

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

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

Events endorsed by MAWO:

WHY IS CANADA ARMING SAUDI ARABIA'S WAR IN YEMEN?

WEBINAR
SATURDAY May 29th
12pm Pacific / 3pm Eastern

Register at:
<https://linktr.ee/CanadaStopArmingSaudi>

Organized by the #CanadaStopArmingSaudi Campaign

NAKBA 73

ONGOING NAKBA

ONGOING RESISTANCE

MAY 15

VANCOUVER

CBC Vancouver Plaza
700 Hamilton Street

2PM

LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!

REMOVE CUBA FROM THE \$0-CALLED "STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM" LIST!

AWARD CUBA'S INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL BRIGADE WITH THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE!

MARKING 1 YEAR OF CONSECUTIVE MONTHLY VIRTUAL PICKET ACTIONS!

13TH MONTHLY VIRTUAL PICKET ACTION

MONDAY MAY 17, 2021

7pm

4PM PACIFIC TIME
6PM CENTRAL TIME
8PM ATLANTIC TIME

WWW.CANADIANNETWORKONCUBA.CA

NO MÁS BLOQUEO!

MAWO #80 Created by: Azza Rojbi, Ali Yerevani, Tamara Hansen & Alison Bodine

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 80

newsletter

January 2021

mobilization against war & occupation

Israel/USA Hands off Palestine!

Israel Stop Bombing & Killing Palestinians!

Self-determination for Palestine!

#SaveSheikhJarrah

#PalestineUnderAttack

#GazaUnderAttack

#PalestineRising

#FreePalestine

Free Palestine!
Stop the Bombing!

The forced removal of Palestinian residents of the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem and the escalation of attacks by colonial settlers and Israeli forces is nothing short of ethnic cleansing. It is reminiscent of the Nakba when Zionists took half of Palestine for a Jewish state. At that time, they ravaged Palestinian towns, massacred, terrorized and forced much of the Palestinian population to flee into neighboring countries. Today, the Israeli government is telling the Palestinian residents of Sheikh Jarrah that they must leave their generational homes so that Jewish settlers can take them.

At the same time, they have attacked Muslim worshipers right inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque, one of it's holiest places in all of Islam, on one of it's holiest days. Israel has also increased bombing attacks on Palestinians in Gaza, which has been called the "world's largest open-air prison" because Israel prevents people from leaving or coming to Gaza. This means the people cannot escape bombs, drones and rockets from Israel. This is nothing short of a war crime.

Much of the world is condemning these attacks. These condemnations are coming even from countries and people who have been reluctant to condemn Israel in the past. But where is the condemnation from the United States? US news media and politicians all use the same lying words. They say the Israeli attacks are in "retaliation" for Palestinian attacks. This is not



true. There is a conscious policy by the Israeli government to take Palestinian land, homes, destroy their culture and religion. This is a genocidal policy that the US supports and encourages. In recent years, in violation of international protocol, the US has recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and moved its embassy to Occupied East Jerusalem. They have given Israel the green light to further annex Palestinian land and continue to send military and economic aid to Israel. Although some of this was done under the Trump administration, the Biden administration has not reversed any of it. Israel is the greatest supporter of US imperialism's agenda in the region and has bombed and attack Iran, Syria and other countries in the furtherance of that agenda. Therefore, we in the United States have a special obligation to defend the Palestinian people against these attacks.

As these words are being written, Gaza is being bombed.

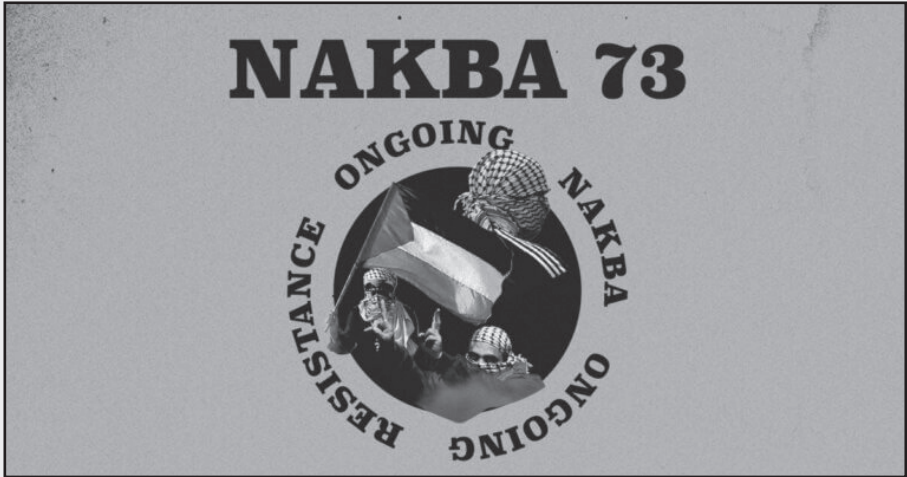
We must be out in the streets in support of the Palestinian people. Demonstrations are being organized throughout the US and the rest of the world. Join them or organize one in your area.

