Janine Solanki, Ali Yerevani, Azza Rojbi -

Since 2001 we have seen imperialist invasions, wars, occupations, sanctions and every flavor of foreign military intervention plague people throughout the Middle East and Africa. The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks were used by the US government as the catalyst to set their new era of war and occupation into motion. This new era started with the war on Afghanistan, continued with the invasion of Iraq, and has since hit Somalia, Libya, Mali, Syria, Yemen and done a full circle to create anocracy in Syria. Drone wars have target-
ed innocent people in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia and beyond. Sanctions are crippling the economies of Iran and Venezue-
la. US meddling and covert operations have led to the US-backed coup that has created a complete crisis in Ukraine, and is working to destabilize countries and back coups in Latin America, especially in Venezuela.

The largest refugee crisis the world has ever seen is now on Europe’s shores, with over 65 million people. Making asylum in Europe impossible, and their homelands are uninhabitable war zones. While the governments of imperialist coun-
tries side-step the important question of why there are so many refugees, one only has to look at the countries they are fleeing from. Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia account for some of the highest numbers of refugees – countries that have been under some of the worst attacks by the US-led war drive.

This new era of war and occupation shows no sign of slowing, and is instead opening new and more ambitious fronts. Currently the US and their alli-
es in NATO, including Canada, are build-
ing up their military presence in Eastern Europe. They make no secret that they are doing this with the intention of flexing their muscles against Russia. The New Era of War and Occupation

While operating Cold War 2, the US is also ramp-
ing up their strategic “Pivot to East Asia” plan which the Obama ad-
imistration first outlined in 2012. The US politicians are claiming China has to answer to the US for its presence in the South China Sea. This hypocrisy was pointed out in a comment by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying who said “The US has talked about militarization in the South China Sea. But can it explain whether its own increased military deployment in the region is equivalent to militarization?”

While the mainstream media and politi-
cal rhetoric is spreading misinformation, fear mongering and double standards, the role of the antiwar movement is to fight back. The worst enemy of people in the US, Canada and other imperialist countries is not Muslims, isn’t China or Israel, but as news headlines might lead you to believe. Our worst enemy is imperialist governments that are spending tril-

ions of dollars on brutal war and occupation, instead of funding the very real and dire needs of housing, healthcare, education and poverty at home.

Actions and Events

On June 18, 2016 Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) hit the streets in this truth, with MAWO’s highly successful thr-
tow rally and petition campaign outside the Vancouver Art Gallery in Downtown Vancou-

er. Paserby’s stopped to get information and to sign petitions demanding that Canada stop its $15 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. In contrast to the pro-war mes-

sages bombarding us on the news everyday, anyone who walked by couldn’t help but follow our signs and banners demanding an end the war on Iraq, Syria and Yemen, and for self-determina-
tion of all oppressed nations.

MAWO continued from action to discussion, with the June 28 public forum “Imperialstar War, Occupation and the Refugee Crisis” at Joe’s Cafe in Vancouver. News and video clips started off the forum, showing the destruction that this new era of war and occupation has brought throughout the Middle East and North Africa, and the bus-
tour of the refugee crisis. Mayor Gregor Robertson, a Tunisian social justice activist and MAWO executive committee member and Alison Bodine, MAWO chairperson, were the forum’s speakers. They discussed the real roots of the refugee crisis, which is com-

ning now after 14 years of the new era of war and occupation, and how Canada, as an active player in this war drive, has the moral responsibility and capab-
ility to open the doors to many more refugees.

I encour-

age you to join MAWO in our next monthly rally and petition drive on July 9th at 2pm in front of the Vancou-

ver Art Gallery in Downtown Vancou-

er. This action will be joi-

ning protests worldwide, as part of Inter-


tational Days of Action to Stop NATO, during the NATO summit in War-
saw, Poland.

As the US and Israel mobilized imperialist allies are further spreading the reach of this new era of war and occupation, they are doing so utilizing the same NATO body which bomb ed and destroyed Afghanistan and Libya. Canada is very much a part of this renewed NATO war drive military spending and proclaiming that “NATO needs more Canada.” US President Obama spoke in June, encouraging more Canadian response, we say Canada stop it’s $15 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia.

