

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!

Next MAWO Meeting:
Monday, January 22, 7 pm
Britannia Community Centre - 1661 Napier Street
mawovancouver.org
Mobilization Against War and Occupation
info@mawovancouver.org 778- 938-1557

MAWO Newsletter #67 Created by: Azza Rojbi, Janine Solanki, Ali Yerevani, Alison Bodine & Tamara Hansen

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(((((4)))) Oppose US War in Asia! Peace in Korea!

TUESDAY January 16

12:30-1:30pm

Vancouver Convention Centre

1055 Canada Place

Vancouver, BC

Organized by: ILPS Canada

(((((5)))) Vancouver Women's Forum on Peace and Security in Korea

Featuring speakers from the International Delegation

TUESDAY January 16

2-5:00pm

Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue (SFU)

580 West Hastings Street

Vancouver, BC

Organized by: Women Cross DMZ, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, and Nobel Women's Initiative

UPCOMING EVENT ENDORSED BY MAWO:

HANDS OFF!



U.S./Canada Hands Off North Korea!
U.S. Hands Off Iran!
U.S./Saudi Arabia Hands Off Yemen!

U.S./CANADA/NATO HANDS OFF:
SYRIA · IRAQ · VENEZUELA · AFGHANISTAN · LIBYA ·
NORTH AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST!

SATURDAY
JANUARY 27, 2018
2pm

Vancouver Art Gallery
Robson at Howe st.
Downtown Vancouver, Canada

MAWO
MONTHLY
ANTIWAR
RALLY &
PETITION
DRIVE!

Mobilization Against War & Occupation @MAWOvan
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stop the war! stop the occupations!

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MAWO 67

newsletter

January 2018

mobilization against war & occupation

U.S. HANDS OFF KOREA!

U.S./Canada Hands Off North Korea!



Mobilization Against War and Occupation Statement

Stop the United Nations Security Council War on North Korea!

Hands Off North Korea!

December 23, 2017

On December 22, 2017, the United Nations Security Council passed another round of brutal sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Although the United States government was the main proponent of Resolution 2397 (2017), it passed with the unanimous vote of all 15 member-states of the Security Council. These genocidal sanctions are the third to be passed in the UN Security Council this year, amounting to a 90% reduction in the amount of oil that North Korea can import as compared to 2016, while also imposing ruthless restrictions on the import and export of food, as well as agricultural, industrial and manufactured goods. Effectively, they amount to an economic and financial blockade of the country. As well, these new regulations

way to put an end to North Korea's nuclear program. In reality, whether imposed by the United States or the United National Security Council, sanctions are a weapon of killing people. These ruthless sanctions escalate tensions between the United States and the DPRK. They also further punish the people and government of North Korea for taking a stand as an independent country and refusing to follow the orders of the United States government.

The U.S. government will stop at nothing, at no amount of human suffering, to destroy independent governments in order to gain imperialist hegemony over every part of the globe. Iraq is an example of how little human lives matter to the imperialist policy of sanctions and war. Prior to the 2003 invasion, over 1.5million people in Iraq died as a direct result of 13 years of vicious sanctions by the U.S. and UN Security Council, including more than 500,000 children. Then, the U.S. government and their allies invaded, killing millions more and tearing the country apart at the seams.

Other independent countries are also strangled under the mass punishment of sanctions. For nearly 60 years the people of Cuba have been under an cruel and inhuman U.S. blockade that continues to deny Cubans access to life-saving medicines and costs the Cuban

FREE PUBLIC FORUM

U.S HANDS OFF NORTH KOREA!

North Korea & the Danger of Nuclear War

SPEAKERS ■ MULTIMEDIA ■ DISCUSSION



MICHEL
CHOSSUDOVSKY

Editor of world renowned news and analysis website Global Research. Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal. Award winning author of eleven books, including "The Globalization of War, America's Long War against Humanity" (2015).

ANN
WRIGHT



Retired US Army Colonel, who resigned in protest of the 2003 US invasion of Iraq. Leading member of Veterans for Peace and CODEPINK Women for Peace. Part of 2015 "Women Cross the DMZ", which featured peace conferences in both North and South Korea.

TUESDAY
JANUARY 16 7 PM

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
Central Branch- 350 W. Georgia St.

