

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

f Mobilization Against War and Occupation
info@mawovancouver.org 778- 938-1557

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

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 73
newsletter MARCH 2019

mobilization against war & occupation

HANDS OFF YEMEN!

**THE U.S. BACKED SAUDI WAR ON YEMEN
4 YEARS OF CHAOS, DESTRUCTION & RESISTANCE**

By Azza Rojbi

As families in Canada ready themselves to welcome the Spring, kids and families in Yemen continue to lose loved ones to the atrocities of the war on their countries. March 26, 2019, will mark four years since the start of the brutal bombing campaign and war on Yemen, led by Saudi Arabia and fully supported by the United States. The Saudi-led coalition started its war on Yemen under the guise of defending legitimacy and stability, and with the goal of reinstating to power the widely unpopular former president Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, whose term had expired. He had resigned and flown to Saudi Arabia.

Today as we approach four years of war and bombing, there is no peace or stability in sight for the Yemeni people. Saudi and UAE fighter jets have indiscriminately bombed schools, homes, hospitals, universities, refugee camps, wedding halls, funerals, markets,

humanitarian aid.

Yemen today is the world's largest humanitarian crisis. According to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data project (ACLED), at least 60,223 people were killed in Yemen since January 2016. This drastic figure doesn't account for the deaths caused by malnutrition and disease as a direct consequence of the war. According to the United Nations, 24 million people in Yemen urgently need humanitarian aid, over 80% of the population.

These grim numbers paint a horrific picture of the reality of life for the Yemeni people after four years of war and aggression on their country by the Saudi-led coalition. Since day one of the war, the U.S. government offered full political, logistical and military support to Saudi Arabia and UAE, and continues selling them weapons and bombs. Several EU countries such as France and Britain, and also Canada, are complicit in this horrific war as they have been

HANDS OFF VENEZUELA
YEMEN
SYRIA

Vancouver Art Gallery (Robson & Hornby) Vancouver, Canada

FRIDAY APRIL 26 5PM

► IRAN ► IRAQ ► AFGHANISTAN ► LIBYA ► NORTH KOREA
Self-Determination for All Oppressed Nations!
Money for Healthcare, Housing & Education - Not for War & Occupation!

MAWO - MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION
WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA NOW!



RETURN GUANTANAMO TO CUBA NOW!



MONTHLY PROTEST ACTION!

**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 17 2019**

**U.S. CONSULATE - 4PM
1075 W. PENDER ST.
VANCOUVER, CANADA**



**FRIENDS OF CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE-VANCOUVER
NOBLOQUEOVANCOUVER@GMAIL.COM @NOBLOQUEOVAN**

WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG



cultural centres and countless other vital civilian targets. In addition to this inhuman bombing, the Saudi-led coalition has imposed on the Yemeni people an illegal land, air and sea blockade which severely hinders the country's access to much needed

making billions selling weapons to Saudi Arabia.

The war on Yemen was created and planned by the U.S. and its imperialist allies and implemented by their puppets in the region, Saudi Arabia, UAE and their

EYE-WITNESS REPORT: CHE GUEVARA INTERNATIONALIST YOUTH BRIGADE & THE INTERNATIONAL PEOPLES

By Azza Rojbi and Mike Larson

At a time when Venezuela is under increasing pressure and imperialist aggression, two young organizers from the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, Azza Rojbi and Michael Larson, were invited to participate as the Canadian delegation within the International Peoples Assembly in Solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution and against Imperialism held in Caracas, Venezuela.

As part of the Assembly activities, we had the opportunity to participate in the Che Guevara Internationalist Youth Brigade. We saw first-hand how young people are actively building the Bolivarian revolution and maintaining the gains they fought for despite having to face brutal economic sanctions and an aggressive media campaign claiming there’s a so-called “humanitarian crisis” in Venezuela. The brigade was comprised of 150 youths from over 40 different countries from various political parties and social movements. The main goal of this brigade was to unite young people in defence of the Bolivarian revolution, to see the reality of Venezuela through the eyes of Venezuelans, and to use this experience to combat the lies and manipulation spread by the imperialist media.

Youth Are the Foundation of Revolutionary Progress

The mainstream media conveniently leaves out the role Venezuelan youth have played as a major force within the Bolivarian revolution. We saw first-hand at the UBV (Bolivarian University of Venezuela) how youth in Venezuela are taking the lead in defneding and expanding one of the main achievements of the revolution, which is education. One of these youth leaders was Diego Jesus Gonzalo, the National Coordinator of the Bolivarian Student Organization, which was created by the late president Chavez in 2005 to give students a sense of pride in their education. Not just at the high school level but throughout all levels of education in Venezuela you’ll see young people actively organizing and influencing educational policies and their curriculum.

Another movement at the forefront of the revolution is MEVEN (Ecology Movement of Venezuela). MEVEN was formed to teach youth the importance of understanding how the environment impacts us each day, why they need to raise productivity by growing more food and medicines for the communities, and the importance of combating climate change. When the brigade split into various groups to visit different parts of the country, the youth leaders of MEVEN had organized a program for us to see the importance of community and food sovereignty in Venezuela.

