

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

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stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 84

newsletter

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mobilization against war & occupation

NATO & Imperialism



TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

Speech by Janine Solanki, Mobilization Against War & Occupation Executive at June 30 "NATO and Global Empire" Webinar by the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is sold to the public as a defense organization made up of western democracies ensuring safety and security around the world. Until recently, some also viewed NATO as just a Cold War relic and didn't give it a second thought. However, NATO is neither of these things — NATO is a military alliance that is moving pieces around an imperialist battleground that is our entire world. With NATO, imperialist countries, with the United States at the helm, are conducting a division of labour for the new era of war and occupation that started with the 2001 invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and continues today.

It is important to ask why the U.S. and NATO are pushing for the expansion of NATO. Undoubtedly, to respond to the deepening capitalist financial and market crisis. The U.S. government and their imperial allies see no solution to their broken capitalist-imperialist system other than to gain control of new resources and people to exploit around the world. Another is the rapid polarization in the distribution of power around the globe, and the unfolding of a new cold war, which the U.S., NATO and all imperialists are pushing and imposing on China and Russia. After all, the tremendous global hegemony that enabled the U.S. to easily bully the world thirty, forty, and fifty years ago is now too big a task for the United States alone. This immense and far-reaching imperialist military NATO and Imperialism, Two Sides of the Same Coin machine needs an infrastructure to work. The overt and covert wars, coups, occupations and military operations are impossible without NATO and, with it, a global network of foreign military bases. According to the U.S. Department of Defense website, the U.S. military operates in more than 160 countries, on all seven continents, with approximately 4,800 defense sites and at least 1000 U.S. foreign military bases. As you can quickly see by looking at where NATO and U.S. bases are most active, they are encircling and provoking both Russia and China, who are part of the

new "Cold War 2", and key competitors and blocks to U.S. imperialist expansion.

In the last 30 years, NATO has become a dangerous military force and killing machine behind many bloody imperialist atrocities committed under the auspices of the "international community." From the Middle East to Africa, Asia to Latin America, and as we see now in Europe, we live in a new era of war and occupation. This new era began with the U.S./ NATO invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, which continued with 20 years of brutal occupation and NATO's most extended military mission. At its height, NATO had 130,000 troops in Afghanistan, which was a division of labour that allowed the U.S. to focus on their war on Iraq. NATO was also engaged in the war on Iraq on training missions. Under the banner of NATO, Canada has had over 200 Special Forces in Iraq, at least that we know of, for "train, advise and assist" missions which were sold to the public as "non-combat" missions. These were proven time and time again to involve more of the "assist" in combat zones and just a continuation of war and occupation.

It's important not to forget NATO's debut as a military force started in the 1990s, when NATO intervened in Yugoslavia with numerous military missions, culminating in a 78-day bombing campaign in 1999. The brutal and indiscriminate bombing by NATO members devastated Yugoslavia with 14,000 bombs, including depleted uranium bombs and cluster munitions which have had long-lasting destructive impacts. This so-called "humanitarian intervention" resulted in over 2,000 civilians killed, thousands more injured, and over 200,000 people displaced and forced to leave their homes. Canada also had a role and deployed 18 of their CF18 fighter jets, responsible for 10% of all bombs dropped on Yugoslavia. While recently mainstream news is crying crocodile tears for Ukraine, making very racist claims about not being used to war in Europe, saying this is the first time war has struck so-called "civilized" Europe since World War 2, they were quick to forget the people of Yugoslavia, and the brutal war carried out by the very same NATO that has provoked a war with Russia in Ukraine and is drawing this war out instead of negotiating its end.

► DAYS OF ACTION ◀
October 15 - 23, 2022
BACK TO THE STREETS!
SAY NO TO U.S. WARS!

