

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!

Get involved



with MAWO!

Meetings & Forums on Tuesdays - 7:00PM

For location: @MAWOvan OR Website:

mawovancouver.org

Mobilization Against War and Occupation

info@mawovancouver.org 778- 938-1557

MAWO Newsletter #62 Created by: Azza Rojbi, Ali Yerevani, Alison Bodine & Tamara Hansen

UPCOMING EVENT ENDORSED BY MAWO:

**WORLDWIDE DAY OF ACTION
END THE U.S.
BLOCKADE ON CUBA!**

2 Vancouver Events!

1- PICKET & FLASHMOB
Monday October 17
U.S. Consulate
Downtown Vancouver, Canada
4:00pm

2- PUBLIC FORUM & WEBINAR
Monday October 17
Joe's Cafe
(Large North Hall)
1150 Commercial Dr.
Vancouver, Canada
7:00pm

FRIENDS OF CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE-VANCOUVER
www.vancouverblockade.org

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 62

newsletter

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mobilization against war & occupation

**STOP BOMBING YEMEN
STOP KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE
SAUDI ARABIA, USA, HANDS OFF YEMEN**



Saudi-led airstrikes hit UNESCO world heritage site in Yemen

By Azza Rojbi

“Saudi planes have bombed the Technical School in our village of Manakha. In Amran, the cemetery has been destroyed and last week, in Sana’a, the oldest textile factory near Bab Al Shub was also hit by bombs. Our country is already so poor, what will be left after this war? What do the Saudis want; that our youth remain unschooled and without work and out of desperation, ready to join the ranks of Daesh? [ISIS].”

Those are the words of Fatima Al Kohlani, 78 years old living in Sana’a. She lost friends and family members who died in the war in Yemen. Fatima and her family are far from alone. On May 25, 2016, an air strike carried out by the Saudi led coalition in Southern Yemen hit a family’s house killing 11 members of the family including 4 children. Death, suffering and mourning has been the reality of everyday life for hundreds of families in Yemen since the start of the Saudi led bombing.

The bombing campaign began after rebels opposed to the former President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi began to gain ground across the country including in the capital. Mansour Hadi resigned from being president on January 22, 2015 and later fled Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia was fast to declare war on Yemen arguing for national security and claiming to want to bring peace and stability to Yemen by re-instating Yemen’s ‘legitimate’ president Hadi. Where is the legitimacy of a president who resigns, fled his country and calls on foreign power to destroy, bomb and kill his own people?

On March 26, 2015 under the title “Operation Decisive Storm”, the Saudi-led coalition backed by the US, began bombing Yemen and imposing an aerial and naval blockade on the country. The Saudi-led coalition includes United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal and Sudan.

After a month of indiscriminate killings and destruction, under international pressure, Saudi Arabia announced the end of “Operation Decisive Storm” and the start of “Operation Renewal of Hope”. This attempt of Saudi Arabia to appear less brutal was a complete farce as Saudi air strikes continued against the Yemeni people less than 6 hours after the announcement.

Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen Intensifies

Since the Saudi bombing started, about 10,000 people have been killed, more than 30,000 people have been left injured, about 3 million remain displaced and 21.2 million Yemenis — 82 per cent of the total population — are currently in need of urgent humanitarian assistance according to the UN.

Day after day the situation in Yemen worsens, as air strikes destroy not only many of Yemen’s ancient and beautiful historical sites, but also hospitals, schools, markets, mosques, housing complexes and other vital infrastructure. The shortage of fuel in the country has caused widespread power outages and forced hospitals to close, leaving those injured without medical care.

According to a report released in January 2016 by the Yemeni Civilian Association, the Saudi attack on Yemen has destroyed around 345,722 homes, 262 hospitals, 810 schools and educational centers, 547 food stores, 530 bridges and roads and the list goes on. In addition to this destruction, Saudi Arabia has maintained a cruel air and naval blockade of Yemen stopping commercial goods and humanitarian aid from reaching the most needed.

“The humanitarian situation in Yemen is among the world’s worst crises. The scale and intensity of the humanitarian situation here is bleak – and by many measures it’s continuing to get worse,” Jamie McGoldrick, the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, said in a press briefing in Sana’a.

