

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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stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 79
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mobilization against war & occupation

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT,
THE WORLD'S BIGGEST TERRORIST!
MILLIONS IN MASS RALLIES DEMAND
U.S. OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST!



BY JANINE SOLANKI

On January 3, 2020, the U.S. assassination of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani in Iraq sparked outrage throughout the Middle East and around the world. With this arrogant and murderous act, the U.S. government and President Trump were saying, "the world is our backyard, where we can kill whoever wants, wherever and whenever we want."

This assassination does not stand by itself – the U.S.-led war and occupation have killed well over 1 million Iraqi people since their criminal invasion in March 2003. Iraqi people have suffered 17 years of U.S.-led war and occupation that has destroyed their infrastructure, healthcare and education systems. They have left the Iraqi people with high rates of unemployment and poverty. Even rates of cancer and birth defects have risen dramatically, due to the U.S. military's use of toxic and radioactive depleted uranium weapons, the effects of which will plague the Iraqi people for generations to come.

Meanwhile, in Iran, in 2018, U.S. President Trump withdrew from the Iran deal that was negotiated in 2015 and quickly re-imposed further economic sanctions against Iran. Trump's campaign of "maximum pressure" against Iran is economically strangling Iran and the Iranian people. Most notably, Iranian cancer patients, along with those needing treatment for other conditions, are in a life or death situation as U.S. sanctions prevent Iran to import critical medicines and equipment.

If the January 3rd assassination was a message of imperialist dominance from the U.S., the people of Iraq and Iran, and

throughout the Middle East, also have a message – U.S. imperialists, GET OUT NOW.

In Iraq, protests against the U.S. occupation had already been growing, including a protest which occupied the heavily fortified U.S. embassy in Baghdad from December 31 to January 1, in response to recent U.S. airstrikes. Since the January 3rd assassination, protests have grown, with over a million on the streets of Baghdad on January 24, including men, women, and children demanding that the U.S. leave Iraq. One young protester, 18 year old Mariam, told Al Jazeera at the January 25 demonstration, "we want to liberate our country from these chains of oppression. We have been suppressed and hurt by the U.S.'s interests in the region, so we want them out of Iraq." Another protester, Aliya al-Ajeel from Sadr City, said, "the U.S. occupation has taken everything from us. We have nothing left. Since 2003, we have been stripped from our basic dignity and right to live a normal life. We're living in decrepit houses; we have no jobs, no salaries. We don't want America here."

Iraq's government has also demanded that U.S. forces leave Iraq. On January 6, a vote in Iraqi parliament passed to expel U.S. troops. U.S. President Trump's response was to threaten economic sanctions on Iraq, before flatly refusing to respect Iraq's self-determination and demands to leave.

Meanwhile, in Iran, millions came out onto the streets in mourning and protest in Tehran, Mashhad, and other cities. In the city of Ahvaz, a funeral procession for General Soleimani stretched more than three kilometers! Faced with the

MAWO Events:

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

**THURSDAY
MARCH 5 2020**

PROTEST ACTION
U.S./Canada
Hands Off Venezuela!
4pm

U.S. CONSULATE
1075 West Pender Street
Downtown Vancouver

INFO TABLE & PETITION
> No U.S./Canada Sanctions!
> Self-Determination for Venezuela!
5:30pm

VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
Robson street at Howe street
Downtown Vancouver

**FIRE THIS TIME
VENEZUELA
SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN**

WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET @FTT NP

**SANCTIONS
KILL**

SANCTIONSKILL.ORG

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF ACTION
AGAINST U.S. SANCTIONS AND ECONOMIC WAR!

PROTESTING 5 YEARS OF THE ONGOING
U.S./SAUDI-LED WAR ON YEMEN!

PROTESTING 17 YEARS SINCE THE
U.S.-LED INVASION OF IRAQ!

USA / CANADA / NATO HANDS OFF: IRAN, YEMEN, VENEZUELA, SYRIA, AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, NORTH KOREA!
SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!
END THE OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE!
HANDS OFF LATIN AMERICA!
SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL INDIGENOUS NATIONS!