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introduce targeted sanctions against 15 North Korean officials, and call for the re-patriation of North Koreans working in other countries within the next 24 months, which will cut off a vital source of income for many families. The U.S. government and their imperialist allies claim that these sanctions are the only

economy more than \$4.3 billion each year. Although the Cuban government continues to provide nutrition, healthcare, education and housing to all its people, there is still needless suffering imposed by the criminal blockade.

Venezuela, Iran, and Syria all continue to face brutal sanctions that deny their people food, medicines and

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YEMEN, QUAGMIRE FOR SAUDI ARABIA



Rally to mark two years of the military intervention by Saudi-led coalition, in Sanaa, Yemen March 2017

By Azza Rojbi

“I was inside sitting at the funeral when the airstrike happened... I couldn’t see who was next to me, I was looking for an exit. There were dead bodies and body parts, some people under rubble... There were children inside before the strike, but I couldn’t see anyone after the strike. It was dark. I just saw the light and ran toward it to escape.” This how Abdulla al-Shami, 35, described to Human Rights Watch workers his experience surviving one of the bloodiest Saudi airstrikes. October 8, 2017, marked one year since this horrendous attack by the Saudi-led coalition on a crowded funeral hall in the Yemeni capital Sana’a.

This indiscriminate bombing on a civilian target was described by Human Rights Watch and other humanitarian organizations as a war crime carried out with complete disregard for civilian life. According to a spokesperson for the health ministry in Sana’a, at least 110 people were killed and 610 wounded, including children as a result of this attack. This criminal bombardment by the US backed Saudi-led coalition continues today. Vital infrastructures such as hospitals, schools, homes, water tanks, sanitary systems, and roads, as well as important historical and cultural sites, have been completely destroyed by the airstrikes.

Human tragedy worsens in Yemen

According to the UN, over 10,000 people have been killed and over 40,000 have been injured.

The level of the humanitarian crisis is worsening daily as more than 21million people in Yemen are in immediate need of humanitarian assistance and nearly 900,000 people have been affected by a devastating cholera epidemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) referred to the outbreak in Yemen as “the worst cholera outbreak in the world.”

In addition to the criminal bombing campaign on Yemen, the Saudi government and their allies are imposing an air, land and sea blockade on the country. This criminal blockade has been creating shortages of many essential items, including food, fuel and medical supplies. More recently Saudi Arabia has tightened this blockade, shutting off all entry points to Yemen, blocking much needed food and humanitarian supplies from being delivered.

Over 20 international humanitarian agencies condemned the move by Saudi Arabia in a joint public statement “The people of Yemen are already living with the catastrophic consequences of an armed conflict - lasting for over two and a half years - that has destroyed much of its vital infrastructure and brought the provision of basic services to the brink of collapse... The continued closure of Yemen’s borders will only bring additional hardship and deprivation with deadly consequences to an entire population suffering from a conflict that it is not of their own making. The humanitarian community in Yemen calls for the immediate opening of all air and seaports to ensure food, fuel and medicines can enter the country.”

Speaking to reporters, the UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock warned that unless Saudi Arabia lifts the blockade on Yemen, the country will face “the largest famine the world has seen for many decades, with millions of victims.”

What did the Saudi-led coalition achieve in Yemen?

Backed by the United States, the Saudi government and its military coalition began their bombing campaign in March 2015 under the pretense of restoring legitimacy and stability to Yemen. Today, over 2.5 years of war and destruction, Yemen is facing the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. The Saudi government has failed to achieve any of the goals of their military campaign in Yemen ambitiously named “Decisive Storm”. The only decisiveness seen on the ground is that of the Yemeni people in their fight against the foreign Saudi-led aggression on their country.

Despite all the logistical and military support offered by the US and the UK, the Saudi-led military coalition has been drastically failing in its so-called mission in Yemen, their puppet Abd Raboo Mansur Hadi, viewed as a traitor by Yemenis, remains exiled in his master’s palaces in Riyadh. Not only is Saudi Arabia failing to dominate the military situation in Yemen, but the Yemeni forces are now taking up the fight against the Saudi government aggression across the borders, launching missiles and rockets into the kingdom’s territory.

The Saudi government and their allies are in a quagmire in Yemen with no end at sight. The worsening humanitarian crisis in the country is making it harder for the Saudi government to keep justifying the war internationally. In an article by the Washington Post titled “Yemen is turning into Saudi Arabia’s Vietnam”, Farea al-Muslimi, a Yemen analyst at the Beirut-based Carnegie Middle East Center, said that the war on Yemen “is draining the Saudis militarily, politically, strategically... The problem is, they’re stuck there.”