A recent report released by UNICEF estimates that “nearly 2,300 children have been hurt in the most extreme and cruel ways in the past year. On average at least six children have been killed or maimed every day since March, 2015, a sevenfold increase compared with the whole of 2014.”

A U.N. annual report on children and armed conflict said the Saudi led coalition was responsible for 60 percent of child deaths and injuries in Yemen.

Use of Cluster Bombs

In May 2015, Human Rights Watch visited the Saada province in the north of Yemen to compile a report on the use of cluster bombs in Yemen. Even after the release of the report and the international condemnation of the use of cluster bombs on civilians, the Saudi-led coalition carried on with its inhumane and brutal bombing campaign.

“The coalition’s repeated use of cluster bombs in the middle of a crowded city suggests an intent to harm civilians, which is a war crime,” said Stephen Goose, Human Rights Watch arms director. “These outrageous attacks show that the coalition seems less concerned than ever about sparing civilians from war’s horrors.”

Cluster bombs are very dangerous as they contain hundreds of smaller explosive submunitions that are spread over a wide area and can leave unexploded munitions buried in the ground for decades to come. Civilians and par-

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U.S. HANDS OFF SYRIA



Featured Speakers

KEN STONE Via Videoconference: Syria Solidarity Movement Executive member and treasurer of the Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War

NITA PALMER Author of “War & Occupation in Afghanistan: Which Way Forward”

**Tuesday
September 27 2016
Joe's Cafe
1150 Commercial Drive**

Mobilization Against War & Occupation
www.mawovancouver.org

US BOMBS SYRIAN ARMY ESCALATING POTENTIAL FOR WAR WITH SYRIA/RUSSIA

- United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) Statement -

September 20, 2016

The US-Russian negotiated cessation of hostilities has collapsed in Syria. The United States has intervened directly in ways that undermine any possibility of the ceasefire succeeding. On September 18, US forces, four Jets followed by a couple of helicopters, attacked a Syrian Arab Army (SAA) outpost near Deir Ezzor killing at least 82 soldiers and wounding 100 more and destroying their equipment. This was supposed to be a joint operation to go after ISIS, but under cover of this attack ISIS fighters stormed the SAA position and took the hilltops where they were stationed.

Just after this unprecedented attack on the Syrian Army by the United States, Israel launched an attack on SAA positions in the Golan where they were fighting Al Nusra, killing and injuring several more Syrian soldiers.

The United States claimed that the attack was an accident. Even so, US allies, Australia, Denmark and the UK have confirmed that they took part. All are assisting in imperialist murder

The Russians called a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the US violation of both the current cessation of hostilities agreement' and the Geneva agreement on Syria. US Ambassador Samantha Power chose to boycott the meeting and instead held a press conference outside the door, which she opened by accusing the Russians of attacking civilians, schools and hospitals in Syria, before sarcastically accusing them of hypocrisy and calling the meeting a "stunt". She dismissed the murder of nearly 100 Syrians without a pause. Powers indignation was clearly intended for her US audience as few others in the world would find her sarcasm and her rejection of the international forum for dialogue acceptable.

One day later, on September 19th, a UN Aid Convoy was struck while passing through opposition held territories in Aleppo, and 18 workers were killed. A video of the wreckage was posted on the internet by the White Helmets, a US supported NGO that operates only in ISIS and Al Qaeda territories. The United States immediately blamed the Syrian air force, then the Russian air force, and finally "the Russians," who, after a few hours of public silence, released drone footage showing a truck armed with mortars riding in the shadow of the convoy as it entered hostile territory. They said that neither they nor the Syrians were in the vicinity of the convoy and that a full investigation would be necessary.

The US has moved from supporting proxies to direct intervention in Syria. It is the second time in as many months that they have killed nearly 100 Syrians in an air raid. They have betrayed a long negotiated treaty and when confronted, US Ambassador Samantha Power dissembled and attacked the messenger. It is clear that the United States remains committed to overthrowing the internationally recognized government of Syria. Pentagon planners have shown no respect whatsoever for international law or for the United States diplomatic commitments in Syria. They hope to

prevent any resolution before a new president is inaugurated.

