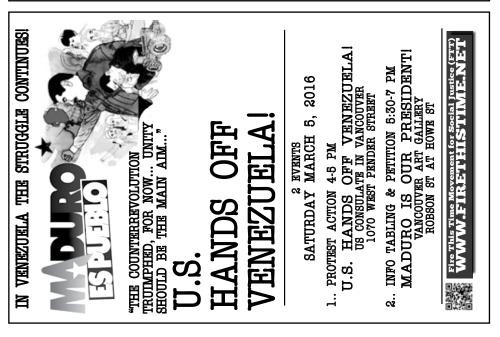
■ @MAWOvan

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MAWO Newsletter #56 Created by: Janine Solanki, Ali Yerevani, Azza Rojbi, Tamara Hansen

UPCOMING EVENTS ENDORSED BY MAWO:





stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org



mobilization against war & occupation

Turkey's Destructive & Reactionary Role in the New Era of War and Occupation

By Janine Solanki

"This is what we call a fact. This is irrefutable proof that Turkish armed forces shell borderline Syrian settlements with large-caliber artillery systems, said Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Major General Igor Konashenkov at a press conference. The Russian Ministry of Defense provided evidence in the form

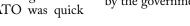
of publicly available video footage.

Syria has suffered greatly under five years of a US fomented civil war, the rise of Daesh (ISIS) taking over territory and committing atrocities throughout Syria, and destructive airstrikes by US-led forces including Canada. Already Syria has seen 250,000 of it's people brutally killed, half it's population displaced and over four million registered as refugees.

The first strike in the new era of war and occupation came on the heels of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, with the US-led war on Afghanistan. Turkey as member of NATO was quick to prove itself as a trusty ally to imperialist forces, participating in the NATO forces occupying Afghanistan and taking command of NATO forces twice between 2002 and 2005, with upwards of 1,300

However it was long before this that Turkey opened it's doors to the US. Since the 1950's the US has had foreign military bases in Turkey. These bases were instrumental for launching the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. Today the Incirlik airbase, close to Syria's borders, has swelled to over 5,000 troops and is a launchpad for US airstrikes against Syria, all from Turkey's soil and authorized by the government of Turkey.

Continued on back page 3



2 FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Turkish soldiers.



US STOP BOMBING LIBYA! US HANDS OFF LIBYA! SAUDI ARABIA HANDS OFF YEMEN, SYRIA & IRAQ! US/UK/CANADA/FRANCE/NATO:

NO TO WAR ON SYRIA, IRAQ AND IRAQ! OP AIDING ISIS/ISIL/DAESH! - NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA! - ISRAEL HANDS OFF PALESTINE!

ON AIDING ISIS/ISIL/DAESH! - NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA! - STOP WAR AND OCCUPATION NOT REFLICES! - STOP SAUDI/IIS IMPERIALISTS STOP AIDING ISIS/ISIL/DAESH! - NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA! - ISRAEL HANDS OFF PALESTINE! OF A SAUDI/US AND CCUPATION NOT REFUGEES! - STOP SAUDI/US AND CCUPATION NOW! - U.S./EU/OFF PALESTINE! OF A STOP WAR AND OCCUPATION NOW! - U.S. AND ALL IMPERIALISTS OUT OF A SECTION OF A STOP WAR OF COLOR OF OWNER! - U.S. AND ALL IMPERIALISTS OUT OF A SECTION OF OWNER! - U.S. AND ALL IMPERIALISTS OUT OF A SECTION OF OWNER! - U.S. HANDS OFF VENEZUELA! - END THE BLOCKADE OF CUBA. DEFINITION! - NO TO U.S. DENOMES! - U.S. HANDS OFF VENEZUELA! - END THE BLOCKADE OF CUBA. DETERMINATION! - NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! YES TO SELF-DETERMINATION! OF OWAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION! - MONEY FOR JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION! - MONEY FOR JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION! - MONEY FOR JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION! - MONEY FOR JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION! - MONEY FOR JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION! - MONEY FOR JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION! - MONEY FOR JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION! - MONEY FOR JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND NOTO WAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! N

SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN! - FREE PRIVATE MANNING, SOLDIER OF HUMANITY! - NO TO U.S. DRONES!

HANDS OFF NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST! - NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! YES TO SELF-DETERMINA:

HANDS OFF NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST! - NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION! - MONEY FOR JOBS, NATIONS AND ALL OPP

NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION FOR INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND FOUCATION. NO TO WAR & OCCUPATION! NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION! - MONEY FOR JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND SELF-DETERMINATION FOR INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND ALL OPPRESSED OF A SELF-DETERMINATION FOR INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND ALL OPPRESSIVE BILL C-51!