We saw in action the revolutionary commitment and work of these Venezuelan youth when we visited the agroecological school in Caricuao. The school is an initiative by the “Francisco de Miranda” Front (FFM), MEVEN and the Urban Agriculture Movement “Siembra Venezuela.” Led by the community, the government expropriated an idle plot of land being used as a garbage dump that belonged to a multinational corporation. The community now is transforming the space into a training and research centre to teach and promote the production of food and natural medicine using sustainable practices and organic farming methods. We experienced first-hand working alongside some of the community members at the school the immense spirit of dedication, dignity and pride they have in their Revolution. It was a concrete example of how the Venezuelan people are organizing themselves and fighting back against the economic war and sanctions.

We Are Venezuela

To better understand how Venezuelans are further fighting against this unjust war and aggression on their country, our Caricuao brigade team participated in the activities of Somos Venezuela (We are Venezuela). This grassroots movement is another community organization that has its finger on the pulse of the community; members of this movement will go door to door, house to house and check in with people living in their community to see how they are doing and if they require any basic goods. Then they work with the revolutionary Venezuelan government to provide it to them.

When we first arrived, we received a very warm welcome by the residents with beautiful songs performed by children from the community, before embarking with medical and household goods to deliver house by house. One woman upon seeing us arriving up the hill approached us enthusiastically. She didn’t just want us to drop off the mattress we were bringing but,

also to see her home where she lives with six family members, two of them children with special needs. She shared with us how much gratitude she has for the Bolivarian Revolution that gave her and her family a dignified life. As we continued going home to home, we directly witnessed some of the gains and achievements of the Venezuelan revolution in improving the life of people. We also felt the pride and strong commitment of the Venezuelan people in defending their revolution.

The International Peoples Assembly
Following the successful Che Guevara Internationalist Youth Brigade, social movements and organizations gathered in Caracas for the program of the International Peoples Assembly. The assembly took place February 24-27 and brought together 500 participants from 90 countries, representing 181 people’s movements and organizations.

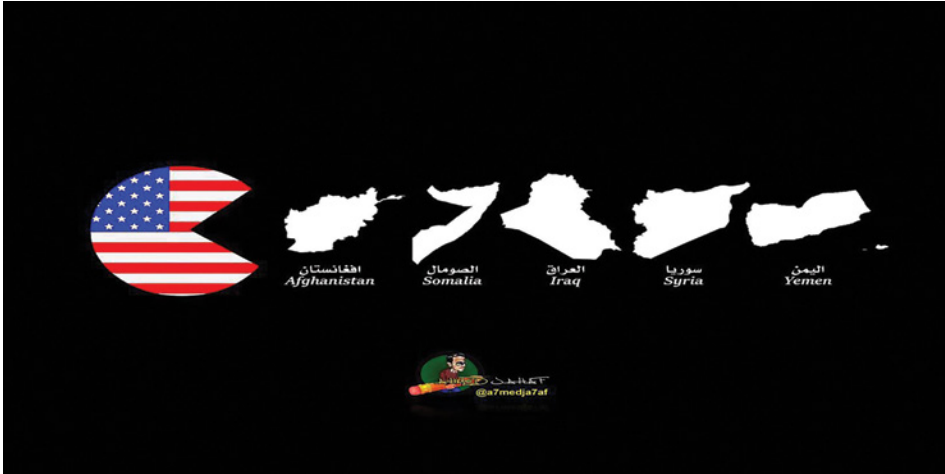
During the assembly, representatives from various political parties and social movements spoke at a varity of plenaries about the importance of defending the Bolivarian revolution and the concrete tasks needed to confront imperialism when we return to each of our countries. On Tuesday, February 26, the Vice President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Delcy Rodriguez, gave a powerful speech on the hypocrisy of the imperialist war against Venezuela - as imperialist governments turn a blind eye towards human rights abuses in the region. She also spoke on the importance of the worldwide solidarity movement with Venezuela saying, “Today the independence, freedom, and dignity of the Great Homeland is playing in Venezuela, that is why it is so important to create such initiatives as the International Peoples Assembly.”

International Solidarity Forever
The commitment from social justice movements around the world to stand in solidarity with the Bolivarian revolution, as it is under increasing attack from the U.S. government and their allies, was very apparent throughout all the discussions and the plenaries. Beyond the Assembly’s program, participants also had the opportunity to connect and exchange with one another about their experiences in building Venezuela solidarity and planning together for future coordination and collaboration.

The Assembly program also included cultural components with performances from various international and local artists bringing together everyone involved with their diverse traditional songs and dances. Another important aspect of the Assembly was the focus on countering the right-wing and mainstream media narrative against Venezuela. This was emphasised as participants created different multimedia stories and live reports from the reality that we witnessed in Venezuela that could then be shared in different languages on social media platforms.