A few days before massacring the Syrian soldiers outside Deir Ezzor, the United States attempted to insert 300 Special Forces troops with Turkish backed Free Syrian Army factions in the town of Ra'i near the Turkish border. The Americans were driven out by an angry mob of men calling out their hatred of Americans in between cries of 'Allahu Akbar'. Later in the day, US bombers 'accidentally' struck a nearby town where the hostile organizations were billeted. Shortly thereafter, US special forces returned to the town of Ra'i to join the remaining Free Syrian Army groups there.

The United States has been holding up the cessation of hostilities from reaching a full implementation and clearly has no intention of honoring it. The Syrian military has stood down in the vicinity of Aleppo, yet the US has made only a halfhearted effort to separate their so called 'moderates' from the mercenaries and fanatics of Al Nusra/Al Qaeda.

The negotiation was a sham and now the US continues to dissemble, buying time to reinforce their proxies and put more US soldiers on the ground. The Pentagon is sowing the seeds of open warfare against the legitimate government of Syria (and the threat of war with Russia) while exacerbating the horrific humanitarian crisis of the Syrian people.

The time to stop them is NOW!

Hands off Syria!

Self-Determination for the Syrian People!

US Out of the Middle East!

Reprinted from:

<http://nepajac.org/UNACSyriaStatement.html>

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ticularly children have been the primary victims of such a weapon.

"These weapons should never be used under any circumstances. Saudi Arabia and other coalition members – and the supplier, the US – are flouting the global standard that rejects cluster munitions because of their long-term threat to civilians," said Stephen Goose.

Photos and testimonies collected on the ground in Yemen by various human rights organizations have recorded that the Saudi-led coalition used UK and US made cluster bombs against civilians in Yemen.

US hidden war on Yemen

The US intervention and criminal track record in Yemen is not new. Since 2002, the US has carried covert drone strikes in Yemen under the pretext of fighting terrorism. According to "The Bureau of Investigative Journalism" in London, there were 147 drone strikes in Yemen between 2002 and 2016 with the most recent covert action carried out on July 26, 2016. These criminal and illegitimate US drone strikes were responsible for the killing of close to 806 people in Yemen.

In June 2015, a CIA drone killed a 13-year old named Mohammed Tuaiman in al-Zur village in Marib province. Only a few months before being killed Mohammed described to the Guardian newspaper in an interview how he lived in constant fear of the "death machines" that killed his father and brother as they were out herding the family's camels in 2011. He said in the interview "A lot of the kids in this area wake up from sleeping because of nightmares from them and some now have mental problems. They turned our area into hell and continuous horror, day and night, we even dream of them in our sleep."

Mohammed's family tragedy is not an isolated one. The tragedy and loss of Yemeni life has skyrocketed as the US continues its drone strikes and is backing the Saudi led bombing campaign on the country.

On March 25, 2015 the White House posted a statement declaring: "President Obama has authorized the provision of logistical and intelligence support to GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council]-led military operations."

The Obama administration argued that it is not at war with Yemen and tried to downplay its involvement and confuse and deceive working people.

But we only have to look at the track record of the US government! The same Obama that said, "a decade of war is now ending," in his 2013 inaugural speech, has since further expanded the new era of war and occupation in the Middle East and North Africa.

The United States is providing aerial refueling for planes flying with the Saudi-led coalition, it is also providing targeting intelligence, as the Wall Street Journal cites "American military planners are using live intelligence feeds from surveillance flights over Yemen to help Saudi Arabia decide what and where to bomb, U.S. officials said."

The US Navy also has several ships nearby, including an assault ship and two destroyers.

On May 6, 2016, the US military for the first time publicly acknowledged that US troops are operating inside Yemen to help pro-Hadi forces. Defense Department spokesman Navy captain Jeff Davis said that a "very small number" of military personnel has been working with the "Arab Coalition".

The hypocrisy of the US government becomes clearer as they continue to preach human and democratic rights while supporting and participating in the war crimes committed by their Saudi puppet regime against the innocent people of Yemen.

