

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 IN MAWO & THE MOVEMENT FOR PEACE!



MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

Mobilization Against War and Occupation

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Member of the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network

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stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 89

newsletter

March 2023

mobilization against war & occupation

Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network

#CanadaStopArmingSaudi

Days of Action to End the War in Yemen

March 25-27, 2023

Marking 8 Years of the War in Yemen



Take Action:

www.tinyurl.com/NoWarYemen

MONEY FOR SOCIAL NEEDS! NOT FOR WAR!

- > Canada Stop Arming Saudi Arabia!
- > End the Saudi-led War on Yemen!
- > No New Fighters Jets!
- > Canada Drop the F-35 deal!
- > Canada Out of NATO!
- > Stop NATO!
- > Canada/US/UN Hands off Haiti!
- > Self-determination for Palestine!
- > Self-determination for Indigenous Nations!
- > Self-determination for all oppressed nations!



FRIDAY APRIL 21, 2023

5:00PM

13450 102nd Ave
Outside SFU Surrey Campus across from
the Surrey Central Skytrain Station
SURREY, BC

Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO
www.MAWOVancouver.org

@MAWOvan @MAWOvancouver

As the war in Yemen enters its eighth year, the Canada Peace and Justice Network calls on the Trudeau Liberal government to end its complicity with the aggressors—the Saudi-led coalition—and to help the victims, the people of Yemen.

Who are the parties to this war?

In 2015, a coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates started a brutal bombing campaign and a military intervention in Yemen against the Ansar Allah movement (also known as Houthis). The stated goal of the Saudi-led coalition was to reinstate the deposed former president Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi. Thus, an internal dispute in Yemen became an international military intervention led by Saudi Arabia and backed by the United States, United Kingdom (UK), France, Canada, Germany and Italy.

Yemen is a land of rich history and ancient civilization; beautiful and complex culture; and resilient people. The Yemeni people deserve to determine the future of their country freely without any foreign military intervention or coercion. The Saudi-led war in Yemen is an attack on Yemen's sovereignty and self-determination.

The humanitarian situation

Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen has killed hundreds of thousands of people and wreaked havoc on the country. The United Nations has declared the Yemen war to be "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world."

This war breaks the conditions of the Geneva Convention by deliberately targeting civilians and civilian structures, schools, markets, hospitals, roads, water tanks, sanitation facilities and places of worship in Yemen, as documented by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Médecins Sans Frontières and the United Nations.

A staggering 21.6 million people in Yemen require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2023, as 80 per cent of the country's population struggles to access food, safe drinking water and adequate health services. Multiple emergencies have pummeled the country: violent conflict, an economic blockade by the Saudi-led coalition, currency collapse, natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Canada's role

Canada has played a huge role in perpetuating this disastrous war. One of the first actions of the newly-elected Trudeau government in 2015 was to reaffirm the signing of a \$15 billion deal to sell Light Armored Vehicles (LAVs) to Saudi Arabia. This was the largest arms exporting contract in Canadian history and included training in the use of the vehicles. Canada also trained Saudi pilots in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Canada continues to sell weapons and

military equipment to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The United Nations panel of experts on Yemen has twice named Canada, in 2020 and 2021, as one of the states fueling the ongoing war in Yemen. Canada provides well over \$1 billion in weapons to Saudi Arabia and the UAE every year.

U.S. military support for Saudi Arabia has been constant since the war began, even in the face of a 2019 UN report revealing that Saudi Arabia was committing war crimes and that its Western supporters were complicit. In Canada, many politicians want to keep the war profits from weapons sales rolling in. These war profiteers and our compliant media cheer on the proxy war in Ukraine and are mute as the war in Yemen drags on.

Alarmingly, a Breach (Canadian online investigative news outlet) investigation shows that this complicity extends to the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. As it's reported the Canadian government is buying two aircraft, for \$133 million, for a fleet to be used by the prime minister. The seller is a company controlled by notorious Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman.

It's despicable for Canada to be profiting from selling billions in arms to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Owen Schalk, writing in Canadian Dimension, summarizes the situation:

Canada's involvement in the war on Yemen can be explained in two words: blood money. It is that simple, and there is no excuse for the federal government's consistent facilitation of these weapons transactions, no matter how many pathetic justifications they conjure up. You can't make nationwide famine disappear by insisting upon the importance of Canadian manufacturing jobs. You can't eliminate the Houthis' domestic popularity by blindly applying the "Iran-backed" descriptor to any discussion of their resistance.

And Yemen can't wait for the Liberal Party to grow a conscience.

Our demands

- We call on the Trudeau Liberal government to take these steps to permanently end Canadian complicity in this war:
- Cancel active and pending sales of Canadian arms (light armored vehicles and other weapons) to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.
- Call on the Saudi-led coalition to end its illegal military offensive.
- Call on the Saudi-led coalition to fully lift the land, sea and air blockade on Yemen.
- Open unconditionally the door to

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CAR CARAVAN TO LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!



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SUNDAY MARCH 26
12PM CAR CARAVAN
FOR LOCATION CALL 604.780.4029



8 Years of Brutal & Criminal War Against Yemen

All Foreign Troops Out of Yemen Now!

