

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



Next MAWO Meeting:
Tuesday, April 24, 7 pm

Britannia Community Centre - 1661 Napier Street

www.mawovancouver.org

Mobilization Against War and Occupation

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stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 68

newsletter

April 2018 2nd Edition

mobilization against war & occupation

DON'T ATTACK SYRIA!

U.S. Out of Syria & the Middle East!

Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO
MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

STATEMENT BY

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR AND OCCUPATION -MAWO

April 14, 2018

Once again, the bloody and criminal hands of the axis of devils, the US, UK and France, has attacked a sovereign country, Syria, with a phony and fabricated allegation, only to advance their colonial interests. The US, UK and France pounded Syria, especially Damascus, with more than 130 missiles and air strikes inflicting more pain on this torn apart country, already suffering for more than seven years from war, destruction, and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people, imposed by mercenary terrorists and foreign military intervention.

In fact, this attack occurred just hours away from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) starting their investigation of allegations of chemical weapons used by the Syrian government. The bombing of civilians and destruction of the infrastructure of a sovereign country are not only against all human values and human rights, but also against international law. As the statement by the Revolutionary Government of Cuba states this "...is a flagrant violation of the principles of International Law and the UN Charter and an outrage against a sovereign State, which exacerbates the conflict in

that country and region."

The conscious of the world must ask ourselves why we are letting this axis of devils, these war mongers, the US, UK and France, easily and arrogantly ignore all laws and rules. We strongly believe this is the time, more than ever, to build an international antiwar movement which requires unity in action of all antiwar organizations and human loving people. A mass antiwar movement around the world can stop these atrocities. However, we need to start from our own communities. Our unity in action, as well as the continuity of protesting wars and occupations, will effectively stop future military aggression against Syria and other sovereign nations.

MAWO activists and supporters protested in the streets of Vancouver, Canada while the bombing of the Syrian people was underway by the US, UK and France. Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO), strongly and actively condemns the bombing of Syria, a sovereign nation, by the US, UK and France.

IMPERIALISTS HANDS OFF SYRIA!

US, UK AND FRANCE OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA!



Syria poison gas?

PRETEXT FOR U.S. MILITARY ATTACK

U.S. wars are based on lies and staged provocations. This is hardly news.

Now comes the charge that on April 7 someone — the imperialists are saying it was the Syrian government, although there is no proof of that — killed dozens of Syrians with a poison gas attack on the town of Douma, which had only recently been liberated from anti-government forces.

The brutal seven-year war against Syria had been winding down after the failure of every effort by U.S. imperialism to overturn the Syrian government.

The last groups of reactionary, Saudi-backed military units were defeated this month. They had relentlessly shelled the civilian population of Damascus, the Syrian capital, for years. Thousands of these fighters have finally surrendered and were forced out of the hills of East Ghouta province overlooking Damascus. They are due to be bused out of the area to Idlib, a rebel-held area in the far north of Syria.

The Syrian government has also established humanitarian corridors

enabling more than 150,000 civilians to be evacuated by its forces.

The town of Douma, where the supposed gas attack took place, was the last to be liberated. The Army of Islam or Jaysh al-Islam had agreed to an evacuation. The Syrian Arab Air Force had destroyed more than 300 positions of Jaysh al-Islam in the Douma district, including its main headquarters, communication networks and ammunition depots, over the last 24 hours before the supposed gas attack.

Syria has no motive

The idea that the Syrian government would choose this moment of victory to suddenly unleash a gas attack is incredible and ridiculous. But it is a charge that serves as an excuse for the U.S. and NATO to renew their bombing, especially since only a week earlier Trump had talked about getting the U.S. out of Syria.

The gas attack, which is said to have killed at least 42 people, was top-of-the-news, front-page coverage in the U.S. media along with Trump's tweets. While the charge that Syria did it was

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U.S. & CANADA
HANDS OFF
VENEZUELA!



FRIDAY MAY 4

1. PROTEST ACTION 4PM
> U.S./CANADA HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!
US CONSULATE IN VANCOUVER - 1070 WEST PENDER ST.

2. INFO TABLING & PETITION 5:30PM
> NO MORE U.S./CANADA SANCTIONS & THREATS!
> RESPECT THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF VENEZUELAN PEOPLE!
VANCOUVER ART GALLERY - ROBSON ST. @ HOWE ST.

FIRE THIS TIME - VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN
WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET



DON'T ATTACK SYRIA! STOP BOMBING YEMEN!

U.S./CANADA/NATO HANDS OFF:
Iran, North Korea, , Iraq, Venezuela, Afghanistan,
Libya, North Africa & the Middle East!