Join us to demand NO to NATO, NO to war and occupation, and YES to self-determina-

tion for all oppressed nations!
The New Era of War and Occupation and the Necessity of Building an Antifascist Movement

By Janine Solanki

Since the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, our world has been defined by a new era of war and occupation. For fear after fear we have seen yet another country invaded and occupied as we have seen in Iraq, or subjected to military intervention such as in Libya. We have seen sanctions imposed on countries resistant to foreign domination such as Iran, and imperialist backed mercenaries wreak havoc in Syria and tear the country apart. We have seen done worse, startling and terrorize innocent people in Pakistan, Yemen, Afghanistan and Somalia. Today we see that the result of constant war, occupation and imperialist armament of so-called “moderate rebels” and mercenaries has created the rise of the terrorist organization Daesh. Now the US and their allies have now established a new form of war, occupation and destruction has been part of the new era of war and occupation conducted by the US government and their allies such as Canada, the UK and France. While imperialist governments -such as Canada- and mainstream media outlets would like you to believe that this is part of a “war on terror”, the truth is that it is a war of terror, in order to save a failing neoliberal economic system with a band-aid fix of plundered resources and new markets. It is not difficult to see the brutality of these wars and occupations. So then how does the US and their allies’ form of Canada get away with carrying out these bloody crimes? The answer is with the age-old tactics of fear and division, today seen in the form of Islamophobia. Mainstream media and rhetoric from imperialist politicians skillfully deceive the general public into believing that they are in imminent danger of Islamic terrorism and that Muslims are to be feared. Once that fear is gripping someone’s sense of reality, it is a lot easier to carry out their wars and occupations. This is a tool in the war abroad, but also carried out in the war at home. If people in the US, Canada and other Western countries were united and not taken over by racism and fear, then maybe we would focus on more important things. Like why is the government of Canada or the US not investing in education, healthcare, housing and employment, instead of spending billions or even trillions of dollars on war, occupation and destruction of other nations? How is it that these governments can introduce laws which cut back on our human and democratic rights and get away with it? If racism and fear, and especially now Islamophobia, were not used to divide people here at home, I think we would see more people of all faiths and backgrounds, ages and ethnicities organizing together for our rights and against war. And that is a very scary thing, especially for imperialist governments which rely on division of their population.

As the only truly active antiwar coalition in Vancouver, Canada, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) has the responsibility of countering the Islamophobic lies and media manipulation. We may not have mainstream media on our side, but what we do have is the truth, and from discussion to protest we are speaking truth to power. On Wednesday May 18, MAWO organized a community forum titled, “Islamophobia: the War at Home, Why Imperialist Governments Use Racism and Fear.” The forum speakers included Mamdoh Ashir, an African social justice organizer from Tunisia, Wala Zaidan, an Iraqi high school student and poet; Azza Rojbi, a North African social justice organizer from Tunisia and executive member of MAWO, as well as Thomas Davies, an organizer with the Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 which is demanding a full repeal of Canada’s so-called “anti-terrorism” laws. Following the insightful presentations from the panel, there was a lively discussion between participants on how to work together to defeat Islamophobia.

On Saturday May 28 MAWO took to the streets with slogans against war and Islamophobia, with an antiwar rally and petition campaign in Downtown Vancouver. Protesters talked to many people who stopped to sign petitions and demand that Canada bomb and destroy Yugoslavia and Libya, and continue to assault and occupy Afghanistan. Instead of spending hundreds of millions of dollars on arms and shipment of them, the government of Canada should fund housing, healthcare, education and the environment at home.

Get it resolved that instead of spending their allies -like Canada- get away with carrying on their wars and occupations, that fear is gripping someone’s sense of reality, terror and that Muslims are to be feared. Once that increased commitment is on the cards the Canadian warship HMCS Charlottetown; and remove all Canadian troops and military equipment from Europe and from all NATO missions;

We are still living in another great depression
But so silent and innocent
Drowning every vein in our body, enslaving our consciousness.
Truth has become an illness.
We are trapped into these four walls
Built by false promotions
Filled with greed, wanting and absorbing everything
Just so your soul screams enough!

We are no longer feeding our minds with knowledge
Rather than money and power
To fulfill our hungry desires
Our minds has become anorexic
Forcibly feeding it shame

We are living in another great depression
Enslaved by TV screens,
Believing it without any question
Green papers has become another obsession
We are secretly prisoners carrying our royal kings to heaven

NO TO WAR AND OCCUPATION,
YES TO SELF-DETERMINATION!
NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA!

ANOTHER GREAT DEPRESSION

A POEM BY WALA ZAIDAN

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Green papers has become another obsession
We are secretly prisoners carrying our royal kings to heaven

War has become another sort of art
Just sit back and enjoy the depression
Drowning every vein in our body, enslaving our consciousness.
I don’t blame you when you hate
It’s all about wisdom v.s power
That’s why the truth bares his nose under his book
That’s why the society calls him crazy and liar
That’s why the needy is forgotten, to the point he buried his hopes in fire
That’s why the liar adores the mic, with his loud and ignorant logic,
It killed the truth by making it choke itself with the wire
In hopes to light up the candle brighter
I am not asking you to feel but to wake up.
We are still living in another great depression
But so silent and innocent
When will we ever learn from our lessons?