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

March 26, 2023, marks 8 years since the start of the Saudi-led coalition war on Yemen. The coalition airstrikes have destroyed houses, schools, roads, markets, hospitals, water tanks, sanitation facilities, mosques, and other vital infrastructure in the country. Almost 400,000 people have been killed because of the war. Those that were fortunate to survive are living amid a humanitarian catastrophe.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), around 23.7 million Yemenis, 77% women and children, need humanitarian assistance. Of those, 7.4 million – some 25% of the population – suffer from malnutrition, including 2 million children.

The suffering and destruction are shared by millions of Yemeni families who have been mourning loved ones and struggling to survive. Since the start of the Saudi-led U.S.-backed coalition-led war in 2015, Yemen has only seen death and destruction. The United Nations (UN) referred to the situation in the country as "the world's worst humanitarian crisis".

The Saudi-led coalition also imposes a naval, aerial, and land blockade on Yemen. The blockade has caused medicine, fuel, and food shortages, aggravating an already disastrous situation. Despite the loosening of some restrictions by Saudi Arabia, the blockade continues to persist, impeding the flow of goods to Yemen.

On January 6, 2023, mass rallies took place across Yemen under the slogan "siege is war". Protesters carried signs against the Saudi-led military intervention in their country and demanded the full lifting of the blockade. A statement released by the protesters reads, "The Coalition is preventing the entry of goods through the port of Hodeidah, and whatever oil we receive is only small quantities deliberately doubled in price with long and unnecessary inspection procedures. The Saudi-American Coalition seeks to impose dire living conditions upon the Yemeni people to make our lives harder. To prevent us from travelling abroad and to strangle us."

Who's behind the war?

Since the first day of the start of the military intervention in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and their primary accomplice, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), enjoyed full political and military support from the United States. In addition, the U.S. and their imperialist allies, such as the U.K., France, Germany, Italy and Canada, made billions of dollars in arms sales and training contracts with Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Armed and trained by the U.S. and their allies, the Saudi-led coalition intervened in an internal dispute in Yemen to serve their interests and the interests of their imperialist masters. Yemen occupies a very strategic location in the Middle East. Yemen's coast borders the Bab el-Mandeb strait, which connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. This narrow strategic waterway represents one of the world's most active and important maritime shipping routes. Dominating Yemen is vital for the United States and imperialists to expand their military and economic hegemony of the region, including East Africa, the Indian Ocean, and West Asia.

After 8 years of wars and destruction, the US-backed Saudi-led coalition has failed to crush the Yemeni resistance to foreign domination and impose a puppet regime on the country. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have funnelled billions of dollars, weapons and foreign mercenaries to fight their dirty war in Yemen and serve their regional interests.

The Emiratis have established a military presence on Socotra island in the Indian Ocean, which was occupied by UAE in 2015. And, as reported in Responsible Statecraft, "according to a recent article in Breaking Defense, they are considering expanding that presence by putting missile defense sensors on the island, which would support a nascent, U.S.-led alliance made up of Israel and several Arab states."

Saudi Arabia is also pursuing a strategy to establish its own direct military presence on Yemeni soil. An article published on the Huffington Post on February 23, 2023, titled "Americans Are Quietly Supporting A Saudi Land Grab In Yemen," uncovers a "Saudi takeover of strategic transport facilities in Yemen's eastern Al-Mahra province, and the establishment of a string of Saudi military bases there".

Al-Mahra is the second largest province in Yemen by size, it borders Oman to the east and Saudi Arabia to the north. In the past



few months, several U.S. and British military personnel visited Al-Mahra under the pretext of coordinating to combat smuggling and fight terrorism. The latest visit was that of Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, the U.S. Navy's top commander in the Middle East, on March 2, 2023. Controlling Al-Mahra would give Saudi Arabia and their imperialist masters direct access to the Indian Ocean and further expands their hegemonic control of maritime shipping routes in the region.

Canada's complicity & hypocrisy in the war

Since the start of the Saudi-led coalition war on Yemen, Canada has increased their sales of weapons and military equipment to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Saudi Arabia is the largest non-U.S. export destination of Canadian military goods. As reported by Project Ploughshares, "in 2022, Canada exported a further \$709 million in Light Armoured Vehicles to Saudi Arabia." This is a small portion of Canada's \$15 billion agreement to export these armoured vehicles to the Kingdom.

According to the 2021 Exports of Military Goods Report, Canada also exported rifles to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The report also shows that in addition to selling weapons directly to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, the government of Canada has been issuing brokering permits for selling them arms through other countries such as Brazil, the United States, and the Netherlands. Canada was named twice in a list of countries fueling the war on Yemen by continuing weapons sales to Saudi Arabia by a United Nations' panel of independent experts. The Trudeau government has no shame in continuing to profit from the brutal war and destruction against the Yemeni people.

