Stop Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia!

The Liberal Government Continues Harper Government Policies

In November 2015, the Liberal government under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came to power with the catchphrase that “Canada is back”. But from where and to what is up to interpretation, but one thing is for sure – Canada under past and current Liberal and Conservative governments continues to be the country which puts deadly weapons into the hands of some of the most brutal and tyrannical regimes in the world.

In 2014 under the Conservative Harper government, a $15-billion deal was struck to sell “Light Armoured Vehicles” or LAVs to Saudi Arabia, a country that is world-renowned for having one of the worst human rights records. While this deal received some criticism when initially signed, it has now received renewed opposition as the new Liberal government refuses to cancel the deal.

For every argument made against the sale of the military vehicles, the Liberal government has defended their decision with justifications which really don’t add up. Even before being elected as Prime Minister, in October 2015 Justin Trudeau tried to downplay the arms deal as the sale of mere “jeeps” to Saudi Arabia. However, despite the deceiving name of “Light Armoured Vehicles” a Globe and Mail investigation found that these military vehicles will be equipped with machine guns, medium- or high-calibre weapons or even big-barrel guns that can fire 105mm shells or anti-tank missiles.

After the Liberal government was elected the opposition to this arms deal increased. On February 18, 2016 Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion made the contradictory statement that “the government doesn’t approve this contract. The government simply refuses to terminate a contract that has already been approved by the former government.” On May 11, 2016 in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau defended his decision to uphold the deal with the excuse, “We need to be able to project [to] the world that when Canada agrees to something, it sticks to its word.”

If Canada’s word is the issue here, then why isn’t the government of Canada upholding it’s own foreign policy of not selling weapons to repressive governments?
The New Era of War and Occupation and the Necessity of Building an Antiwar Movement

MAWO discusses and protests Islamophobia and imperialist aggression at home and abroad

By Janine Solak

Since the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, our world has been defined by a new era of war and occupation. Since then, we have seen yet another country invaded and occupied as we have seen in Iraq, or subjected to imperialist interventions in Libya. We have seen sanctions imposed on countries resistant to foreign domination such as Iran, and increasing imperialist attacks week after week in Syria and throughout the region. We have seen drone warfare ramp up in Yemen and theTreatment of our people. Imperialist attacks on African countries that have resisted foreign domination such as Iran, or subjected to imperialist interventions in Libya. We have seen sanctions imposed on countries resistant to foreign domination such as Iran, and increasing imperialist attacks week after week in Syria and throughout the region. We have seen drone warfare ramp up in Yemen and the

The war has become another form of oppression and the need for resistance has never been greater. As we struggle to build a movement of resistance, we must be vigilant in our fight against the forces of imperialism. The US and its allies have been responsible for countless atrocities and violations of human rights around the world. They have used their power to maintain control over weaker countries and to further their own interests, often at the expense of the well-being of the people they say they are meant to represent.

We must continue to stand up against these forces and work towards a world free from war and occupation. This requires a strong and united antiwar movement that is ready to take on the powerful forces of imperialism. Let us work together to build a world where peace and justice prevail.