

# 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



## mawovancouver.org

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MAWO #72 Created by: Azza Rojbi, Ali Yerevani, Tamara Hansen & Allison Bodine

stop the war! stop the occupations!

[www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org)

# MAWO 72

newsletter

November 2018

mobilization against war & occupation

# NO TO NATO! NO TO WAR!



# CANADA OUT OF NATO NOW!

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

## MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

# CLOSE ALL U.S./NATO MILITARY BASES NOW!

By Janine Solanki

*Excerpt*

The world today is defined by a new era of war and occupation. This is seen with foreign occupations like the U.S.-led occupations of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003, the U.S.-led war on Syria, U.S.-backed coups like the 2014 coup in Ukraine and the U.S./Canada/EU sanctions and economic war against Venezuela and Iran. This has also included dozens of U.S. special forces secret wars on all continents. Today, every region of the world is engulfed by U.S.-led military aggression and intervention.

Military Times article on the most recent quarterly report from the Department of Defense Inspector General noted that during the summer of 2018, the U.S. military was conducting missions in at least 20 African nations!

Threatening Central and South America Across the ocean, USSOUTHCOM covers the U.S. military command of South and Central America and much of the Caribbean. One of three task forces in the region operates out of Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras, the U.S. Joint Task Force Bravo. While the Honduran constitution prohibits a permanent foreign troop presence, the U.S. has circumvented this by declaring their presence on the base as "temporary"... since 1982! The U.S. base in Honduras is a good example of how dangerous the presence of U.S. troops are, and how difficult it is to get rid of U.S. foreign bases. In 2008 the democratically elected President Manuel Zelaya had proposed converting the Soto Cano Air Force Base into a civilian airport. In 2009 President Zelaya was overthrown in a coup which at best the U.S. government was complicit in, at worst directly involved.

Occupying Guantanamo Base in Cuba

Another arm of USSOUTHCOM is the illegally occupied U.S. base in Guantanamo, Cuba. February 23, 2018, marked 115 years since the 120 square kilometres of Cuban territory was seized by the U.S., making it the oldest U.S. foreign base. While it retains use as a naval base, it is primarily, and infamously, used as an off-shore prison. On January 30th, 2018, U.S. President Trump signed an executive order to keep Guantanamo Bay prison open. The notorious prison, where the U.S. arbitrarily detains and tortures people, denying them of legal and human rights, has held close to 800 people under the guise of the U.S. so-called "war on terror." The executive order signed by Trump is in line with statements that he made as a presidential candidate regarding Guantanamo Bay prison, that he would "load it up with some bad dudes." While justice-minded people around the world have demanded the closure of the U.S. prison at Guantanamo, the Cuban people and government have also demanded the return of their illegally occupied territory.

U.S. bases in Europe also serve to assist the U.S. imperialist interests in Africa. U.S. bases in Italy, Germany and the U.K., alongside NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member state's bases in the region, served as launching pads for the U.S.-promoted and the NATO-led war on Libya in 2011. From these bases, 26,000 aircraft sorties were launched over seven months, 42% of which resulted in airstrikes on Libya. What else is USAFRICOM up to? A





**U.S.!**  
**CANADA HANDS OFF END**  
**SANCTIONS AGAINST VENEZUELA!**  
**NO REGIME CHANGE IN VENEZUELA!**

**VENEZUELA!**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 7 2018**

**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. AND HOWE ST.**

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



**LEAVE THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA NOW!**



**RETURN GUANTANAMO TO CUBA NOW!**

**MONTHLY PROTEST ACTION!**  
**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17 2018 4PM**  
**U.S. CONSULATE 1075 W. PENDER ST. DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER**

**FRIENDS OF CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE-VANCOUVER**  
**NOBLOQUEDEVANCOUVER@GMAIL.COM @NOBLOQUEDEVAN**  
**WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG**



**FREE PUBLIC COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**STOP SAUDI AGGRESSION & KILLINGS!**  
**VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY SAUDI ARABIA - FROM KHASHOGGI TO YEMEN**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30 2018**  
**7:30PM BRITANNIA COMMUNITY CENTRE CANUCKS FAMILY ROOM**  
**1661 NAPIER ST. @ COMMERCIAL DR. VANCOUVER, CANADA**

**SPEAKERS:**  
**▶ AZZA ROJBI** MAWO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER & TUNISIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST  
**▶ KHALID AL-SERAGI** YEMENI-CANADIAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZER  
**▶ SHAKER AL-ABEIDI** YEMENI-CANADIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST & ORGANIZER

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**MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION (MAWO)**  
**@MAWO\_VAN**  
**WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG**





STATEMENT BY VETERANS FOR PEACE IN THE U.S.  
NO TROOPS TO THE BORDER!