EDUCATION, NOT FOR WAR AND OCCUPATION! - REPEAL INHUMAN AND REPRESSIVE BILL C-51!

FRIDAY MARCH 18, 2016

MONTHLY ANTIWAR RALLY & PETITION DRIVE

VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

ROBSON ST. AT HOWE ST DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER, BC



4PM

BUILDING AN ANTIWAR MOVEMENT **IN CANADA**

FREE PUBLIC FORUM

*Speakers*Multimedia*Discussion*

JOE'S CAFÉ (In large North Hall)

1150 COMMERCIAL DR. AT WILLIAM ST VANCOUVER, BC 7:30PM

@MAWOvan MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION WW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

Assad Must Stay! Imperialists Must Go!

Colonial Powers Advocate & Impose Terrorism in Syrial

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

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 twothirds 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 government 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

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 The last 14 years proved that imperialist countries that claims the right to bully, blockade, and attack such as the Ú.S., Canada, U.K and France don't shy any country in the world in the name of "human rights" and "democracy" is guilty of the most hei-

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

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, 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

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

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

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 İraq 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 yria? 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

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

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!"

Reprinted from Fire This Time Newspaper, Volume 9 Issue 11 www.firethistime.net

Continued from page 1

When the US started fomenting the civil war in Syria in 2011, it was with a "no boots on the ground, we're not really involved" hands off policy. On the surface at least. Behind the scenes the US government orchestrated a growing disaster in Syria with the help of it's regional allies, particularly Turkey who shares a long and strategic border with Syria. The government of Turkey willingly lent itself to the needs of US imperialism. The so-called "Free Syrian Army" was harboured in Turkey and freely conducted operations against Syria from within Turkey's borders. "Syrian rebels", which quickly became an assortment of mercenaries from many different countries, received training, arms and funds in Turkey before being funneled into Syria. These training operations started out covertly and were slowly uncovered. In 2013 US media reported that since 2012 Syrian "moderate rebels" were being trained by the US in Turkey. The Washington Post cited US officials who said that the CIA was preparing to deliver arms to rebel groups in Syria through its bases in Jordan and

Let's remind ourselves what the goal of these actions were at the time. Daesh was not on the scene in 2011, 2012 or 2013. The aim was to overthrow the independent and sovereign government of Bashar Al-Assad, a scenario we had already seen in Libya shortly before, and which resulted in chaos and a destruction of the country. But it was through these years that Daesh was able to grow and thrive on the imperialist-created instability in Syria and Iraq.

It's ironic that the same strategy that resulted in the rise of Daesh is the same strategy the US is using, again with Turkey's assistance, to "fight Daesh". On February 19, 2015 Reuters reported "The United States and Turkey signed an agreement on Thursday to train and equip moderate Syrian opposition fighters, and Ankara will provide an equal number of trainers to work alongside their American military counterparts, a U.S. official said."

Beyond Turkey's links to training and Reprinted from Fire This Time Newspaper, arming Daesh and other terrorist groups in Syria, more links between Turkey and Daesh are being discovered. Oil convoy

routes have been discovered between Daesh-held territory in Syria and Iraq into Turkey, where Turkey's government turns a not-so-blind eye to the smuggled oil being bought and sold through Turkey to the world market. UK-based news source Al-Araby Al-Jadeed (The New Arab) reported that "IS sells Iraqi and Syrian oil for a very low price to Kurdish and Turkish smuggling networks and mafias"... "It is then most frequently transported from Turkey to Israel, via knowing or unknowing middlemen..."

With such a dangerous track record, it is no wonder the government of Iraq has been so adamant in protesting Turkey's recent incursion in northern Iraq. On December 4th, 2015 Turkey deployed 150-300 soldiers and up to 25 tanks near Mosul in northern Iraq. After Turkey refused Iraq's demands to withdraw the Iraqi government took the issue to the United Nations Security Council, where Iraq's Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari declared that Turkey's "violation against the borders of a sovereign neighboring state" constitutes a "hostile act' which is in breach of international norms and regulations. Now two months later Turkey still refuses to withdraw it's forces.

The story is a repeat of Turkey's attacks on Syria. Iraq, like Syria, is engaged in ı critical fight against Daesh. Why is Turkey launching attacks against sovereign countries that distract from their fight against Daesh? With this track record it's clear that Turkey, with it's imperialist backers the United States, are on the side of whoever creates more chaos and instability in the region for imperialist forces to profit from. Now this is Daesh, who continues to be fed by it's creators the US and Turkey. For this crisis to end the US, Canada, NATO, Turkey and all imperialist allies must immediately stop their wars, occupations and interventions, and stop their support for Daesh.

No to War and Occupation! Yes to Self-Determination! Turkey - Hands Off Iraq and Syria!

Volume 10 Issue 2

www.firethistime.net

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

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