“The battle for Venezuela is not only for us, Venezuelans, but it is also a battle for the right to independence, to peace, to world diversity, we have to achieve an equal and free world for all.” Those were some of the words shared by the Constitutional President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro Moros. With a fiery intensity, President Maduro shared with participants that the attempted coup at the Columbian-Venezuela border by the United States and its lackeys was an utter failure and that the Venezuelan people will continue to stand strong in defending their sovereignty and self-determination.

Viva Venezuela! Viva Revolution!
The International Peoples Assembly closed with a final panel that included a representative from each continent who spoke on the importance of fighting to defend the Venezuelan revolution, a revolution that represents a beacon of hope for poor and oppressed people around the world. Participants agreed on final declarations from the Assembly that included a letter of solidarity with the people in struggle, a manifesto in solidarity with Venezuela and a political declaration from the Che Guevara Internationalist Youth Brigade that was read by two youth leaders: Azza Rojbi from the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice and Kyle Haselsteiner from the Socialist Youth League of Zambia. For all of us that participated, the Brigade and the Assembly were very educational, dynamic and inspiring experiences. As we each head back to our respective countries, we are committed to stand in solidarity with the revolutionary youth, working and oppressed people of Venezuela who are tirelessly resisting imperialist attacks on their country, by uniting our struggles we will win! Venceremos!

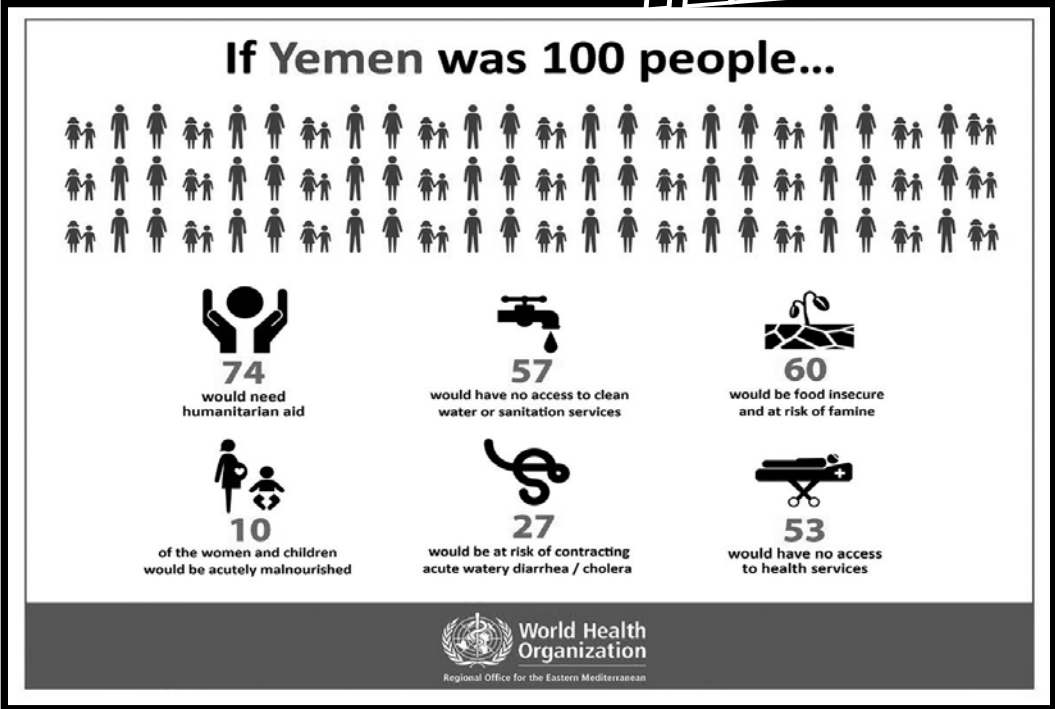


coalition. They are responsible for the bloodshed and humanitarian crisis in the country. To hear them claim today that they care about the well-being of the Yemeni people and are genuinely seeking a ceasefire in the country is an insult against human intelligence. You don’t bring peace by continuously bombing an impoverished country for four years! Their war on Yemen is about expanding imperialist hegemony and control in the Middle East and shifting the balance of forces in Yemen in their interest.

Despite all criminal efforts by the U.S.-backed Saudi-led coalition and their imperialist allies such as France and Britain, they have failed in crushing the resistance of the dignified Yemeni people. In an article published by the magazine In These Times, Yemenis were asked to describe in one word or sentence their experience of the war. Alhassan Alhomani replied: “Yemen, despite the bombing, hunger, and death, will remain proud, refusing the humiliation and the breaking of this unjust world.”

As peace loving people and anti-war activists around the world, we must stand with Alhassan and the brave Yemeni people in their resistance against the Saudi-led war on their country. We need to organize to protest and hold our respective governments accountable for their support and participation in the atrocities committed in Yemen. We must continue to demand: that the Trudeau government cancels it’s \$15 billion arms deals with Saudi Arabia; the U.S., Canada, Saudi, France and Britain respect self-

determination of Yemeni people;
US/Saudi Arabia hands off Yemen. We must demand to stop the bombing and killing of children and innocent people in Yemen.



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.