

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!

MAWO #745 Created by: Azza Rojbi, Ali Yerevani, Tamara Hansen & Alison Bodine

mawovancouver.org

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

FREE PUBLIC FORUM

SPEAKERS:

► **TAMARA LORINCZ**
PhD candidate Baudouin School of International Affairs,
University of British Columbia. Author of 'Becoming
Women for Peace: WIPF' published by UBC Press, 2019.

► **THOMAS DAVIES**
Organizer with Climate Emergency Vancouver, Mobilization
Against War & Occupation (MAWO) and author of 'System
Change Not Climate Change' (Battle of Ideas Press, 2019)

MOUNT PLEASANT
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
800 E Broadway, Vancouver

THURSDAY
JUNE 6
6:30pm

Organized by: Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)
Endorsed by: Canadian Voice of Women for Peace

WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

Events endorsed by MAWO:

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

MONTHLY PROTEST ACTION
MONDAY JUNE 17
U.S. CONSULATE
4PM
1075 W. PENDER ST.
VANCOUVER, CANADA

**RETURN
GUANTANAMO
TO CUBA
NOW!**

NO HELMS-BURTON ACT!
STOP "TITLE III"!

FRIENDS OF CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE-VANCOUVER
WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG

Celebrating the Birthday of Revolutionary Hero
Ernesto Guevara

NO TO SANCTIONS!
NO TO WAR!
U.S. & CANADA
HANDS OFF
VENEZUELA!

Featuring stories & slideshow
from participants in the 2019
Ernesto Che Guevara Volunteer
Work Brigade to Cuba!

FIRE THIS TIME VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN
WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET
@FTT-NP

TUESDAY
1. PROTEST ACTION
U.S./CANADA
HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!
4PM
U.S. CONSULATE
VANCOUVER
1075 WEST PENDER STREET
DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER

JUNE 11
2. INFO TABLE & PETITION
NO U.S./CANADA SANCTIONS & THREATS!
RESPECT THE SELF DETERMINATION
OF THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE!
5:30PM
VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
ROBSON ST @ HOWE ST
DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 75
newsletter May 2019

mobilization against war & occupation

Monthly Antiwar Rally & Petition Drive

**U.S./Canada/NATO Hands Off
Yemen, Venezuela, Syria, Iraq,
Iran, Afghanistan & North Korea!**



No War on Iran!

Self-Determination for All Oppressed Nations!
Money for Healthcare, Housing & Education - Not
for War & Occupation!
Free Julian Assange & Chelsea Manning!

Vancouver Art Gallery
Robson St. & Howe St.

Friday
June 28
5PM

f Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)
WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

@MAWOVAN

No War on Iran!

As if the White House gang felt incomplete simply leveling economic threats against China, making hostile comments about Russia and imposing illegal sanctions — illegal because they amount to collective punishment of the populations — on Venezuela, Cuba and north Korea — they have once again put the Islamic Republic of Iran in the gun sights of U.S. imperialism.

The Trump gang, in a show of force, has sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf, near Iran's coastline. They asked the Pentagon to supply a plan for sending 120,000 U.S. troops to prepare an invasion. They have also attempted to stop Iran from exporting any oil to its customers. These exports are necessary for the Iranian economy. Stopping them raises the price other sellers of petroleum can demand — something important for U.S. oil companies trying to increase exports of fracked oil.

In May 2018, Trump pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear accord with Iran signed by the Barack Obama administration. That had opened up trade with Iran from both the U.S. and European Union countries in return for Iran stopping its nuclear program.

U.S. officials claim, without giving evidence, that Iran poses a threat to U.S. troops in the region. Even some U.S. allies have remarked that this kind of claim sounds much like George W. Bush's 2002-03 claims that Iraq possessed "weapons of mass destruction."

The spread of Bush's "Big Lie" led to the March 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq. What followed was Iraqi resistance to the U.S. occupation that threatened to drive the troops out. Only a U.S.-instigated civil war that divided and

destroyed much of Iraq prevented a U.S. defeat.

Before a Brussels meeting this May 13 that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attended, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said his government was worried about a conflict and an unintended escalation. Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told Pompeo his country doesn't want to see a conflict. And France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian urged Europeans to remain united in support of the Iran nuclear deal. (New York Times, May 13)

Iranians themselves are in a much stronger position than Iraq was in 2003 to resist a U.S. attack and make it costly. An Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander commented on the growing strength of his country's defense forces, saying the U.S. military presence in the Gulf used to be a serious threat but now represents a target. (reuters.com, May 12)

If the Pompeo-Bolton-Abrams gang think a few Trump tweets and the movement of warships will bring the rest of the world to its knees, they need to face a new reality. Cubans are organizing rationing to withstand hard economic times; Venezuela already smashed three coup attempts; the DPRK said it would continue to defend itself; and the Iranians are staying strong.

This resistance from around the world should also encourage anti-imperialists within the United States to stay strong and oppose any new aggressive moves by both the White House gang — and the Democratic Party leaders who go along with this aggression.

