

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



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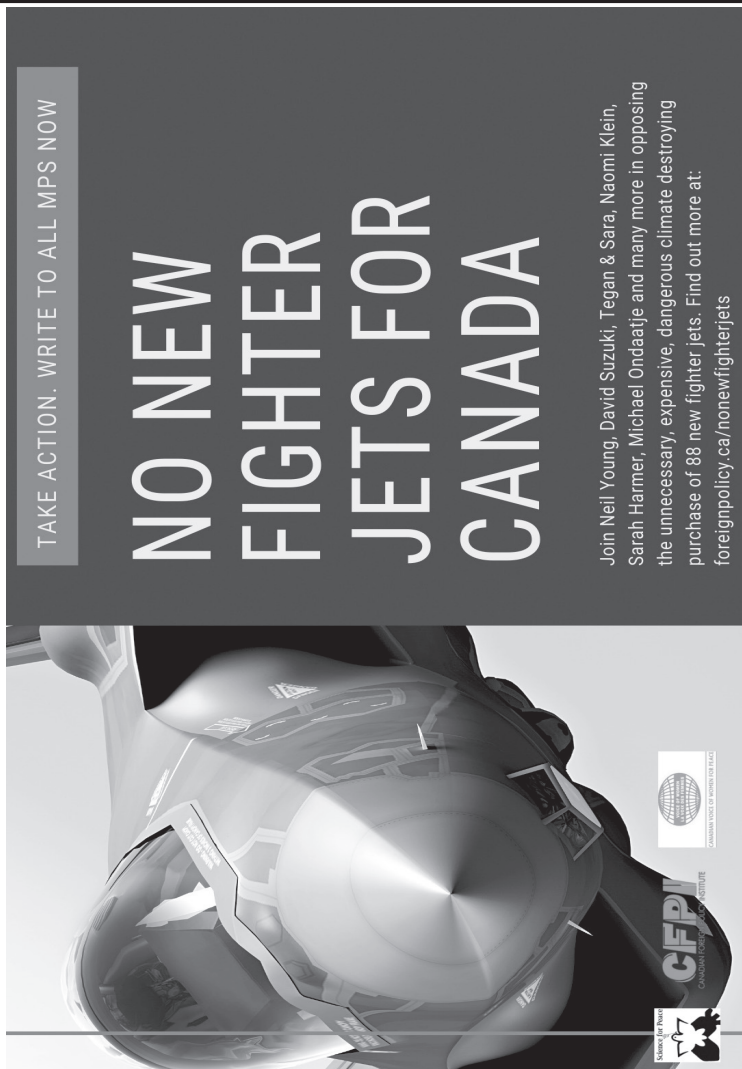
Canada (IRCC), the government of Canada has only admitted 350 resettled refugees from Yemen between January 2015 to February 2022. In contrast, Canada has opened its doors wide for Ukrainian refugees, creating a Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel, eliminating standard visa requirements, with no limit to the number of Ukrainian nationals who can apply, and prioritizing their applications. Where is the Canada-Yemen Authorization for Emergency Travel? This outright racist approach indicates how the government of Canada is indifferent to the life and safety of the Yemeni people, who are bombed by Canadian weapon sales to the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. Another clear sign of Canada's hypocrisy is continuing to fuel the Saudi-led war on Yemen while ignoring the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

Road to a real peace il 2, 2022, the United Nations announced a two-month ceasefire in Yemen between the Ansarullah movement and the Saudi-led coalition. This latest ceasefire is a positive step toward alleviating the suffering of the Yemeni people. It comes from their continuing resistance for over seven years against the U.S.-backed Saudi-led war on their country.

For this ceasefire to lead to lasting peace in Yemen, the Saudi-led coalition must fully and permanently open all ports and airports in Yemen to facilitate the entry of much-needed humanitarian aid to the country. All foreign troops and mercenaries must be out of Yemen, and Yemen's sovereignty must be respected. Any real solution needs to include all Yemeni voices without foreign interventions or coercion. The Yemeni people suffered enough under this brutal war; they deserve to freely determine their country's future.

As for peace-loving people across the U.S. and Canada, we need to continue to hold our respective governments accountable for their complicity in the war in Yemen. For a real, lasting peace in Yemen, we must multiply our effort against the Saudi-led war in Yemen. We must continue to organize against this brutal war and demand an end to all arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. This is the urgent time we act upon our human responsibility to join the Yemeni people in fighting for peace, freedom, and self-determination without imperialist military interventions, occupation, and aggression. Let Yemen live!

