

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!

mawovancouver.org

Mobilization Against War and Occupation
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MAWO #76 Created by: Azza Rojbi, Ali Yerevani, Tamara Hansen & Alison Bodine

Events endorsed by MAWO:

FRIDAY JULY 5th

**U.S./CANADA
HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!**

NO TO SANCTIONS!
#TrumpUnblockVenezuela
#TrumpDesbloqueoVenezuela

NO TO WAR!
DROP ALL CHARGES AGAINST THE EMBASSY
PROTECTION COLLECTIVE!

PROTEST ACTION!
U.S.- Canada: Hands Off Venezuela!
4 pm
U.S. Consulate in Vancouver
1075 West Pender Street
Downtown Vancouver

INFO TABLE & PETITION
> No U.S./Canada Sanctions & Threats!
> Respect the Self-Determination of the
Venezuelan People!
5:30 pm
Vancouver Art Gallery
Robson street at Howe street
Downtown Vancouver

FIRE THIS TIME VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN
WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET

Events organized by MAWO:

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF ACTION

NO WAR ON IRAN!

FRIDAY JULY 12 RALLY 5pm
VANCOUVER ART GALLERY - ROBSON ST. & HOWE ST.

SATURDAY JULY 13 6:30pm
VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY CENTRAL BRANCH
ROBSON ST. & HOMER ST.

SPEAKER: ALI YEREVANI - IRANIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST & POLITICAL EDITOR OF THE FIRE THIS TIME

WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

@MAWO_VAN

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION - MAWO

PUBLIC FORUM

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 76
newsletter June 2019

mobilization against war & occupation



Hands Off Iran!

The U.S. government is charging that on June 13 Iran attacked two oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz — the Norwegian-owned MT Front Altair and the Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous.

The threat of yet another U.S. military aggression in an area already devastated by decades of war is very real. Everyone opposed to such a horrific possibility must do all they can to stop it.

of the ships. But Yutaka Katada, president of the Japanese ship company, called reports of a mine attack “false” because damage to the ship was above the water line and sailors on board had seen “flying objects” before the attack that could have been bullets.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called the accusations part of a plot by hawkish politicians in the U.S. and the region.



The U.S. charge is preposterous. Governments of other imperialist countries allied in the past with the U.S. are already voicing their skepticism.

Why on earth would Iran attack a Japanese oil tanker at the very moment when the prime minister of Japan was visiting Iran? Shinzo Abe, who was in Tehran for talks with the Iranian government, called for all countries to refrain from taking actions that could escalate tensions. He made the appeal right after a telephone call with Donald Trump, who had immediately blamed Iran for the attacks and called Iran “a nation of terror.”

Iran, of course, has no warships, planes or submarines terrorizing the whole world. The U.S. does.

The U.S. administration is claiming it has a video of Iranians removing a mine from one

Not even established bourgeois news outlets are buying the Trump administration’s story.

The New Yorker magazine already has an article online about the many phony excuses the U.S. government has used over the decades to justify its military aggression. That article starts out: “The United States has a long history of provoking, instigating or launching wars based on dubious, flimsy or manufactured

threats.”

It cites the explosion of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor that the U.S. used to whip up support for the 1898 war with Spain. (It was later proved the Maine blew up, not from a Spanish mine, but from a fire onboard.) Also named as “threats” invented by the U.S. were the phony Gulf of Tonkin “attack” used to justify sending troops to Vietnam in 1964; and the “intelligence” about Iraqi “weapons of mass destruction” manufactured to facilitate the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The very real threats of more murder and mayhem, issued right now by the U.S. ruling class and its death machine, cry out for militant opposition.

No war on Iran!
Stop this war before it starts!

www.iacenter.org June 15, 2019

VANCOUVER ANTIWAR ACTIVISTS PROTEST THE U.S. IMPERIALIST WAR DRIVE!

By Janine Solanki



The worst refugee crisis in human history, which saw a much-reported rising in 2015, is still happening today. As of May 28, 2019, the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) reported 26,537 refugees had arrived in Europe in 2019. This crisis has received less and less coverage in mainstream media, along with the media silence around the root causes for this crisis - imperialist wars and occupations which have made homelands uninhabitable and forced people to become refugees. So far in 2019 Afghanistan has the highest number of refugees arriving in Europe – the country which the U.S. and its allies have been occupying since 2001.

What has been the answer of imperialist countries to this human tragedy, that they themselves are the cause of through these brutal wars? More war, occupation, crippling sanctions and military interventions.

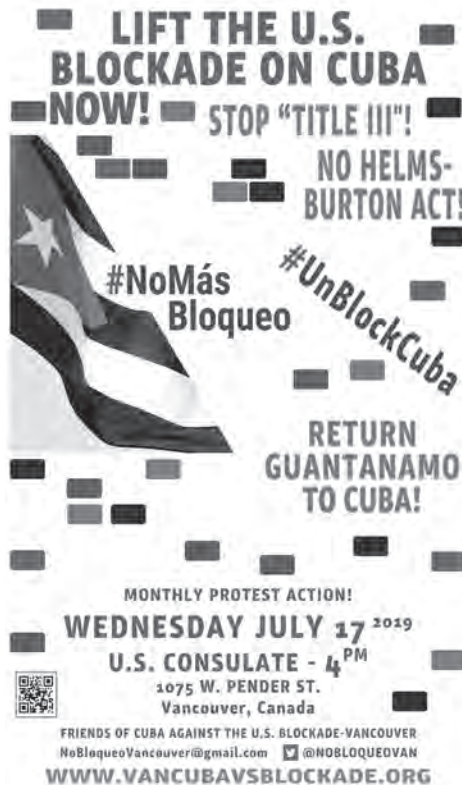
The U.S. government has also re-escalated its dangerous warmongering against Iran. Since the U.S. unilaterally abandoned the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal, the people of Iran have faced tightening sanctions, sabotage, and increased provocation by the United States. The U.S. government recently sent new aircraft carriers and B-52 bombers towards the Persian Gulf and has also reportedly discussed a plan to deploy 120,000 troops to the Middle East.



The U.S. government have also set their targets south to Venezuela, with years of support and funding for violet right-wing forces in Venezuela, sanctions and economic warfare, and a vicious media manipulation campaign. In recent months the U.S. government has backed a failed coup attempt in Venezuela, and even threatened military intervention against Venezuela with U.S. government statements that “all options on the table”.

On May 24, 2019, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO), Vancouver's antiwar coalition, organized its monthly antiwar rally and petition campaign. It was impossible to walk through busy downtown Vancouver's Robson Square without seeing banners and picket signs reading "No War on Iran!" and "U.S./Saudi Arabia Hands Off Yemen!". An information table was set up, attracting people who stopped to talk to organizers, pickup antiwar literature and find out about how to get involved in antiwar activities. Teams of activists approached passersby, collecting petition signatures demanding that Canada end its \$15 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. These consistent, monthly actions are an important way to reach out to the general public in Vancouver and to encourage more people to get involved in the antiwar movement. This rally and petition campaign came to a close, promising to be on streets month after month until these criminal wars and occupations are ended!

Events endorsed by MAWO:



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.