MONTHLY ANTIWAR RALLY + PETITION DRIVE
FRIDAY MARCH 13. 2020
VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
GEORGIA ST + HOWE ST 4PM
VANCOUVER, CANADA

WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

This action takes place on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples of the selilwetaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

MAWOVAN
@MAWOVAN

direct attack on Iran through the assassination of their top general and diplomat Qasem Soleimani, Iran responded in the language that the U.S. is used to speaking and not receiving – force. On January 8 Iran hit two U.S. bases in Iraq with missiles, demonstrating Iran’s ability to strike back against U.S. aggression, and to tell the U.S. government that they cannot carry on their warmongering actions without consequences and retaliation. U.S. media reports reflected their shock at having a taste of the aggression they are usually inflicting. On January 12, a CNN reporter on the ground in Iraq made the point on CNN TV that “the U.S. has rarely been on the receiving end of this kind of strike, they are usually the ones who are delivering it.” While there were no U.S. casualties in this attack (likely intentionally, as the U.S. had advance knowledge to move their soldiers to bunkers), the U.S. is now reporting 109 soldiers diagnosed with brain injuries (such as concussions). This delay and covering up is drawing criticism at the Trump administration, who have tried to dismiss the magnitude of the Iranian response.

Beyond Iraq and Iran, the U.S. is facing more setbacks to its attempts to dominate the Middle East. In Afghanistan, throughout 19 years U.S./Canada/NATO occupation, various administrations have vowed never to negotiate with the Taliban. Not out of any moral reasons; however, almost two decades of U.S. occupation have proved that advancing Afghanistan in the interest of Afghans was never a goal. The U.S. government has supported, funded, and backed notorious warlords in Afghanistan who now hold power or positions in government, and has fueled corruption, all to benefit U.S. interests at the expense of the Afghan people. However, now the U.S. government is in negotiations with the Taliban, including discussion of troop withdrawal, after 19 years of the Afghan resistance against the U.S. occupation.

In Syria, U.S. troops are also facing resistance – in recent days, video footage has shown villagers in northeastern Syria blocking and throwing rocks at a U.S. armored convoy which had shot and killed a civilian. Footage shows the villagers taking the U.S. flag off the top of an armored vehicle and arguing with U.S. troops. In another instance, U.S. patrols came under attack by small arms fire. Another video shows a Syrian civilian confronting U.S. soldiers on patrol, asking, “what are you doing in my country? What do you want from my country? What business do you have here?”

From Iraq to Iran, Afghanistan to Syria, people in the Middle East are telling U.S. imperialism, “we will not back down. We will not relinquish our self-determination, our sovereignty, or our dignity. Even with rocks against a giant, we will fight back.”

Here in Vancouver, Canada, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) is standing alongside our Iraqi and Iranian brothers and sisters fighting for their self-determination. On **January 10**, MAWO held a protest action in downtown Vancouver, attracting the attention of passersby with a large banner reading “No War with Iran! U.S./Canada/NATO All Troops Out of Iraq!” The protest brought together many new people who had heard about the protests in Iraq and Iran and were eager to join in solidarity from Canada.

The next day, on **January 11**, MAWO held a free public forum about the escalation of U.S. wars and aggression in the Middle East. The forum was emceed by Azza Rojbi, MAWO executive member and Tunisian social justice activist. The program started with a series of video clips, showing both the history and recent events in Iraq and Iran. The first speaker was Wala Zaidan, an Iraqi poet and social justice activist, who spoke from her experiences of seeing her home country being destroyed by the U.S. war and occupation. Wala also shared a beautiful and touching poem she had written. The next speaker was Ali Yerevani, who is the political editor of the Fire This Time Newspaper, and was a participant in the 1979 Iranian revolution. Ali spoke about the overall U.S. imperialist strategy for hegemony in the Middle East, and how the U.S. needs to control Iran as part of this strategy but also cannot easily attack Iran. Following the speakers, there was a dynamic discussion from participants before the event wrapped up.