Veterans For Peace strongly condemns the recent announcement that up to 15,000 active duty military personnel may be sent to the U.S. southern border. These troops will join the additional National Guard units that were sent last year, increasing the militarization of our borders at an alarming rate. Our immigration laws and enforcement tactics have long been at a crisis point and we are now witnessing an even more draconian surge in the use of force to prop up failed policies.

Veterans For Peace calls on all our members and all veterans who see the inhumanity and injustice of the current policies to call their Congressional Representative and Senators to demand the military be pulled back from the border and that the members of the approaching caravan be treated with dignity and processed according to international humanitarian standards as refugees. We call on all service members participating in the border deployment to follow the long American tradition of listening to their conscience and remember that they have no obligation to follow illegal orders. (For questions on military rights, contact the GI Rights Hotline or Courage to Resist)

The U.S. government, instead of welcoming the approaching refugees, the majority of whom will seek asylum under completely legal processes, is treating individuals and families fleeing to the U.S. as if they are “terrorists” (even when “counterterrorism” officials within the administration are stating that no such people exist within the caravan). The majority of these refugees are fleeing from violence in Honduras and a political situation United States’ actions have made worse.

The U.S. government’s claim that active duty troops are providing only innocuous support services are misleading. This is the introduction of U.S. military force as a deterrent to those who are pursuing their rights as asylum seekers fleeing from extreme poverty and violence in their homelands, much of it due to U.S. policies. The U.S. is required under international humanitarian standards to welcome those seeking refuge.

Veterans For Peace recognizes that these orders did not happen in a vacuum, but represent a long history over several administrations of racist and violent policies that has perpetuated U.S. wars across the world and horrific domestic policies that created ICE, massive immigration detention centers and a wall that already splits towns and separates friends and families. However, the Trump administration has escalated, at an alarming pace, the implementation of new dangerous measures. President Trump is moving to fulfill on the promises of his campaign that caused an upsurge of hateful sentiment in our nation and spurred a rise in fear and anger.

Additionally, Veterans For Peace is not only concerned about the safety of individuals and families fleeing violence and the increased militarization of the border but we are extremely concerned about the continued disregard of federal law. Federal

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**Military Threat to Venezuela**  
The U.S. has been steadily expanding its foothold in Latin America beyond the bases in Honduras and Cuba. In 2008 the Colombian government had agreed to grant U.S. access to seven bases, but this was struck down by Colombia’s constitutional court in 2010. However, through previous agreements, the U.S. military still can have a presence of up to 1,400 U.S. troops in Colombia. U.S. foreign military presence also takes place through military exercises. In September 2018 Colombia hosted the 11-country UNITAS Pacific multinational maritime exercise, which included U.S. forces. U.S. military operations in Colombia are particularly threatening to Venezuela, which borders Colombia. Dangerous statements from U.S. President Trump have included that military intervention in Venezuela is an option that the U.S. “certainly could pursue” and that “we have many options for Venezuela including a possible military option.” With U.S. military operating in neighbouring Colombia and the U.S. participating in military exercises near Venezuela’s coast, the threat of U.S. intervention in Venezuela could not be closer.

**The Middle East**  
In the Middle East (or “USCENTCOM” as per U.S. Department of Defense), the U.S. has gone another step from having military bases in the region to the full-on occupation. For the last 17 years, Afghanistan has been under U.S.-led occupation with the help of NATO, and Iraq has now been occupied by the U.S. for over 15 years. In both of these countries, justifications of fighting “the war on terror” and promises of liberation have resulted in the self-determination of the Afghan and Iraqi people being denied under ongoing foreign occupation. Quality of life from education to healthcare has decreased, and poverty and unemployment have increased. In Afghanistan, 2018 has been the record highest year for civilian deaths, according to the UN. In Iraq, over 1 million Iraqis have been killed as a result of the war, according to British polling group Opinion Research Business. The U.S. has also been conducting a brutal war in Syria for the past seven years, which first consisted of arming, funding and directing so-called “moderate rebels” in Syria from their bases in the region, including in Jordan.