Yemenis resist against the Saudi War

On March 26, 2017, hundreds of thousands of Yemenis braved the Saudi fighter jets and took to the street of the Yemeni capital Sana’a to protest two years of the Saudi-led coalition ongoing military intervention in Yemen. Since then, the Yemeni people have kept resisting and fighting against the Saudi government aggression on their beloved country.

In addition to their resistance on the ground, Yemenis are voicing their opposition to the war internationally by sharing their stories and experiences online and on social media to try to counter the media blackout on the atrocities committed by the Saudi-led coalition.

Yemen’s internal crisis and problems cannot be solved by foreign military aggression. Saudi’s military campaign against the country is only bringing more death and destruction to the Yemeni people. What is needed today, by peace-loving people outside of Yemen especially, is to build an effective united antiwar anti-intervention movement against the Saudi-led war on Yemen.

In Canada, we need to continue to hold the Liberal government accountable for their support of Saudi Arabia’s crimes and demand a cancelation of Canada’s \$15 billion arms deal to supply the Saudi government with armored military vehicles.

Let’s join the voices of our brothers and sisters in Yemen to defend their self-determination and their right to decide on the future of their country without the bullying and interventions of the Saudi government and their US master. US/Saudi Arabia Hands off Yemen! Stop Bombing Yemen! Lift the Naval, Aerial and Land Blockade on Yemen!

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basic goods. The result is sickness and starvation imposed on millions of people around the world. History, and current reality today have shown that people and governments cannot be starved into submission. So, since when was such pitiless disregard for human life an acceptable reality?

In the face of their own inhuman sanctions regime, the U.S. government and their imperialist allies continue to do everything they can to demonize North Korea, and paint the government of North Korea as the aggressor. Disgustingly, they dare to declare that DPRK is the “biggest threat to humankind.” Yet, it is U.S. President Trump that has pushed forward genocidal sanctions and threatened to “totally destroy” North Korea, and its 25 million people with “fire and fury like world has never seen.”

And these are not just the words of President Trump, following the test-launch of a ballistic missile by North Korea on November 29, it was the United States’ UN Ambassador Nikki Haley who, at an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, reminded the international community once again “make no mistake the North Korean regime will be utterly destroyed.”

Then, on December 15, 2017, at a meeting of the UN Security Council, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was again threatening North Korea, stating “We have been clear that all options remain on the table in the defence of our nation [the United States].”

On top of threats and sanctions, the U.S. government and South Korea have also continued and even escalated their dangerous and provocative war games just off the shores of North Korea. Just days after a “emergency meeting” of the UN Security Council called by the United States in response to North Korea’s November 29th ballistic missile-test, South Korea and the U.S. launched into military exercises involving over 230 warplanes, and at least 12,000 U.S. troops, and practice air-strikes on North Korea.

On top of this, at any given time there are at least 35,000 U.S. troops in South Korea and 40,000 more in neighbouring Japan ready to take military action against North Korea. As well, the U.S. government’s largest naval fleet, the 7th Fleet of the U.S. Navy, is stationed in Japan; with a further 20,000 soldiers, more than 50 warships, and 12 nuclear-powered submarines, as well as the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan aircraft supercarrier.

In fact, the U.S. government has imposed a constant policy of aggression against North Korea for over 60 years, coupled with U.S. and UN sanctions. During the Korean War (1950-1953), the U.S. government and their allies, including Canada, were responsible for the deaths of nearly 3 million people on the Korean Peninsula, deployed 32,557 tons of the chemical weapon Napalm, and destroyed 75% of the Pyongyang, the capital city of North Korea. With all of this focus on the nuclear weapons program in the DRPK, it is also important to note that the first nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula were not in North Korea. The U.S. government deployed nuclear weapons to South Korea in 1958, where they remained until 1991. The hypocrisy of the US government’s demand that North Korea end all nuclear weapons development goes even deeper – it is the United States that maintains a nuclear arsenal of at least 4,600 nuclear warheads and bombs. On top of this, the United States also remains the only country in the world to have ever deployed nuclear weapons; when they dropped nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. So, how is it again that the DRPK poses such a grave threat to the world? Then, there is the question of United States support for a nuclear-free zone on the Korean Peninsula. How can the U.S. government claim to be in support of nuclear-free zones when, to protect nuclear armed Israel, they blocked a United Nations conference on establishing a nuclear free zone in the Middle East?

