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.

Who’s MAWO?

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By Ahmed Jahaf

My child fell asleep while watching cartoons, so I carried him, tucked him into bed and went to my bedroom. My wife was asleep, the electricity went out and I couldn't fall asleep. I opened my laptop to watch an episode of a documentary and suddenly huge explosions rocked the capital Sana'a from all sides. I couldn't stop myself and yelled loudly while running towards my child's room, I picked him up. I did not know where to go or what was happening so we went to the first floor of the house. We saw the signs of horror and confusion in the faces of all members of our family, the children were screaming frightened, shocked by what had happened and we couldn't even try to calm or comfort them. My brother, who was traveling in China, called to tell me that Saudi Arabia announced the start of a military operation and is now bombing Sana'a. I could not talk to him for much longer because of the sounds of explosions, shelling and heavy aerial flights... These were the first hours of the night of March 26, 2015.

On March 26, 2015 Saudi Arabia announced from Washington the beginning of military operations against Yemen, and the formation of a coalition of more than ten countries with logistical and military support from the United States, Britain and other global powers. And so began the suffering of the Yemeni people under bombardment from land, sea and air and under the naval, aerial and land blockade on Yemen, while by contrast the arms and weapons factories all over the world began signing deals to supply arms, weapons and accessories to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. They are making millions of dollars from this war while the Yemeni people are suffering from the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, and certainly the world will not move to stop this suffering because it is winning and benefiting and continuing to sign deals at the expense of Yemeni blood.

We are now in the fifth year of this war, which has been paid for with the blood of thousands of Yemenis. In return, the Saudi treasury paid billions of dollars in several areas, including the purchase of weapons, the purchase of allegiances and the change of policies, and the purchase of the conscience of some human rights organizations in exchange for their silence about what is happening in Yemen.

The world discovered that this Saudi-led coalition could not win any victory, so it began to use blackmail to opportunistically earn billions of dollars from it.

While the world is continuing its silence paid for by the massacres in Yemen, there were voices calling to stop these atrocities, I like to call them the "voice of angels", those who stood with us and our suffering without any motives or interests, who stood with us only because they are human beings and their hearts are beating.

We have seen many protests and demonstrations in several countries such as Britain, France, Canada and Germany, and although their number is small the echo of their actions is of explosions, shelling and heavy aerial flights... These were the first hours of the night of March 26, 2015.

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Unacceptable:
Every day there are more and more reasons to oppose the deadly U.S. war drive that is attacking innocent people around the world.

In Yemen:
Since U.S. President Trump broke the Iran nuclear deal last year, the U.S. has been intensifying their brutal sanctions and threats on Iran as part of a “massive pressure campaign”. This has caused huge strain to the Iranian economy. On August 19, 2019 an NBC news report quoted Arash Ahmadian, the head of Iran’s Mahak Pediatric Cancer Center, saying that “strict U.S. financial sanctions have spooked foreign banks from touching any transaction with Iran, even for those permitted under the sanctions laws.” In October 2018, the International Court of Justice ruled that so-called humanitarian exemptions in the U.S. sanctions are insufficient, leaving “little prospect of improvement” in the “serious detrimental impact on the health and lives” of Iranian individuals. The result today is children in Iran are dying from a lack of vital cancer drug imports.

In Venezuela:
The tactic of indiscriminate targeting of a population through sanctions is also being used against the Venezuelan people. Last year the United Nations called the situation in Venezuela the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. In February 2019, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs found the “severity of needs is deepening”, with the number of people in acute need, a staggering 27 per cent higher than last year. This amounts to more than 20 million people across the country that are food insecure, half of whom are suffering extreme levels of hunger. This is the crisis of over four years of a Saudi-led, U.S.-backed bombing and war, as well as a land, sea and air blockade preventing medicines, food, fuel and other essential aid from reaching the Yemeni people.

In Iran:
The effects of imperialist countries are also bringing suffering to the Yemeni people. The tactic of indiscriminate targeting of a population through sanctions is also being used against the Venezuelan people. On August 5, 2019 U.S. President Trump signed an Executive Order that further increases the cruel and illegal blockade against Venezuela. This murderous blockade has already killed an estimated 40,000 people in Venezuela. The U.S. government has used a failed coup and sanctions to attempt to force “regime-change” and overthrow the democratically elected government of President Nicolas Maduro. While these methods haven’t worked, the Trump administration has repeatedly stated that a military intervention in Venezuela is “on the table”.