Azza Rojbi, author of the book "U.S. & Saudi War on the People of Yemen", and executive member of Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) gave this talk during a webinar hosted by the #CanadaStopArmingSaudi campaign. Follow Azza on Twitter: @Azza_R14



stop the war! stop the occupations!

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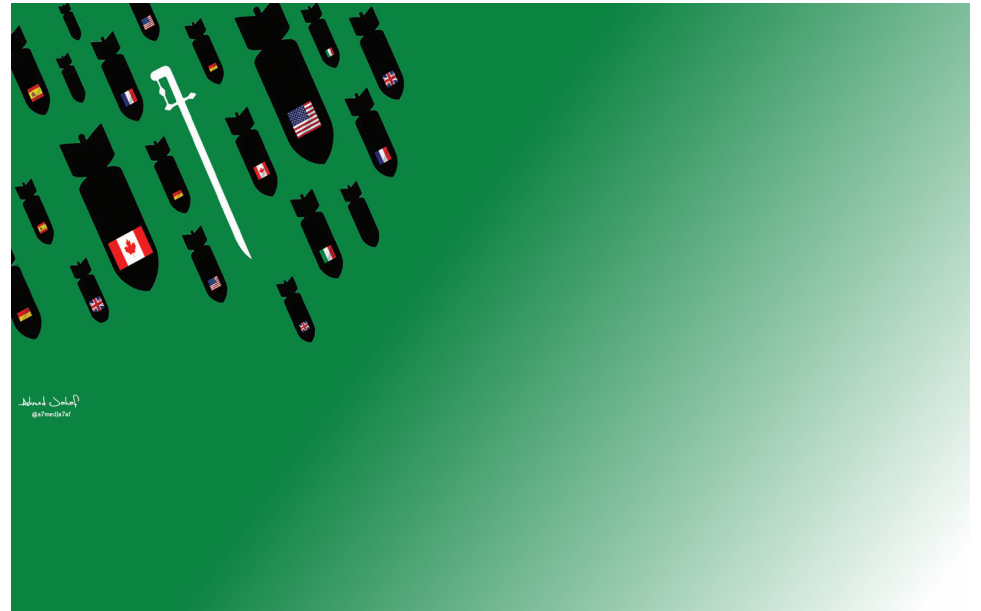
MAWO 82

newsletter

June 2022

mobilization against war & occupation

STOP THE ARMS TRADE!



The arms industry is showing off weaponry at CANSEC in Ottawa on June 1 and 2. These weapons of war are used in destructive and deadly wars, against the people of Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, and many others.

The UN Human Rights Council has twice named Canada as one of the states fuelling the war in Yemen by continuing arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Canada has exported over \$8 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia since the beginning of Saudi Arabia's military intervention in Yemen in 2015, despite the Saudi-led coalition conducting numerous indiscriminate and disproportionate airstrikes killing thousands of civilians and targeting civilian infrastructure. The CANSEC arms show is a sign that despite the UN condemnations of Canada's arms trade, the government of Canada is continuing their weapons industry full force.

March 26 marked seven years of the war in Yemen, a war which has claimed the lives of almost 400,000 civilians. Alongside an ongoing Saudi Arabian-led bombing campaign, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have imposed an air, land, and sea blockade on Yemen. Over 4 million people have been displaced and 70% of the Yemeni population, including 11.3 million children, are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network and allied organizations are demanding that the Government of Canada immediately end arms transfers to Saudi Arabia, massively expand humanitarian assistance for the people of Yemen, and work with trade unions in the arms industry to ensure a just transition for arms industry workers.

On June 1 and 2 protests took place in Ottawa against the CANSEC arms show, and were met with disproportionate police force. In Vancouver, activists are gathering to support the protests against CANSEC and to demand an end to Canada's deadly arms trade.

The arms industry is showing off weaponry at the CANSEC in Ottawa on June 1 & 2. Protesters are converging to oppose it. Let's support them with protests in our home cities across Canada.

- ▶ No new fighter jets!
- ▶ No military contracts with Saudi Arabia!
- ▶ No deal with Lockheed Martin!
- ▶ Cut military spending!
- ▶ Social services and housing, not arms!
- ▶ Ceasefire and negotiation, not war!
- ▶ Stop Bombing Yemen!
- ▶ Stop U.S./Saudi War on Yemen!
- ▶ Saudi/UAE Lift the Blockade on Yemen!

SOME SIMPLE RULES TO UNDERSTAND CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

By: Yves Engler
<https://yvesengler.com/>

I'm often asked what determines Canadian foreign policy, but there is no cookie-cutter framework to make sense of the subject.

