Upcoming Events endorsed by MAWO:

- **FRIDAY, JUNE 10**: PROTEST ACTION!
  - **PETITION DRIVE + INFO DISPLAY**: CUBA NOW! MADURO IS OUR U.S. HANDS OFF PRESIDENT! @MAWOvan VANCOUVER ART GALLERY, 4-5PM 5:30-7PM 1075 W. PENDER ST.
  - **FRIDAY, JUNE 17**: U.S. CONSULATE PROTEST ACTION!
  - **SATURDAY, JUNE 18**: VENICE ZOO ThE ANTIWAR PETITION DRIVE & RALLY
  - **SATURDAY, JUNE 18**: 2PM VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
  - **FRIDAY, JUNE 24**: LIFT ALL SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN!
  - **SATURDAY, JUNE 25**: NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA!
  - **SUNDAY, JUNE 26**: CANADA OUT OF IRAQ! CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN! CANADA OUT OF IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN! US/UK/CANADA: CANCEL THE ARMS DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA!
  - **TUESDAY, JUNE 28**: CANADA OUT OF IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN! US/UK/CANADA: CANCEL THE ARMS DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA!
  - **SATURDAY, JUNE 25**: NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA!

Canada’s Hidden War in Iraq

By Janine Solanki

“...will be dangerous. It will be clear that on occasion to defend ourselves or defend those who we are with, we will have to fight” – Canadian Chief of Defense Staff General Jonathan Vance

For those that thought that Canada’s recent combat mission in Iraq is over and Canadian troops have been relegated to a milder, friendlier sounding “train, advise and assist” mission, don’t be mistaken on the timing of the quote above. The comments by Canada’s top general were not in reference to Canada’s combat mission in Iraq under the government of Stephen Harper, rather they were made on February 19, 2016. That is, four days after Canada’s fighter jets ceased their airstrikes in Iraq, ending Canada’s combat mission as determined by the new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

So if Canada’s combat mission in Iraq is over, why is the new “train, advise and assist” mission so dangerous, and why will Canadian soldiers be fighting? Canada’s War in Iraq – Conservative Style

Before we talk about Canada’s “refocused” mission in Iraq, let’s understand what Canada’s military has been doing in Iraq under the previous Conservative government of Canada. Canada’s “Operation iLIFTS” began on September 4th, 2014, with the stated aim of fighting Daesh (also known as ISIS) in Iraq and Syria. Most noted, of course, was Canada’s six CF-18 Hornet fighter jets, CP-140 Aurora surveillance aircraft and the CC-150T Polaris aerial refueller. As of March 22nd, 2016 this air force conducted 2,222 sorties, which included 1378 sorties conducted by the fighter jets, resulting in 246 airstrikes in Iraq and 5 in Syria. Canada also had 60 special-forces soldiers in northern Iraq training Kurdish troops, as well as 600 Royal Canadian Air Force personnel deployed as part of Joint Task Force-Iraq, to “work with other coalition countries to advise and assist the Iraqi government in the fight with Daesh”.

In 2014 Canada’s air force also delivered more than 1,600,000 pounds of military supplies to Iraq, including small arms, ammunition and other military equipment donated by countries allied to the foreign forces in Iraq.

Canada’s War in Iraq – Liberal Style

Following the election of the new Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Canada’s mission in Iraq and Syria was revised with the pretense of stopping Canadian airstrikes and continuing involvement in a “non-combat” military capacity. But is this mission really non-combat, and does non-combat operations really equal a better policy in Iraq and Syria?

While the fighter jets ceased airstrike operations as of February 15th 2016, Canada’s aerial refueler
### U.S. HANDS OFF SYRIA! US Expands Direct Intervention in Syria

#### By Nina Palmer

For the past five years, the people of Syria have been battling for their country and for the very existence of Syria. Since 2011, Syria has been torn apart by a so-called ‘civil war’ between the Syrian government and opposition forces and terrorist organizations supported by the US and its allies. Four hundred and seventeen thousand civilians have died (UN Centre for Research Policy Analysis), and nearly half the 22 million citizens have been forced to flee their homes. Over six million are refugees still within Syria, facing the horrors of war, while more than three million others have fled to refugee camps in neighbouring countries or have sought asylum in Europe. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has called 2015 the ‘biggest humanitarian emergency of our era’.

#### A Regressive Transformation

For short years ago was one of the most developed countries of the Middle East. Syria had a lively economy comparable with that of many developed counties, and health care and education systems which were some of the most advanced in the region. Today, life expectancy has plummeted from 76 to 36 years of age, according to the UN. More than 90% of its hospitals have been destroyed or are inoperable, as well as 90% of its schools, which once provided many important needled and literacy for a young generation. Thousands of doctors have fled the country, and remaining hospitals and clinics are overburdened with war-related injuries and the new, deadly conditions are causing outbreaks of diseases such as typhus and hepatitis, which until now were non-existent. Syria’s education system has been destroyed as well, with less than 50% of Syrian children able to attend school. Many have already never been to school at all. Schooling Save The Children reports that Syria’s education system was the worst rate of school attendance by any group, as well as the lowest in the region. A drastic drop from an already low 30% to 15% of children.

Syria’s health care system has now been reduced to 10% of its pre-war capacity. Over 80% of healthcare workers have fled the country, and in many cases, the remaining medical professionals are overworked and understaffed. Over 90% of the country’s hospitals have been destroyed or are inoperable. Over 60% of schools have been destroyed or are inoperable. Health indicators plummeted following the war, with 1 million Iraqis dead and 2 million more displaced since the 2003 US invasion. Over 1 million Iraqis have been killed, and over 2 million displaced since the 2003 US invasion. The new era of war and occupation, beginning with the war in Afghanistan in 2001 to now, has had a devastating effect on the people of Iraq. The new era of war and occupation, beginning with the war in Afghanistan in 2001 to now, has had a devastating effect on the people of Iraq. The new era of war and occupation, beginning

### What is the US Goal in Syria? Not to Defeat Daesh!

By far the primary goal of the US government has never been to defeat Daesh, but to create a ‘moderate’ opposition to Daesh. This opposition came established in Syria, the US used its seven-sea foothold of its seven-sea foothold of the Middle East: the US government and President Bashar al-Assad. To destabilize the country and allow for ongoing intervention. The US has invested billions of dollars in the country, and in areas where the US army is stationed. In contrast, the CIA was still carrying out its significant ‘nation-building’ work in Syria, with a focus on supporting the ‘moderate’ rebels. In the country from 2003.

### What is the Solution?

A resolution to the crisis and internal divisions in Syria cannot be achieved through military occupation and regime change. By acting against the US government and President Bashar al-Assad. To destabilize the country and allow for ongoing intervention. The US has invested billions of dollars in the country, and in areas where the US army is stationed. In contrast, the CIA was still carrying out its significant ‘nation-building’ work in Syria, with a focus on supporting the ‘moderate’ rebels. In the country from 2003.

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James Wright “emphasized” that contrary to popular belief, Canada’s secret war in Iraq is not a war against Daesh – that would be an impossible task for just 250 soldiers. The troops will be sent to Syria to “train, advise, and assist” rebel forces who are fighting against the Syrian government. However, many longtime US military veterans have pointed out the hypocrisy and fiction behind the US Army’s “moderate rebels” and how the US is, in fact, supporting the same regime that is trying to crush any opposition. The problem with the US government and President Bashar al-Assad, as well as to those in the rebellion in Syria, the US had its sights on several key objectives.

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