MAWO in Action
On August 25, Vancouver’s antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) took to the street to oppose all of these criminal imperialist wars and occupations. MAWO’s monthly antiwar rally and petition campaign set up in downtown Vancouver’s busy Robson street plaza, with picket signs and banners reading “Don’t Attack Iran!” and “U.S./Saudi Arabia Hands Off Yemen!” An information table was busy with people stopping to find out more information, talk to organizers and pick up antiwar literature, while teams of activists collected petition signatures. Passersby were particularly interested to sign the petition demanding that Canada stop its $15 billion arms deal supplying Saudi Arabia with so-called “light” armored vehicles – essentially heavily weaponized military vehicles.

Join Us
MAWO’s monthly action, and other antiwar events and actions will continue as long as these imperialist wars, occupations and sanctions continue to attack oppressed nations around the world. To find out about the next action visit www.mawovancouver.org, follow MAWO on Facebook or on Twitter @MAWOVan

Continued on page 1

disturbing to their governments and sends us hope. We will never forget such stands, we will not forget each organization or group or even an individual that defended humanity through solidarity and against the oppression of the Yemeni people - either by demonstrations or by sending letters and petitions to their governments demanding to stop supporting the Saudi-led coalition, or by breaking the silence and speaking up about this injustice in the media and social media platforms.

Finally, all I wish after the end of the war in Yemen is to invite all who stood with us to visit Yemen, and it will be an honor for me to have them as our guests. This is the least that can be done to express our love for them. Yemenis and history will not forget their honorable stands.

Ahmed Jahaf is a Yemeni artist lives in Sanaa, Yemen

Hands Off Iran!

END the U.S. THREATS TOWARDS IRAN

After withdrawing from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the so-called Iran Nuclear deal, and the imposition of harsh sanctions, the Trump administration now threatens a new war in the Persian Gulf. A U.S. Naval aircraft carrier battle group has been sent to the region along with B-52 bombers and plans to increase the already heavy U.S. military presence in the region by 10,000 troops. For years, the U.S. has had Iran militarily surrounded as it has tried to isolate them politically and economically.

U.S. Bases around Iran
The U.S. claims that it is responding to a looming threat from Iran but no evidence of such a threat has been provided. This new aggressive move on the part of the U.S. is in keeping with the desires of Israel and Saudi Arabia - two of the U.S.’s most right-wing allies in the region - to destroy Iran. It is not Iran that is a threat to peace, but the U.S. In modern history, Iran has never attacked another country, something the U.S. has done continuously. Iran has not threatened to attack the U.S. or other countries, only maintaining its right to defend itself. On the other hand, the U.S. has threatened to annihilate Iran if it interferes with U.S. “interests”. While the U.S. has around 20 times the number of foreign military bases as all other countries combined, Iran only has foreign bases in Syria, a country that asked for Iran’s support in its war against jihadist forces, most supported by the U.S. and its allies, as well as direct attacks from Israel, the U.S. and its NATO allies.

The U.S. blatantly asserts a “right” to determine what government any country should have in direct violation of every country’s right to self-determination. The sanctions imposed on Iran are war by other means. Sanctions deprive the population of food, medical care, commerce, and foreign aid. We have seen the disastrous effects of the U.S. wars on Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and other countries as well as its support for Saudi Arabia’s war on Yemen and Israel’s ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians. It’s time that we put an end to this aggression. Both major parties in the U.S. have shown their desire for war. The Democrats have been even more aggressive towards Syria, Libya, N. Korea and Russia than the Republicans have been. Therefore, our movement must be unified and independent of the two big business war parties.

Join with UNAC to demand
U.S. Hands off Iran!
- End the sanctions against Iran!
- Bring all the warships and troops home now!
- Close all U.S./NATO bases in the region!
- End all U.S. aid to Saudi Arabia and Israel!

United National Anti War Coalition (UNAC) www.unacpeace.org

2 www.mawovancouver.org

3 www.mawovancouver.org