U.S. hands off Iran!

www.workers.org May 14, 2019

EYE-WITNESS REPORT FROM VENEZUELA: Che Guevara Internationalist Youth Brigade & The International Peoples Assembly

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!

Viva la Revolucion Bolivariana!

US/Canada Hands Off Venezuela!

END THE BOMBING ON YEMEN

By Azza Rojbi

March 26, 2019, marked 4 years of suffering for the people of Yemen under the U.S.-backed, Saudi-led coalition war on their country. With the full backing and help of the United States, Saudi and Emirati fighter jets have bombed and destroyed homes, schools, hospitals, roads, mosques and all sorts of infrastructure. This indiscriminate bombing and war has caused the death of over 68,000 people since 2016, with more than 30,600 killed in 2018 according to data from the UK-based independent research group Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED).

In addition to this inhuman bombing, Saudi Arabia and its coalition have been imposing a naval, aerial and land blockade on Yemen, which severely hinders the Yemeni people’s access to desperately needed food, fuel and medicines. This blockade aggravates the already dire situation that Yemenis have to face daily. The United Nations declared Yemen to be the world’s worst humanitarian crisis with nearly 80% of Yemen’s population in need of aid to survive. Tens of thousands of Yemenis have died from starvation, poverty and preventable epidemics. The U.N.’s World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that the number of suspected Cholera cases has doubled in March 2019 over previous months, and doctors are worried that there will be a repeat of the Cholera epidemic that ravaged through Yemen in 2017.

Saudi Arabia would not be able to carry out its war and aggression on Yemen without the political and military support of imperialist countries such as the U.S., U.K., Canada, France and other EU countries. In addition to being silent in the face of crimes committed by the Saudi-led coalition against the people of Yemen, these imperialist countries continue to support the war by selling bombs, weapons and military equipment to Saudi Arabia and, of course, providing the necessary training to Saudi Arabian forces.

To mark the 4th year anniversary of this inhuman Saudi-led war on Yemen, people from around the world took to the streets on March 26, 2019, in an International Day of Action demanding an end to the war. The heroic Yemeni people led the way as they held a massive rally in Sana’a, Yemen despite the threat of Saudi bombardment. Events, rallies and marches took place around the world including in Houston and New York, U.S.; London, England; Brussels, Belgium; Geneva, Switzerland; Flensburg, Germany; Stockholm,

Sweden; Paris, France; and Ottawa, Canada.

Vancouver’s anti-war coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) participated in the march and rally that took place in Ottawa, Canada. The protest was organized by Canadian Defenders for Human Rights (CD4HR) and the Yemeni and other Middle Eastern Communities in Canada. Members of the Muslim community and peace-loving people from different cities in Canada gathered in Ottawa to join the protest. Protesters held signs demanding an end to the Saudi-led war on Yemen and pictures portraying the atrocities committed by Saudi Arabia against the Yemeni people.

Protesters chanted “Hands off Yemen” and “Canada Cancel All Arms Deals with Saudis” as they marched in the streets of Ottawa, stopping in front of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates and the U.S. Embassy to condemn their role in the war on Yemen and finally gathering at the footsteps of the Canadian government on Parliament Hill to highlight Canada’s complicity in the war.

At every stop, participants heard human rights activists and Muslim community leaders call for an end to the brutal Saudi-led war on Yemen and condemn the governments of the U.S. and Canada for their support of the war. MAWO executive committee member and Tunisian social justice activist Azza Rojbi spoke in front of the U.S. Embassy on the importance of this protest in Ottawa and the International Day of Action for Yemen as a show of unity in Canada and internationally against the war on the people of Yemen. As the protest arrived at Parliament Hill, protesters heard the testimony of a member of the Yemeni community in Canada on the hardships and daily struggles that her family and the Yemeni people face daily under this Saudi-led war on their country.

Firas Al Najim and Aliya Hasan co-managers of CD4HR, read to participants excerpts from a letter they delivered to the Canadian government and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to demand an end to Canada’s arms sale to Saudi Arabia and the cancelation of the \$15 billion arms deal to supply Saudi Arabia with “light” armored military vehicles. The letter was endorsed by a dozen of anti-war groups and human rights organizations in Canada including, Mobilization Against War and Occupation, Rideau Institute on International Affairs, Amnesty International, the New Democratic Party and the Yemeni Community in Canada.

The protest in Ottawa and the International Day of Action against the Saudi-led war on Yemen set the tone for more collaboration throughout Canada and internationally, to unite our organizing against the Saudi war on Yemen and expose the complicities of our respective governments in this war.

Let’s join the brave Yemeni people in their resistance in defense of their self-determination and independence! “This is a message to the world, that at the start of the fifth year [of the war], Yemenis will be stronger ..., a message that the Yemeni resistance will be even greater,” said Mohammed Haidarah, a protester at the March 26, 2019 massive rally in Yemen, as reported by Reuters.

From Yemen to Houston to London to Ottawa, we demand:

- Hands Off Yemen!
- Stop Bombing Yemen!
- Canada, Cancel All Arms Deals with Saudi Arabia!



Above pictures: 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.