### 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: Meetings & Forums on Tuesdays - 7:00PM

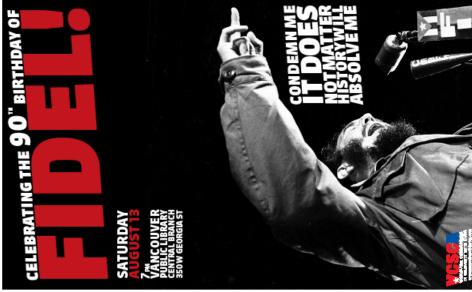
# mawovancouver.org

Mobilization Against War and Occupation info@mawovancouver.org 778-938-1557

MAWO Newsletter #59 Created by: Janine Solanki, Ali Yerevani, Azza Rojbi

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS ENDORSED BY MAWO:**











mobilization against war & occupation

The New Era of War and Occupation
Imperialist War, Occupation and the Refugee Crisis

Vancouver Events Highlight the Importance of Building the Antiwar Movement

By Janine Solanki

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 another war on Iraq. Drone wars have targeted innocent people in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia and beyond. Sanctions are crippling the economies of Iran and Venezuela. 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 seeking asylum because their homelands are uninhabitable war zones. While the governments of imperialist countries 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 allies in NATO, including Canada, are building up their military presence in Eastern Europe. They make no secret that they are doing so with the intention of flexing their muscles against Russia.

The New Era of War and Occupation

While operating this Cold War 2, the US is also ramping up it's stra-tegic "Pivot tegic to East Asia" plan which the Obama administration first outlined in 2012. The US politicians are claiming China has to answer to the US for

it's presence in the South China Sea This

China Sea. This hypocrisy was pointed out in a comment by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying who said "The U.S. 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 political rhetoric is spouting 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 isn't Muslims, isn't China and isn't Russia, as news headlines might lead you to believe. Our worst enemy is

imperialist governments that are spending trillions of dollars on brutal war and devastation, 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 to speak this truth, with MAWO's monthly antiwar rally and petition campaign outside the Vancouver Art Gallery in Downtown Vancouver. Passerby's stopped to get information and to sign petitions demanding

that Canada stop it's \$15 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. In contrast to the pro-war messages bombarding us on the news everyday, anyone who walked by couldn't miss the signs and banners demanding an end the war on Iraq, Syria and Yemen, and for self-determination of all oppressed nations.

MAWO continued from action to discussion, with the June 28 public forum

titled "Imperialist 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 human face of it's result – the refugee crisis. Azza Rojbi, 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 coming 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 capability to open the doors to many more refugees.

encouryou to join MAWO in our next monthly rally and petition drive on July 9th at 2pm in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery in Downtown Vancouver. This will be joining protests world-wide, as part of International Days of Action to Stop NATO, during the NATO summit in Warsaw, Poland.

mit in Warsaw, Poland. As the US and it's 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 bombed and destroyed Yugoslavia, 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 Canadian Parliament on June 29th, 2016, encouraging more Canadian response; we say Canada and the world needs an end to NATO! Join us to demand NO to NATO, NO to war and occupation, and YES to self-determination for all oppressed nations!



MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR AND OCCUPATION PO Box 21607 Vancouver BC V5L 5GE For more info or more petitions: info@mawovancouver.org | 778.938.1557 | (MAWO) www.mawovancouver.org

**Whereas** Canada's defence chief Gen. Jonathan Vance has further announced tha troops, Canada would also send up to six CF-18 fighter jets and armored vehicles; Whereas the government of Canada is fully committed itself to being a major destroyed Yugoslavia and Libya, in Eastern Europe and Ukraine, including the Canadian warship HMCS Charlottetown; **Whereas** this increased commitment is on top of the existing Canadian military forces already deployed Whereas at the Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan: 1,000 Canadian soldiers and lead the NATO Mission in Latvia; etition to the Government of Canada; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and to NATO! CANADA OUT of NAT Canada's defence chief Gen. the build-up of military force in Eastern that the Government of Canada beginning of July, 2016 the continues to assault and occupy Afghanistan government of Canada immediately withdraw from the NATO military alliance Europe comes from the same NATO that bombed and has further announced that alongside the announced that it will send

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# 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 Solanki

Since the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, our world has been defined by a new era of war and occupation. Year after year 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 drone wars silently terrorize innocent people in Pakistan, Yemen, Afghanistan and Somalia. Today we see that the result of constant war, occupation and imperialist arming of so-called "moderate rebels" of fighting terror once again. All of this death, manipulation. We may not have

It isn't difficult to see the brutality of these wars and occupations. So then how does the US and their allies -like Canada- get away with carrying out these bloody crimes? The answer is with the age-old tactic 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 then maybe we would focus on more important end it's arms deal with Saudi Arabia. These

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 for imperialist governments which rely on

the complacency of their populations. and mercenaries has created the rise of the ter- As the only truly active antiwar coalition in rorist organization Daesh. Now the US and Vancouver, Canada, Mobilization Against War their allies have a new justification to wage war and Occupation (MAWO) has the responsibility on Iraq, Syria and Libya, with the tired claim of countering the Islamophobic lies and media destruction and devastation has been part of media on our side, but what we do have is the the new era of war and occupation conducted truth, and from discussion to protest we are by the US government and their allies such as speaking truth to power. On Wednesday May Canada, the UK and France. While imperial- 18, MAWO organized a community forum ist governments -such as Canada- and main-stream media outlets would like you to believe Imperialist Governments Use Racism and Fear." that this is part of a "war on terror", the truth The forum speakers included Mamdoh Ashir, is that it is a war OF terror, in order to save a Iraqi-Canadian and Muslim community social failing capitalist economic system with a band-justice organizer; Wala Zaidan, an Iraqi high aid fix of plundered resources and new markets. 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" law. Following the insightful presentations from the panel, there was a lively discussion between participants on how to work together to defeat

terror and that Muslims are to be feared. Once On Saturday May 28 MAWO took to the that fear is gripping someone's sense of reality, streets with slogans against war and Islamophoit is a lot easier to carry out their wars and occubia, with an antiwar rally and petition campaign pations. This is a tool in the war abroad, but also in Downtown Vancouver. Protesters talked carried out in the war at home. If people in the to many people who stopped to sign petitions US, Canada and other Western countries were against Canada's participation in the war on united and not taken over by racism and fear, Syria and Iraq, as well as to demand that Canada

Continued on back page 2

government of Canada should fund

education and

environment here at home border with Russia,

the

remove all Canadian troops and military equipment from Europe and

from all NATO missions;

actions, which combine public outreach and protest, have been organized monthly by MAWO over the last 13 years. MAWO will continue bringing antiwar demands to the streets of Vancouver until this new era of war and occupation is stopped. MAWO encourages all peace-loving people to join in standing up against war, occupation and Islamophobia.

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Check out www.mawovancouver.org and @mawovan for upcoming events and actions, and get involved! NO TO WAR AND OCCUPATION, YES TO SELF-DETERMINATION! NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA!

## ANOTHER GREAT DEPRESSION

A POEM BY WALA ZAIDAN

We are still living in another great War has become another sort of art depression

But so silent and innocent

Dominating every vein in our body, enslaving our minds

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

We are secretly prisoners carrying our royal kings to heaven

Just sit back and enjoy the depression Depression crawling back to our minds,

Consuming every affection

I don't blame you when you hate It's all about wisdom v.s power That's why the truth buries 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

We are still living in another great depression

But so silent and innocent

When will we ever learn from our