

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 EVENTS ENDORSED BY MAWO:

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9 2016

U.S.A. HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!

REPEAL THE DECREE FOR REPEAL ALL SANCTIONS FROM

PROTEST ACTION / PETITION DRIVE

4-5PM / 5:30-7PM

U.S. CONSULATE / VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

1075 W. PENDER ST. / ROBSON AT HOWE ST.

FILE THIS TIME VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET

ANTIWAR RALLY & PETITION CAMPAIGN

U.S. + SAUDI ARABIA HANDS OFF YEMEN!

US/UK/CANADA/France/Italy: 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! LIFT THE BLOCKADE OF CUBA! LIFT ALL SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN!

Saudi Bombing in Yemen

Saturday September 24

2pm - Vancouver Art Gallery

Robson St. at Howe St. Downtown Vancouver

Yemeni Protest Against Saudi War, Aug 20, 2016

MONEY FOR JOBS, HEALTHCARE EDUCATION, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT!

NOT FOR WAR!

Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO

www.mawovancouver.org

U.S. LIFT THE BLOCKADE ON CUBA!

RETURN GUANTANAMO TO CUBA!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17 2016

4PM

U.S. CONSULATE

1075 W. PENDER ST DOWNTOWN, VANCOUVER

FRIENDS OF CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE-VANCOUVER

WWW.VANGUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 62

newsletter

August 2016

mobilization against war & occupation

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

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NO to NATO! CANADA OUT of NATO!

Petition to the Government of Canada; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan:



Whereas the government of Canada is fully committed itself to being a major part of increasing and dangerous NATO aggression against Russia in Eastern Europe;

Whereas at the beginning of July, 2016 the government of Canada announced that it will send up to 1,000 Canadian soldiers and lead the NATO Mission in Latvia;

Whereas Canada's defence chief Gen. Jonathan Vance has further announced that alongside the troops, Canada would also send up to six CF-18 fighter jets and armored vehicles;

Whereas this increased commitment is on top of the existing Canadian military forces already deployed in Eastern Europe and Ukraine, including the Canadian warship HMCS Charlottetown;

Whereas the build-up of military force in Eastern Europe comes from the same NATO that bombed and destroyed Yugoslavia and Libya, and continues to assault and occupy Afghanistan.

Be it resolved that the Government of Canada immediately withdraw from the NATO military alliance and remove all Canadian troops and military equipment from Europe and from all NATO missions;

Be it resolved that instead of spending hundreds of millions of dollars on the border with Russia, the government of Canada should fund housing, healthcare, education and the environment here at home.

	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
1.		
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Please mail the completed petition to:
MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR AND OCCUPATION (MAWO)
 PO Box 21607 Vancouver BC V5L 5G6
 For more info or more petitions: info@mawovancouver.org | 778.938.1557 | www.mawovancouver.org

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" and mercenaries has created the rise of the terrorist organization Daesh. Now the US and their allies have a new justification to wage war on Iraq, Syria and Libya, with the tired claim of fighting terror once again. All of this death, destruction and devastation 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 capitalist economic system with a band-aid fix of plundered resources and new markets.

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 terror 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 for imperialist governments which rely on the complacency of their populations.

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, Iraqi-Canadian and Muslim community social justice organizer; 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" law. 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 against Canada's participation in the war on Syria and Iraq, as well as to demand that Canada end it's arms deal with Saudi Arabia. These 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.

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.