Instead, there are broad principles. The first is principle rarely determines policy. Two major forces drive decisions: 1) support for empire and 2) Canadian corporate interests. But racism, ethnic lobbies and public pressure may also influence some decisions.

The essence of our foreign policy is best illustrated by the why and when this country has gone to war.

Canada has never deployed significant numbers of troops abroad primarily to help girls attend school, defeat colonialism, defend human rights and democracy, defeat fascism, or any other of the aims stated by militarists and their propaganda allies. That includes both world wars and major UN peacekeeping missions, some of which had relatively positive results (defeating Hitler and Egypt in 1956). Instead, "our" military has always been used to extend and defend the British and then the American empires.

Ottawa, however, actively backs fascist, far right groups in many places. The reason differs slightly in each instance, but the far right is generally willing to do the bidding of corporate and imperial forces even if it wrecks their own society.

Ottawa has helped establish numerous alliances to pursue and legitimate imperial policies. The 2017 Venezuela-focused Lima Group, 2004 Haiti Core Group and 1949 North Atlantic Treaty Organization are clear examples. While they prefer the cover offered by international alliances and multinational institutions, Canadian officials are not principled on the matter. When needed they pursue belligerent aims in concert with the US (for example, the 2014 bombing of Iraq/Syria).

Aid is principally a geopolitical tool. Often tied to military intervention, from fighting in Vietnam to Afghanistan Ottawa has long followed a 'wherever

provides aid' principle.

The more impoverished a nation, the greater the gap is likely to be between what Canadian officials say and do. The primary explanation for the politicians' ability to tell bigger lies is that power generally defines what is considered reality. So, the bigger the power imbalance between Canada and another country the greater Ottawa's ability to distort its activities.

Politicians invoke high-minded rhetoric to market their pro-imperial or corporate policy. The current government says it supports the international rules-based order and feminist foreign policy while repeatedly violating international law and selling weapons to the highly patriarchal Saudi monarchy. The Harper government crowed about its "principled" foreign policy and refusal to "go along to get along", which was little more than a way to justify its isolation on international climate negotiations and Palestinian rights. During his first few years as prime minister Harper boasted about not "selling out" to China on human rights while working assiduously to support abusive Canadian mining companies the world over. Paul Martin promoted the Responsibility to Protect doctrine, which was cited to justify a coup in Haiti that left thousands dead.

That illustrates the one "sure thing" when it comes to foreign policy: government officials, politicians, business leaders, generals and the mainstream media are always willing, even eager, to concoct fine sounding justifications for what is, at its core, the self-interest of those who benefit from empire, capitalism and war.

To repeat, since each circumstance is unique, there is no simple formula for predicting Canadian foreign policy. But there are two good rules to follow that will help you understand what's truly going on. First, always question politicians' high-minded rhetoric. Second, look for the corporate and imperial influences that are really driving policy. Do these two things and you'll be a step ahead of most people in understanding the reality of Canadian foreign policy.

Resistance, Resilience, and Fight Back, People of Yemen Winning the War Against Imperialism

By Azza Rojbi

"Sometimes I sleep two, three hours, and then I wake up and stay up until morning... I remember my children and my home... Our lives were humble, but it was a quiet life, a good life, we were happy... we lost everything." Those are the words of Abdullah al-Ibbi in an interview with BBC in 2016. Abdullah lost 27 members of his family during a Saudi airstrike on his home in Saada, Yemen.

Abdullah's family is one of many Yemeni families that have suffered under years of brutal U.S.-backed, Saudi-led war on Yemen. March 26, 2022, marked seven years since the start of the war and bombing campaign. The Saudi-led coalition also imposed a naval, aerial, and land blockade on Yemen. The blockade has caused critical medicine, fuel, and food shortages, aggravating an already disastrous situation.

According to the United Nations, almost 400,000 people were killed, and over 4 million Yemenis were displaced because of the war. Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with 70% of the population, including 11.3 million children, desperate for humanitarian assistance. This humanitarian crisis is the direct result of the war in Yemen led by the Saudi Arabia/United Arab Emirates coalition and the full support of the United States and its imperialist allies, including Canada. They are all complicit in the atrocities of this war.