No US aid to Israel!

Stop to the annexation of Palestinian land!
Stop stealing Palestinian homes!
Stop the bombing!

Statement by the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) which Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) is a member. www.unacpeace.org

JOINT STATEMENT BY PALESTINIANS IN NORTH AMERICA ON NAKBA DAY



May 15, 2021

As we mark the 73rd anniversary of the Nakba, we, the undersigned, join together to reaffirm our commitment to the Palestinian people's struggle for justice, return, and liberation. We commemorate the loss experienced by Palestinians in 1948 when hundreds of thousands of our people were forced into exile and saw their homes and villages stolen or destroyed by Zionist militias. To this day, colonization and dispossession remain ongoing processes, where Palestinians continue to endure land theft and encroachments on their basic rights. Despite the multiple decades of Zionist brutality, our resilient people remain committed to resisting Zionist settler-colonialism and to the liberation of Palestine.

We continue to witness the bravery of the Palestinian people as they resist attacks on our neighborhoods and holy sites. We have witnessed the courageous families of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan continue to organize against the theft of their homes by Zionist colonist organizations who march through the streets of Jerusalem chanting "Death to Arabs." We have further witnessed the occupation's continued encroachment on our people's holy sites, including the imposition of restrictions on Muslim worshipers at Al-Aqsa Mosque during the holy month of Ramadan as well as the attacks on Christian worshipers as they make their way to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for Orthodox Easter celebrations. We salute the heroic resistance of our people all over Palestine, from Jerusalem to Umm al-Fahm, who have taken to the streets to protect Palestinian homes, rights, and our cultural and religious sites.

As Palestinians have experienced first-hand for decades, Zionist settler-colonialism is predicated on the destruction of Palestinian political, economic, and social life. It is a project that requires the complete domination of Palestinians through policies of collective punishment and siege. Palestinian workers, activists, students, civil society actors, political leaders, youth and children are subject to policies exploitation, arbitrary imprisonment, and political violence, which are meant to break the spirit of future generations and force them to accept the permanence of Zionist supremacy over every aspect of their lives. The Palestinian prisoners, today numbering nearly 4,500, are now and have always remained on the front lines of resistance and confrontation of Zionism. As we march for return and liberation, we march for the freedom of all imprisoned strugglers for Palestine.

For too long, Western governments have played an active role in the perpetuation of military occupation and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. The U.S. government provides more than \$3.8 billion annually in direct military aid to the Occupation forces. The US and Canadian governments have skirted their responsibility for Zionist crimes by posing as purported arbiters in a conflict they sponsor. Both governments continue to provide diplomatic cover for Zionist crimes, and actively work to clamp down on proponents of Palestinian rights through government repression, anti-BDS measures, and the conflation of anti-Zionism with antisemitism. We demand an end to this complicity. We demand an end to aid to the Israeli occupation forces and an end of the repressive measures against proponents of Palestinian rights. We demand the immediate removal of the US embassy from Jerusalem and reversal of Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Finally, we call on Palestinian communities in the diaspora and supporters of our just cause to join the actions and events hosted by the various organizations delineated below. It is the obligation of Palestinians worldwide to raise our banner and confront Zionism, and it is time for the Palestinian diaspora to reclaim our integral role in the struggle for liberation. We must unequivocally reject the path of Oslo, negotiations, and security coordination with the Zionist occupation forces by the Palestinian Authority. We must renew our commitment to our rights: the right to a free and united Palestine from the river to the sea, the right of return, and the right to live in dignity under a just and lasting peace.

Statement initiated by the Palestinian Youth Movement & other palestinian organisations in North America. Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) is a proud signer of this important statement.



By: Azza Rojbi
<https://3zza.medium.com>

February 15, 2021, marks one year since the Saudi-led coalition's horrific air raid on a residential area in Yemen's northern province of al-Jawf. The bombing killed 35 people, including 25 children, and 18 children were amongst the 23 injured. According to the Yemen Data Project, "During 2020, air raids in #Yemen averaged 6 per day - double the average daily rate in 2019. Despite the pandemic, strikes hit healthcare facilities, markets, farms, schools, and vital water infrastructure, including water wells. At least one Covid-19 quarantine centre was bombed."

The brutal U.S.-backed Saudi-led war on Yemen is approaching its sixth year, causing over 230,000 deaths, and plunging the country into the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The airstrikes and bombing have destroyed homes, schools, hospitals, markets, and many other vital infrastructures. The destruction, combined with the land, sea, and air blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia, pushes Yemen to the brink of collapse. According to the United Nations, 2.3 million children under the age of five will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021, of which 400,000 could die of starvation.

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is dire. Years of bombing and wars have destroyed over half of the hospitals in the country. The ones that are still functional lack the essential resources and medicine to provide adequate care to those in need. The Covid-19 pandemic threatens to make an already disastrous situation worse.