As a sovereign and independent country, the DRPK has the right to develop science, technology, and its military capabilities without interference from the U.S. government and their allies. If the UN Security Council were truly concerned with peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, they would call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops and military installations from the region, and an end to U.S. military exercises, aggression and sanctions against North Korea.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) condemns all U.S. and UN Security Council sanctions against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea as a genocidal act of war against an independent and sovereign country. It is the threats, inhuman sanctions and military actions, of the U.S. government and their allies against the DRPK that are the biggest threat to peace and stability in the region.

Vancouver is Ready, Let’s Unite, We Must Protest

On January 16, 2018 the U.S. Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson and the Foreign Minister of Canada Chrystia Freeland have announced that they will be co-hosting a meeting, referred to as the “Vancouver Group,” including other un-announced foreign ministers, to “demonstrate solidarity in opposition to North Korea’s dangerous and illegal actions and to work together to strengthen diplomatic efforts toward a secure, prosperous and denuclearized Korean peninsula.”

It is clear that this meeting will not put any discussion of U.S.-led aggression, threats, and sanctions against North Korea on the table. Rather, this meeting has been called to further attempt to isolate and demonize the DRPK, to bolster U.S. and imperialist interests in the region.

As peace-loving people in Vancouver we must unite against these war-mongers and call for an end to the inhuman sanctions imposed on 25 million people in North Korea! Mobilization Against War and Occupation calls on all people who stand with the right of the Democratic People’s Republic of North Korea to self-determination and an end to imperialist threat, sanctions and military actions against the DRPK to unite. On January 16, 2018 we must join together to let the so-called “Vancouver Group” know that they are not welcome here!

U.S. Hands Off North Korea!

>>> Antiwar actions during the “Vancouver Group” meeting of U.S. and Canada Foreign Ministers January 15 & 16, 2018

((((1))) MAWO Forum with Prof. Michel Chossudovsky & Ret. Army Colonel Ann Wright
((((2))) Schedule of Other Antiwar Events on January 15 & 16

On January 16 U.S. Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson and the Foreign Minister of Canada, Chrystia Freeland, will be co-hosting a meeting of what they are calling the “Vancouver Group,” to “advance the pressure campaign against North Korea.”

It is clear this meeting will not discuss U.S.-led aggression, threats, and genocidal sanctions against North Korea. Rather, it has been called to further attempt to isolate and demonize North Korea, and to bolster U.S. and imperialist interests in the region.

On January 15 and 16 there is also an international women’s delegation coming to Vancouver and organizing actions as the Vancouver Women’s Forum on Peace and Security in the Korean Peninsula. This delegation includes women from Women Cross DMZ, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, and Nobel Women’s Initiative, including retired U.S. Army Colonel and international leader in the antiwar movement, Ann Wright. Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) welcomes this important delegation to Vancouver and we look forward to uniting with them on the streets against U.S. and Canadian aggression on North Korea!

MAWO encourages our supporters to attend all of the antiwar actions below. We must unite to let the war-mongers Tillerson and Freeland know that they are not welcome in Vancouver! No to sanctions and war on North Korea!

((((1))) Public Lecture by Michel Chossudovsky & Ann Wright
US Hands Off North Korea!
North Korea & the Threat of Nuclear War
*Speakers*Multimedia*Discussion*
TUESDAY January 16
7:00pm
Vancouver Public Library - Central Branch
350 West Georgia Street
Downtown Vancouver, Canada
Featuring:
> MICHEL CHOSSUDOVSKY
> ANN WRIGHT
::: SCHEDULE OF OTHER EVENTS ON JANUARY 15 & 16 :::
((((1))) Candlelight Vigil For Peace in Korea
MONDAY January 15
7:00pm
Jack Poole Plaza
Adjacent to Vancouver Convention Centre -- West Building
1055 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC
(to join procession to plaza, gather at 6:30 at Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street)
Organized by: Women Cross DMZ, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, and Nobel Women’s Initiative
((((2))) “Witness for Peace” Action outside of the “Vancouver Group” meeting of Foreign Ministers
TUESDAY January 16
8-9:30am
EAST ENTRANCE to West Building of Vancouver Convention Centre
1055 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC
Organized by: Women Cross DMZ, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, and Nobel Women’s Initiative
((((3))) Picket and Signing of Canadian Petition Against War and Aggression on the Korean Peninsula
TUESDAY January 16
12:00 noon
Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch
350 West Georgia St.
Organized by: CPC-ML

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