**Japan, China and North Korea**  
Looking to the Asia-Pacific region, this is what the U.S. Department of Defence calls “USINDOPACOM.” The U.S. has carried out their provocations and threats against North Korea with about 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea. The majority of troops in the region are stationed in Japan, with about 50,000 U.S. soldiers in the country. 73.9% of U.S. bases in Japan are in the small but strategic southern island of Okinawa, close to the Korean peninsula. For the people of Okinawa, Japan, the U.S. militarily presence is a very real danger to their day to day lives, and strikes against their self-determination as the U.S. operates on their land with impunity. According to local police statistics in Okinawa, 741 serious crimes involving U.S. military personnel or civilian employees of the U.S. forces or their relatives were investigated between 1972 to the end of 2015. There were 574 convictions, including 129 for rape, 394 cases of burglary and 26 murders. These include the 1995 gang rape of a 12-year old Okinawa girl by three U.S. service personnel, and more recently in 2016 the rape and murder of a 20-year old Okinawa woman by a U.S. Army base worker.

**U.S. Military Basis and Destruction of Environment**  
The U.S. government also disregards the environment while setting up their foreign military bases. As of 1992, the U.S. Army had identified more than 350 contaminated sites at its facilities in Germany and found that polluted wastes from these facilities had “begun to threaten the health of thousands of U.S. and German citizens” as documented by Michael Satchell in the 1992 report “The Mess We’ve Left Behind.” While Germany has more leverage to get

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the U.S. to clean up, the same is not true for many poor and oppressed countries. According to an Institute for Policy Studies report in 2005, in Vieques, Puerto Rico studies have found high rates of cadmium, lead, mercury, uranium, and other contaminants present in the soil, food chain, and human bodies of island residents due to U.S. military bases. Vieques residents have elevated rates of disease, including a 26.9% higher incidence of cancer than other Puerto Ricans. In Panama, the U.S. military left behind more than 100,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance on firing ranges in the fast-growing canal area, despite a Canal Treaty provision for removing such dangers. In Okinawa, Japan, environmentalists say the construction of two aircraft runways as part of a base relocation plan on will destroy the critical feeding grounds and habitat of the manatee-like dugong animal.

**No to U.S. Foreign Military Bases! No to NATO!**  
The list goes on and on, but it is a global movement that is necessary to bring an end to U.S. military bases worldwide. On February 23, 2018, a Global Day of Action was called by the Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases. Actions were held around the world, including here in Vancouver, Canada. With the upcoming International Conference Against U.S./NATO Military Bases in Dublin, Ireland this will be an important chance for worldwide coordination and collaboration to build a strong, united and effective movement against the U.S. as well as NATO foreign military bases.

invites you to the

## First International Conference Against US/NATO Military Bases

**November 16-18, 2018, Dublin, Ireland**

The increasingly aggressive actions of US/NATO forces, the raging wars in the Middle East, the burgeoning arms race devastating the national treasuries, the bellicose language replacing diplomatic negotiations, the economic crises facing country after country, the destruction of the global environment through war and unfettered exploitation, their impact on public health, have created crises that, unless checked by popular opposition, can lead to unimaginable catastrophe and war.

None of us can stop this madness alone. Global peace forces must come together, mobilizing the millions in our countries, and around the world, for peace. Based on this understanding, we have initiated the Global Campaign Against US/NATO Military Bases.

**For updated information about the conference and to join the Global Campaign Against US/NATO Military Bases go to NoUSNATOBases.org**

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law, namely the Posse Comitatus Act, prohibits the deployment of active duty troops on domestic soil and the U.S. Government continues to ignore laws in favor of increasing militarization of U.S. domestic policy.

As military veterans from WWII to the current era of conflicts, who have trained for, and in many cases, fought in U.S. wars, we know that current U.S. policies have not only failed to bring peace but are morally bankrupt and we do not believe that more military at the border is rooted in justice or compassion.

It is more important than ever that veterans stand up, speak out and organize to disrupt the dangerous escalation of racist and unjust policies, both at home and abroad. We, as veterans, know that peace is possible, but only if resources are directed towards caring for one another, not perpetuating militarization across the globe.

From: [www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)



Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) organizes a monthly protest rally and petition drive for peace and against war and occupation in Vancouver. MAWO organizes rallies, pickets, petition drives, banner drops, forums, conferences, festivals and cultural events to educate the public against imperialist war and occupation.