Canada's complacency with the war

Canada has exported over \$8 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia since the war on Yemen in 2015. Canada continues today to make billions of dollars at the expense of the Yemeni people. According to Canada's annual report on exports of military equipment, Saudi Arabia has been the largest non-U.S. buyer of Canadian military exports for five consecutive years, from 2016 to 2020. The UN Human Rights Council has named Canada twice as one of the countries fueling the war in Yemen by continuing arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Canada also has a direct link to the Saudi-led bombing campaign in Yemen. CAE Inc., a Montreal-based Canadian company, is known for training fighter jet and drone pilots. Canada's National Observer reported in 2018 that CAE "has trained U.S. pilots who refueled Saudi fighter jets in mid-air during bombing raids" ... "CAE has also trained drone pilots from the United Arab Emirates, whose drones have been deployed in Yemen." So, in addition to selling weapons to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, a Canadian-based company has been involved in training some of the people directly responsible for the cruel airstrikes on Yemen.

Canada also has close trade ties with Saudi Arabia in other industries, not only the weapon industry. In 2020, Canadian exports to Saudi Arabia were valued at \$1.9 billion. This makes Saudi Arabia Canada's second-largest export market in the Middle East and North Africa, after the UAE, Saudi Arabia's partner in the bombing campaign against Yemen.

Multiple Canadian corporations are making millions of dollars in profit from investments

and contracts with Saudi Arabia while the people of Yemen are on the brink of starvation. An example is SNC-Lavalin, the global engineering and construction company in Montreal, Quebec. SNC-Lavalin has made millions on numerous multi-year contracts in Saudi Arabia, developing large infrastructure projects. Another example is Tim Hortons, the famous Canadian coffee chain. Tim Hortons's Middle East franchise, AG Café, has 90 coffee shops in Saudi Arabia and has recently announced to expand to over 200 coffee shops by 2024. Hesham Almekkawi, CEO of AG Café, stated, "Saudi Arabia is one of the most important markets for the growth and expansion of Tim Hortons cafes in the Middle East. "AG Café" seeks to continue offering its guests an unparalleled Tim Hortons® experience to become everyone's café of choice."

The government of Canada and Canadian corporations turn a blind eye to the suffering of the Yemeni people and continue making billions of dollars off trade and investment with Saudi Arabia.

Canada's hypocrisy

Since the start of the war in Yemen in 2015, Canada has donated \$357 million to help with humanitarian assistance in Yemen. In comparison, the Light Armoured Vehicles (LAVs) deal that Canada brokered with Saudi Arabia is worth \$15 billion. This is more than 42 times the amount of money that Canada donated during seven years of war in Yemen. This is shameful for a country that claims to advocate human rights and peace. Canada makes a profit with \$15 billion to destroy Yemen, then spends \$357 million token money to help what the Saudi lead coalition destroys the infrastructure, education, and health centers in hundreds of billions of dollars. That's insane!

Open the border to Yemeni refugees

In addition to profiting from the war by selling weapons, Canada completely ignored the Yemeni refugee's dire situation by blocking the acceptance of Yemeni refugees in Canada. Millions of Yemenis are internally displaced inside of Yemen, and hundreds of thousands are stranded in transit countries. A report released in February 2022 by the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies titled "A Precarious Refuge: Yemeni Asylum-Seekers in Jordan" examines the challenges facing Yemeni refugees in Jordan. The report stated: "Many Yemeni asylum-seekers interviewed in 2020 stated that they did not wish to return to Yemen, largely due to the prospect of political persecution and a lack of viable work opportunities. They are now waiting and hoping for resettlement by the UNHCR to a third country, such as Canada, the United States, or a European country. However, less than one percent of refugees living in transit countries such as Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon are resettled in a Western country."

These western imperialist countries, such as the U.S., France, Spain, Germany, Canada, the U.K., and Italy, made billions in weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and other countries in its military coalition against Yemen. All while keeping their doors closed to Yemeni asylum-seekers who had to leave everything behind to seek safety away from the brutal Saudi-led war on their country.

According to the monthly report by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
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NEW BOOK

Stand on Guard for Whom? A People's History of the Canadian Military

By Yves Engler

STAND ON GUARD FOR WHOM?

A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN MILITARY

YVES ENGLER



Stand on Guard for Whom? is the first book to present a history of the Canadian military from the perspective of its victims. In his eleventh book, Yves Engler, the prolific author and critic of Canadian politics, exposes the reality of Canadian wars, repression, and military culture despite the mythologies of Canada as an agent for international peacekeeping and humanitarianism.

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Battle of Ideas Press

By Azza Rojbi

New Book

U.S. & SAUDI WAR ON THE PEOPLE OF YEMEN

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Azza Rojbi is a Tunisian anti-war and social justice organizer based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. She is an executive member of Vancouver's anti-war coalition Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) and a member of the Editorial Board of the Fire This Time Newspaper.



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