Canada Cancel the Arms Deal with Saudi Arabia Now! No to Islamophobia! Self-Determination for Palestine! End the Occupation Now! Money for Jobs, Healthcare, Education, Housing & Environment! Not for War and Occupation! Resist Imperialist War Mongering! No to War & Occupation! Yes to Self-Determination! No to War & Occupation! No to Environmental Degradation! Self-Determination for Indigenous Nations! Self-Determination for All Oppressed Nations

RALLY & PETITION CAMPAIGN

FRIDAY MAY 11 5PM

VANCOUVER ART GALLERY (ROBSON & HOWE)
DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER. CANADA

2018

Mobilization Against War & Occupation

WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

Yemen, Three Years After

By Azza Rojbi



Yemen is “the world’s largest man-made humanitarian crisis”. Those were the words of UN special envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, as he gave his final briefing to the UN security council on the situation in Yemen. In this briefing, not once were the daily aggression and airstrikes against the people of Yemen led by Saudi Arabia mentioned. He also made no mention of the cruel sea, air and land blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia on Yemen. Instead Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed highlighted Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates’ financial pledge “to support humanitarian action and reconstruction in Yemen”. This is a farce and a mockery thrown in the faces of the Yemeni people that continue to struggle for their lives under daily Saudi-led coalition bombing campaign!

On the same day, February 27, 2018, that Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed gave his speech, a Saudi airstrike killed five civilians and wounded at least 14, including children, outside the northern Yemeni city of Saada.



According to a Reuters photographer who witnessed the wreckage, a first airstrike hit and destroyed a house, then two further airstrikes followed targeting paramedics who were trying to save victims from under the debris. This targeting and killing of civilians by the Saudi-led coalition and its allies is far from being an isolated occurrence. The Saudi government has a track record of targeting civilian infrastructure including homes, schools, hospitals, universities, mosques, refugee camps, funeral and wedding halls, markets, sanitation facilities, cultural centre and even historical sites. Humanitarian catastrophe

Backed by the United States, Saudi Arabia started its brutal war against Yemen in March 2015, claiming that it wants to bring peace and stability to the country by reinstating to power their puppet, former president Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Today, after 3 years of indiscriminate and brutal bombing campaign on Yemen, more than 15,000 people have been killed and thousands more have been injured. According to the United Nations, a record 22.2 million people (80% of population) are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 8.4 million threatened by severe hunger.

The bombing of vital civilian infrastructure and the continuation of the criminal land, air and sea blockade on Yemen have aggravated the humanitarian situation. The lack of food,

medicine and proper health facilities plunged the country into a cholera outbreak with over 1 million recorded cases around the country as per the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition to cholera, diphtheria is making an alarming comeback into Yemen, with over 1000 suspected cases. Diphtheria is a highly contagious bacterial infection of the nose and throat that can be fatal if left untreated. According to WHO, already 66 have died of the disease, 47% of them are children under the age of 5.

Yemeni women struggle under the war

According to an article by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) dating to March 23, 2017 : “Yemen already has one of the highest maternal death rates in the Arab region. But food scarcity is putting the lives of 352,000 pregnant women at risk, and it could harm the health of 2.2 million women of childbearing age who are in urgent need of assistance and protection, according to UNFPA calculations from January 2017.

Some 52,800 pregnant women are at risk of life-

threatening complications during childbirth. Meanwhile, the conflict has caused a dramatic breakdown in health services. An estimated 14.8 million people lack access to basic health care, including reproductive health care. Medical supplies are in chronically short supply. Only 45 per cent of health facilities are functioning, and only 35 per cent of these provide maternal and newborn services.”

In addition to their own suffering, Yemeni women are bearing the brunt of the suffering of their families and community under the war. In a lot of cases, they find themselves the only one left to care for and feed their families. Despite their lives being gravely affected by the war on their country, Yemeni women are staying resilient and strong in the face of the Saudi-led aggression on their country.

Last year in March 2017, marking International Women’s Day IWD, Yemeni women staged a three-day sit-in outside the UN office in the capital city of Sana’a, demanding an end to the US-backed war on their country. Pictures from the protest showed women and girls of all ages, carrying Yemeni flags and signs calling for the lifting of the Saudi air, land and naval blockade on Yemen. This year again Yemeni women will be marking IWD by standing up for their families and their country and protesting against the atrocious Saudi-led coalition war on their beloved country.

End the war! #KefayaWar

Despite being politically, militarily and logistically supported by the United States, the UK and

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met with contempt and ridicule throughout most of the world, NATO members France and Britain dutifully chimed in with immediate threats to bomb Syria.