The Trudeau government claims to be a champion of Human Rights but quietly continues to expand its economic and political relationships with Saudi Arabia and the UAE while disregarding the suffering and plight of the Yemeni people. Once a year, Canada ceremonially contributes to the United Nations' fundraising efforts for humanitarian relief in Yemen to wash off some of the blood that's on its hands. According to the government website, Global Affairs Canada, since the start of the war in 2015, Canada has committed over \$411 million in humanitarian funding to Yemen. In contrast, only in one year, in 2022, Canada made \$709 million in weapons sales to Saudi Arabia!

The Trudeau government has recently shown that it can implement quick resources to welcome and help settle refugees when it opened the door for Ukrainian refugees and created the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel. One wonders why Yemeni refugees aren't welcomed in such a way! Where are the resources to help the millions of Yemenis internally displaced inside of Yemen and the hundreds of thousands stranded in transit countries?

Canada is ignoring the misery of Yemenis and the humanitarian crisis in Yemen while continuing to profit from fueling the war in Yemen. This is Canadian human rights, Trudeau style!

#YemenCantWait

Enough is enough! As peace-loving people in Canada, the U.S. and around the world, it's imperative that we continue educating, organizing and mobilizing against the imperialists' war on Yemen and call for the full lifting of the land, sea, and air blockade on Yemen by the Saudis, UAE and the U.S. We need to continue exposing and protesting the complicity of our respective governments and holding them accountable for continuing to fuel the war. We need to keep fighting and demanding that they end all arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE and that they open the borders to Yemeni refugees.

We must build a united front to organize, educate and mobilize against imperialist meddling in Yemen and defend the self-determination of the Yemeni people. The first step is to demand all foreign troops end their occupation and leave Yemen immediately. Let's join the brave Yemeni people in fighting for peace, freedom, and sovereignty without imperialist military interventions, occupation, and war.

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all Yemeni refugees under the same terms as has been done for Ukrainian refugees.

- Increase humanitarian aid to Yemen to an amount that will be meaningful given the scale of misery and destruction that Yemenis have suffered in this eight-year war. After the

Canadian government cancels the \$15 billion LAV sale, they must donate the refunded amount (after penalties) for humanitarian aid in Yemen.

Statement by Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network For more information visit: www.peaceandjusticenetwork.ca

Trudeau Government

#DropTheF35Deal

While Canadians struggle with rising energy and food costs, extreme weather events, and economic strife this winter, the Trudeau government is trying to push through a \$7 billion deal for 16 F-35 stealth fighter jets with American weapons giant Lockheed Martin. On December 22, Global News and La Presse reported that the Canadian government is planning on signing a contract with Lockheed Martin early in the new year.

According to a leak by federal government officials, the Department of National Defence has received approval to buy the F-35s despite years of widespread opposition from Canadian citizens, celebrities and parliamentarians. The government is advertising the cost as \$7 billion; however, that is only the cost of the initial buy-in for 16 F-35's. Further, while the government is advertising the cost as \$19 billion for the full order of 88 fighter jets, according to the No Fighter Jets campaign 2020 report, From Acquisition to Disposal: Uncovering the true cost of 88 new fighter jets, the lifecycle cost of buying 88 fighter jets is estimated to be at least \$76.8 billion over 30 years.

Experts, including former procurement chief at National Defence Alan Williams, have denounced this procurement, because the total cost of this purchase has not been fully disclosed by the federal government. Williams said: "It is distressing public regarding billion-opaque and piecemeal and comprehensive... government is hiding

Our report Soaring: Fighter Jets and Buy a New Fleet financial, social and fighter jets. Excessive costs, air pollution, extreme noise and damaging air weapons training in and around Indigenous communities are some of the many harms of fighter jets. As the U.S. Government Accountability Office explains, the F-35 continues to be plagued with cost overruns and technical flaws. In its April 2022 study, the GAO found that the F-35 has over 900 open deficiencies.

A new fleet of fossil fuel-powered F-35s will lock Canada into decades of carbon intensive militarism and prevent us from decarbonizing. One F-35 releases more carbon emissions in one long-range flight than a car does in a year. Moreover, the F-35 is a stealth fighter jet designed for first strike attack, meaning it is only effective as an offensive warplane used against other countries. It has also been designed to carry the B61-12 tactical nuclear weapon and will put Canada in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Fighter Jets are weapons of war and exacerbate global warming.

As winter sets in and Canadians struggle to make ends meet, it is irresponsible and unjust for the Trudeau government to spend public money on American warplanes. Instead, the federal government should invest in affordable housing, health care, education, economic assistance, and climate action. Canada's planned F-35 procurement is unacceptable and immoral and must be canceled.

Tell your Member of Parliament to say no to the F-35 deal. Join the No Fighter Jets campaign in an urgent weekend of action from January 6-8, 2023. #NoFighterJets #DropTheF35Deal #NoNewFighterJets Learn more at nofighterjets.ca/ourwork.

Statement by the No Fighter Jets Coalition



#NoNewFighterJets #DropTheF35Deal
TAKE ACTION



SCAN HERE TO SIGN



- 1 Sign the online letter to the Trudeau government here: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/canada-drop-the-f-35-fighter-jet-deal>

- 2 Spread the word on social media! Use the hashtags #NoNewFighterJets, and #DropTheF35Deal Don't forget to tag or message @nofighterjets