Since the start of the war in 2015, the United States has provided full backing to the Saudi-led coalition, including technical support, training fighter jet pilots, targeting assistance, selling arms, and supplying military hardware. On February 4, 2021, U.S. President Joe Biden announced a new shift in the U.S. support for the Saudi-led war on Yemen. This announcement was welcomed as a positive step, and it seems that it created hope that the Biden administration is ending its support for the war on Yemen. Biden's remarks were full of doublespeak and deceiving words. We have to be cautious and careful about what his announcement really means.

Biden's maneuvers and delay tactics

A closer examination of Biden's speech reveals contradictory and confusing statements. "This war has to end. And to underscore our commitment, we are ending all American support for offensive operations in the war in Yemen, including relevant arms sales," Biden said.

One wonders what Biden is referring to by, "offensive operations" and "relevant arms sales"? This ambiguous expression leaves the door open for the United States to continue its support for the war. Saudi Arabia has continuously framed its war on Yemen as defending itself and the region from the threat of Houthi rebels.

In the same address, Biden continues to say, "At the same time, Saudi Arabia faces missile attacks, UAV strikes, and other threats from Iranian-supplied forces in multiple countries. We're going to continue to support and help Saudi Arabia defend its sovereignty and its territorial integrity and its people." This language sounds very similar to that used by the Obama administration when it announced the start of Yemen's war in 2015.

This rhetoric reinforces and validates the suspicion that Biden's promise to end the war on Yemen is a sheer lie. His promise to end "relevant" arms sales is another example of doublespeak. It allows the United States to deflect criticism about their complicity in fuelling the war on Yemen while finding ways to continue selling weapons to Saudi Arabia.

Absent from Biden's remarks is any mention of ending U.S. drone strike operations in Yemen or lifting the cruel Saudi-led blockade against the people of Yemen. Overall, Biden's words are a change of tone from the previous Trump administration, but they are hollow in substance. In response to the speech Saudi Arabia, Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan tweeted, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes the United States' commitment, expressed in President Biden's speech today, to cooperate with the Kingdom in defending its security and territory."

How and why the war on Yemen started

March 26, 2021, marks 6 years of the inhuman and devastating war on Yemen. Backed by the United States, Saudi Arabia led a coalition



of allied countries to militarily intervene in Yemen under the guise of restoring 'legitimacy' and 'stability' to Yemen and the region. Where is that legitimacy or peace today? They destroyed an entire country and caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The Saudi-led coalition never had the future or the well-being of the Yemeni people in mind! Their goal has been to crush any democratic aspirations of the Yemeni people and impose a puppet regime in the country that will serve Saudi Arabia and its Washington masters' interests. Yemen's strategic location is vital for the United States and imperialists to expand their military and economic hegemony over the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), as well as the East African region. Yemen's coast borders the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a narrow strategic waterway between the Horn of Africa and the Middle East connecting the Mediterranean Sea, Suez Canal, and the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, and the Indian Ocean. The strait is one of the most active and vital maritime shipping routes in the world.

Yemen is a land of rich history and ancient civilization; beautiful and complex culture; and resilient people. The potential of an independent, democratic, and powerful Yemen with its strategic location in the MENA region is a threat to the Saudi kingdom and its imperialist masters. In addition, the U.S., U.K., Canada, France, Germany, Italy and other European states made billions of dollars on arms sales and training contracts with Saudi Arabia and other countries in its military coalition.

As we approach the sixth year of the war, Saudi Arabia and its imperialist backers are stuck in a quagmire in Yemen. They were unsuccessful in restoring the power of widely unpopular puppet Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and they failed to crush the resistance of the Yemeni people to foreign domination. The atrocities committed by the Saudi-led coalition are condemned internationally, and Saudi Arabia can no longer hide the horrific destruction and humanitarian crisis it caused in Yemen. Biden's vague pledge to end the war on Yemen is a maneuver and delay tactic for the growing world-wide criticism against the war and Yemen's dire humanitarian situation.

Building solidarity with Yemen

The overwhelming sentiment of people in Canada, the United States, and around the world are against Yemen's war. This was evident at the successful Global Day of Action against the war on Yemen that took place on January 25, 2021. Tens of thousands of people in 28 countries joined the online virtual rally and the 30+ protests on the streets around the world. The coming together of anti-war activists and peace-loving people from across the globe to stand against the war in Yemen is inspiring!

We need to build on this momentum and continue educating, organizing, and mobilizing against the war in Yemen. Coordinated and consistent local and international actions and campaigns are vital to keeping the pressure on our respective governments. Here in Canada, we need to raise the issue of Yemen among working and oppressed people, student unions, political groups, labour unions, civil society organizations and mobilize all peace-loving people to demand that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government ends all its arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

There cannot be peace in Yemen without an immediate ending of all arms sales to Saudi Arabia and its coalition. There will be no peace in Yemen without the withdrawal of all foreign troops and mercenaries. To end the humanitarian disaster in Yemen, the Saudi blockade must be ended fully and immediately so that the desperately needed humanitarian aid can freely flow to Yemen. Any real solution needs to include all Yemeni voices without any foreign interventions or coercion. The Yemeni people deserve to determine the future of their country freely. Self-determination is a fundamental right of any sovereign nation.