The Israeli regime beat them to it and immediately seized the opportunity to attack Syria. Two Israeli F-15 fighters fired missiles into Syria’s Tiyas Military Airbase in Homs province before dawn on April 9.

It is beyond belief to accept that Israel — whose troops have killed 28 unarmed Palestinian civilians and injured more than 1,500 over the past two weeks, in addition to the thousands it has killed in its past bombings of Gaza — was attacking Syria over the deaths of civilians.

Charges with no proof

The imperialists’ blatant assertion of Syrian guilt is not only totally unfounded, it is unprovable and totally implausible.

Syria has repeatedly denied allegations of chemical weapons use, underscoring that it has no weapons of mass destruction. This was confirmed by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry points out that similar allegations emerge every time the Syrian Army makes advances in its fight against terrorist groups.

Last year on April 7, the Pentagon, without waiting for any evidence, attacked Syria’s Shuayrat Air Force base with 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles, supposedly in response to chemical weapons being used at Khan Shikhoun, a town in southwestern Syria. The sudden attack, orchestrated with immediate photos and a coordinated campaign of war propaganda by a compliant media, reached new heights.

Protecting civilians is the claim made by the imperialists to justify their massive bombings, destabilizations campaigns and starvation sanctions — resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians.

Wider war threatened

A wider war exploding from a confrontation in Syria is a growing danger. Most dangerous right now is that it coincides with the installation of extreme right-wing war hawk John Bolton as Trump’s new national security advisor.

When the U.S. ruling class wants a war, the corporate media fall into line. Whether it was the phony claim that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction in 2002, which U.S. officials knew to be a lie, or the phony “attack” by Vietnamese PT boats on a U.S. warship in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964, the U.S. media have repeated the government’s lies to justify its wars.

This goes all the way back to the sinking of the battleship Maine in 1898, which was used to justify the Spanish-American war. A U.S. Navy inquiry in 1974 commissioned by Admiral Hyman Rickover concluded that the Maine sunk, not because of a Spanish mine, but because munitions stored aboard caught fire and exploded.

U.S. military corporations have an enormous stake in continued war. But it goes wider than that. The big imperialist corporations and banks fear the defeat of all U.S. strategic plans for the region. So once again military, corporate and media forces are dragging out the same playbook they have used time and again to keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan, south Korea, Syria and the more than 1,000 U.S. military bases around the world.

It is especially ominous that Russia was immediately blamed, along with Syria. Russian and Iranian assistance to Syria has helped frustrate U.S. plans for the overthrow of the Syrian government. In their constant drumbeat of nonstop demonization, U.S. opinion molders don’t even bother to present facts or motivation when making charges against Russian President Putin.

They also paint a dire picture that a U.S. military pullout from the region would lead to chaos and benefit Russia, Iran or China, while also leading to a resurgence of the Islamic State group in Syria. What the war planners really oppose is a unified, sovereign Syrian state.

Progressive forces opposed to endless U.S. wars must confront these criminal charges against Syria and demand of the U.S. warmakers: “Hands off Syria!”

** By Sara Flounders | April 10, 2018 | www.workers.org



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other major imperialist countries, the Saudi government is failing to achieve any of its so called goals in Yemen. As we enter the third year of the war, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi is still hiding in his masters’ palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the people of Yemen are facing the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

The United States government is a direct accomplice of this humanitarian catastrophe. “It is U.S. refueling planes flying in the sky around Yemen that restock the Saudi fighter jets with fuel, allowing them to drop more ordnance... It is U.S.-made ordnance that is carried on these planes and dropped on civilian and infrastructure targets inside Yemen. The United States is part of this coalition. The bombing campaign that has caused the cholera outbreak could not happen without us.” Those were the words of US Senator Chris Murphy speaking from the senate floor on November 14, 2017.

It is not only the U.S. that continues selling arms to Saudi Arabia and its allied coalition.

Its neighbour to the north Canada, has been trying to keep quiet the fact that in 2016 “Saudi Arabia was the largest non-U.S. importer of Canadian-made military goods.” as the National Post reported. The Canadian government is also moving ahead with a \$15 billion arms deals to supply Saudi Arabia with light-armored vehicles LAV which come equipped with heavy guns and cannon.

As peace loving people in Canada, and around the world we must stand next to our brothers and sisters in Yemen in their resistance against the Saudi-led war on their country. We must keep our imperialist governments accountable for their complicity in the crimes committed against the brave and innocent people of Yemen.

**US/Saudi Arabia Hands off Yemen!
All Foreign Troops Out of Yemen!
Stop Bombing Yemen!
Lift the Naval, Aerial and Land
Blockade on Yemen!**