On **January 25**, one day after the million-strong united protest against U.S. occupation called in Iraq, an international day of action was called by CodePink in the U.S., demanding no war with Iran, and the U.S. out of Iraq. Over 115 cities on every inhabited continent held actions, including Vancouver. Mobilization Against War and Occupation held a rally in a busy downtown square, where passersby couldn't pass without seeing the banners and picket signs reflecting the demands of the rally. An info table was busy with people stopping to get more information, to sign on to antiwar petitions, and to talk to organizers. Many people joined the rally from the Iranian community, as well as Iraqi and Yemeni community members. At the beginning of the rally, a group of pro-US intervention, pro-sanctions counter-protesters tried to disrupt the action. After strong and united continuous chanting against war and sanctions on Iran by the protesters, the counter-protesters gave up and left!

The rally continued with a program that was a diverse mix of youth and long-time activists and speakers from the Middle Eastern, North African, Indian, and Latin American communities. Protesters also heard a solidarity voice message from Ken Stone from the Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War, as well as from Venezuela, where the MAWO chairperson Alison Bodine was attending the World Anti-Imperialist Conference.

In Vancouver, Canada, Mobilization Against War and Occupation continues to organize, educate, and mobilize against this new era of war and occupation that started with the war on Afghanistan and continues today. To find out about upcoming events and actions, visit www.mawovanancouver.org or follow on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @MAWOVan.



**END THE OCCUPATION OF
WET'SUWET'EN LAND!**

**END THE WAR AGAINST
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE!**



Unfair, Unjust and Unacceptable Government Attacks Won't Stop the Struggle

In only one week the government of Canada has trampled Indigenous rights in favour of climate killing pipeline projects twice. First, there was the Federal Court of Appeal ruling in favour of the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX). Now they have arrested and attacked Wet'suwet'en land defenders in an attempt make way for the Coastal Gaslink (CGL) pipeline. The struggle against TMX and CGL, and in defense of Indigenous rights and Mother Earth continues!

The Federal Court of Appeals has done its best to ignore the obvious on TMX: It is impossible for the Federal government, which has already purchased a pipeline project for \$4.5 billion dollars, to retroactively consult in good faith as to whether or not they should build it.

The Federal and BC Provincial governments are doing their best to ignore the obvious on CGL as well: There is no “free, prior and informed” Indigenous consent for the pipeline when resistance on the ground is so strong and all five Hereditary Chiefs of the Wet’suwet’en unanimously oppose the project.

However, this unacceptable decision also opens another chapter of successful Indigenous-led resistance to the TMX and CGL Pipelines. It is this resistance in the courts and in the streets that forced Texas oil giant Kinder Morgan to abandon TMX and has stalled both projects so far. Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs emphasized that, “The court’s decision does not signal defeat; rather it signals a renewed call for all of us to collectively work together to permanently halt the project and make it clear to Canada and BC that they can’t adhere to reconciliation only when it serves their interests.”

The Federal and BC Provincial governments continue to insist that a new dirty Tar Sands and hydraulically fractured “natural gas” pipelines are in our interests. This despite having already sunk billions of taxpayer dollars into the TMX project whose costs are ballooning and whose market value is misrepresented. As global warming and its associated extreme weather events continue to wreak havoc in Canada and around the world – prolonging the extreme pollution of Tar Sands oil and “fracked” natural gas production is a recipe for climate disaster. Adding insult to injury, consideration of the TMX’s catastrophic climate impact was purposely excluded from every regulatory review and court decision.

If we gave up this struggle every time there was a disappointing government or court decision, the TMX and CGL pipelines would have been built long ago. Our most important task continues to be what has been effective so far: sustained mass action and campaigns uniting as many groups and communities as possible to stop the pipelines.

As Climate Convergence we remain fully committed to:

- Mobilizing in solidarity with the many Indigenous Nations defending their traditional territories and right to self-determination;
- Organizing with young people rising up to demand a healthy future;
- Uniting with everyone in Canada and around the world demanding people and planet before pipelines and profits.

As Climate Convergence we demand

- No TMX and CGL Pipelines!
- Stop harassing Indigenous communities and land defenders everywhere!
- No violence, no attack and no arrest of Wet'suwet'en land defenders!
- No to RCMP invasion of Wet'suwet'en!

In Defence of Mother Earth, we say: “No TMX and CGL Pipelines! Build Our Future, Not Pipelines!”

Statement by Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver
February 6, 2020