This brutal and inhuman war on Yemen was justified on the basis of stopping terrorism and restoring stability to Yemen. What the US and the Gulf Cooperation Council are really trying to stop is a popular opposition movement to the US and the Saudi-backed

government of Mansour Hadi. This movement has been labeled as so-called "Iranian-backed Houthis" but in fact the popular movement against the government, which began in 2011, was much broader than this.

The US and its puppet regimes in the gulf region don't have the well being of the Yemeni people in mind. They want to expand their control and hegemony over the region and impose on Yemen a corrupt pro-imperialist government to serve their interest in a desperate move to quell the growing popularity of Iran in the region. Their biggest fear will be the formation of an independent state in Yemen chosen by the people of Yemen.

The People of Yemen Will Prevail

On March 26, 2016 thousands of Yemenis took to the street of Sanaa in a massive protest marking the one year anniversary of the Saudi-led bombing campaign on Yemen.

The crowds included people from all different sects and political affiliations that all opposed the criminal Saudi war on Yemen.

The Middle East Eye, an online news portal, spoke to some protesters at the rally. Hamdi Abubaker, 28, said he was protesting because he lost his job in the tourism industry soon after the war began. "The Houthis took over Sanaa on 21 September 2014, and we continued to work until March 2015, and when the Saudi-led coalition started their campaign against Yemen we lost our jobs," he said. "Saudi Arabia is our enemy and not the Houthis." Hamdi stated that he was not a Houthi supporter but was against Hadi and his government, which "destroyed the country".

Today about a year and a half after the start of the war on Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the US are continuing their air strikes and drone strikes on the country while claiming to want to find a diplomatic and peaceful solution to the war. They are basically trying to ease the international pressure by creating a climate of reconciliation and of endless peace negotiations while continuing to inflict death and destruction on the country.

The US, Saudi Arabia and their imperialist allies are denying the people of Yemen their human rights, self-determination and sovereignty. But the people of Yemen have not stopped fighting back for their rights to choose the future of their country without foreign intervention.

Hands Off Yemen!

As peace loving people living in Canada, the United States, and around the world, we must support the struggle of the Yemeni people by demanding an end to the ongoing US drone war and the Saudi-led bombing campaign on the country.

Vancouver's peace coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) have been organizing, rallies, petition drives and educational forums to demand an end to the Saudi-led bombing campaign against Yemen and to lift the blockade to allow commercial goods and humanitarian aid to reach people in need. To learn more and join the campaign visit: www.mawovancouver.ca

MAWO will also be participating in the First International Conference in Support of the Yemeni People held in London, UK, August 20th -21st. The conference is sponsored by Stop the War Coalition, Campaign Against Arms Trade, Human Rights for Yemen, Sheba for Democracy and Human Rights and Arabian Rights Watch Association.

This conference is a very important effort to bring together individuals, groups and coalitions against the war on Yemen. It will present a platform for international delegates to discuss the situation in Yemen and join their voices to demand an end to the Saudi-led war and aggression on the country.

For more information on the conference visit: www.shebarights.org

We Will Win

The victory of the Yemeni people in their struggle would not only mean defeat for the US, but a victory for people all around the Middle East and the entire world who are struggling for their sovereignty and democratic and human rights. The US, Saudi and the Saudi-led coalition must respect the self-determination of the people of Yemen and keep their hands off of Yemen's internal affairs. This vicious, brutal, criminal and immoral bombing and destruction of Yemen must stop immediately.

ANTIWAR RALLY & PETITION CAMPAIGN
**U.S. + SAUDI ARABIA
HANDS OFF YEMEN!**

US/UK/CANADA/France/NATO:
NO TO WAR ON SYRIA, IRAQ, LIBYA, AFGHANISTAN!
TURKEY OUT OF SYRIA AND IRAQ!
NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA!
ISRAEL HANDS OFF PALESTINE!
END THE OCCUPATION NOW!
END THE BLOCKADE OF CUBA!
LIFT ALL SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN!

Saudi Bombing in Yemen

Yemeni Protest Against Saudi War, Aug 20, 2016

**Saturday September 24
2pm - Vancouver Art Gallery
Robson St. at Howe St.
Downtown Vancouver**

**MONEY FOR JOBS, HEALTHCARE,
EDUCATION, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT!
NOT FOR WAR!**

Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO
www.mawovancouver.org