Stop Washington's war moves toward Russia and China

Stop endless wars: Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Palestine, everywhere

Call to action by:
United National
Antiwar Coalition (UNAC)

<https://unac.notowar.net>

Initial endorsers: United National Antiwar Coalition, Popular Resistance, Black Alliance for Peace, International Action Center, BAYAN USA, Sanctions Kill Campaign, Students for a Democratic Society, US Peace Council, Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, Friends of the Congo, Ban Killer Drones, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Socialist Actions, Solidarity Committee of the Americas, Welfare Rights Committee, Socialist Unity Party, Women Against Military Madness, Mayday Books, Anti-War Committee (MN), Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace, Minnesota War Tax Resistance, Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace, Chicago Antiwar Coalition, People Opposed to war, Imperialism and Racism, Veterans for Peace Chapter 27, St. Paul Eastside Neighbors for Peace, Minnesota Peace Action Coalition, Twin Cities Assange Defense Committee, PeaceWorks of Greater Brunswick, San Diego Free Mumia Coalition, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Women in Struggle, Just Peace Advocates (Canada), Mobilization Against War & Occupation (Canada), Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice (Canada), Kwame Nkrumah Ideological Institution (South Africa), Swedish Peace Council, Coop Anti-War Cafe (Berlin).

MONTHLY VIRTUAL PICKET

FREE ALEX SAAB NOW!
NO TO SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA!

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

FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST:

**CAMILLA SAAB, WIFE OF
ALEX SAAB, VENEZUELAN DIPLOMAT
UNJUSTLY HELD IN U.S. JAIL**



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22 2022

**4PM VANCOUVER TIME
(7PM ET (CARACAS) / 6PM CT)**

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In the Ukraine crisis today, we have to unequivocally reject the imperialist media imposed question of who the “bad guy” is -of course, they finger point at Russia and who “first” started the war because it is all about covering the real reason for war and crisis in Ukraine. For working people and oppressed people to take a correct position, the question comes to, what is the cause of this crisis and what is the history of this crisis? We must remember that this war did not start in February 2022. Between 1990 and 1991, the U.S. made repeated assurances to the former Soviet Union that NATO would not expand eastward. However, NATO has been aggressively expanding, even beyond the North Atlantic, and now has 30 member-states and formal agreements with another 42 countries through various agreements and partnerships. In 2008, NATO announced plans to extend membership to Ukraine and Georgia, in addition to the Baltic states of Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, which joined NATO in 2004. Russia opposed this continued expansion of NATO with legitimate security concerns, as NATO’s imperialist forces further encircled Russia. In 2014 the U.S. government intervened in a mass popular movement for reform and was able to direct and lead it to a staged right-wing coup, placing Ukraine’s puppet government firmly in the pocket of the U.S. government and also covertly funding and supporting ultra-nationalist and neo-Nazi forces. Since then, a rarely reported war has been raging in Ukraine’s ethnically-Russian Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, with ultra-rightwing militias and the Ukrainian army attacking the region leading to the deaths of over 14,000 people.

The June 29–30 NATO summit in

Madrid, Spain, was at a critical time as NATO’s war machine was reaching unprecedented new levels. This was met with events and a demonstration with thousands of protesters in Madrid and across Europe and other parts of the world.

For the Canada-wide days of action, groups united on the demands “Stop the weapons, Stop the war, Stop NATO!” Protests were held at federal and legislative buildings, MP offices, City Halls, CBC news offices, busy downtown centers and importantly, at the offices of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Defence Anita Anand, the Prime Minister’s office and the U.S. Embassy. We have been protesting up until today in cities including Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo, Regina, Winnipeg, Collingwood, Hamilton, Montreal, Calgary, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Waterloo, Oakville and Ottawa, cities small and large! A new campaign to demand Canada out of NATO is launched from these important actions.

Peace-loving people around the world must work to build a stronger united front and global movement against NATO’s war machine. Imperialist countries are united in NATO and know no borders. The war institutions like NATO have shattered our peace, our human rights, and our lives. We must work together in unity to dismantle NATO, close all U.S./NATO military bases around the world, and stop the deadly imperialist war machine in its tracks. We need a world without war. We need a world without poverty and misery. NATO is an imperialist tool for oppression and exploitation. Here in Canada, this starts with a campaign for “Canada Out of NATO” and “No to NATO.” A better world is indeed possible.

Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki

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 Cafe, 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 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

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

Battle of Ideas Press

New Book

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

By Azza Rojbi

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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