

# 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**

Facebook: @MAWOVancouver Twitter: @MAWOVan Instagram: @MAWOVan

info@mawovancouver.org 778- 938-1557

Member of the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network

MAWO #92 Created by: Azza Rojbi, Ali Yerevani, Tamara Hansen & Janine Solanki

**stop the war! stop the occupations!**

[www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org)

**MAWO 92**

newsletter June 2023 Second Edition

**mobilization against war & occupation**

# STOP THE WAR STOP NATO

**Stop U.S./Canada/NATO Wars & Occupations!**

Stop the War, Stop NATO!

Peace Now!

The Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network (CWPJN) urges people across Canada to join us in calling for an end to the war in Ukraine. This conflict has caused immense suffering for the Ukrainian people and their civilian infrastructure, going back to 2014 when the conflict began in Ukraine's Donbas region. We condemn the Trudeau government for flatly refusing to talk to its Russian counterpart and for continuously refuelling the rapidly escalating conflict in Ukraine, which has the potential to expand into a wider European war or even a nuclear confrontation. The CWPJN calls for immediate negotiations with all parties for a political solution to the conflict and a return to peace and neutrality in Ukraine. On the weekend of Feb 23th to 26th, our members will be holding actions across Canada, uniting with other pro-peace and anti-war actions occurring around the world at the same time.

Stop the War, Stop NATO!

For years, NATO has been provoking conflict with Russia. NATO's expansion to Russia's borders, its training and arming of Ukrainian military, and support for Ukraine's war against its eastern Donbas region since 2014 have been the principal causes for the hostilities and the devastating war in Ukraine. The CWPJN is opposed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) because it is an aggressive, US-led, military alliance of 30 Euro-Atlantic countries that has launched deadly and destructive military interventions in the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Libya. These NATO wars have caused profound misery and a massive refugee crisis.

We are opposed to NATO's demand that allies increase military spending to meet the 2% GDP target. In 2021, NATO members spent \$1.1 trillion on military spending, accounting for 60% of global military spending. Since 2014, Canadian military spending has increased by 70%. In 2021, Canada spent \$33 billion on the military, which is 15 times more than on environment and climate change. In 2022, Defence Minister Anita Anand announced military spending will increase by another 70% over the next 5 years. NATO's demand that members

buy new inter-operable weapons is leading to a costly arms race. Carbon-intensive weapons systems like fighter jets, tanks, and warships are exacerbating the climate crisis.

In Canada, this includes the recently announced purchase of 16 F-35 fighter jets, part of the planned 88 F-35 fighter jets deal which will cost taxpayers at least \$77 billion over the lifecycle of the jets. The government of Canada is also planning to purchase warships at a sticker price of \$84 billion and \$5 billion for armed drones.

This explosion in military spending will prevent Canada from investing adequately in public healthcare, education, housing, jobs and climate solutions. NATO's reliance on a dangerous nuclear deterrence and first strike policy puts us all at risk. The deadly, expensive and environmentally harmful F-35 fighter jets purchased by Canada are designed for offensive strike first attacks and to carry B61-12 tactical nuclear weapons. Is this purchase the reason why Canada has refused to sign the United Nations Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)? The TPNW requires that signatories "never under any circumstances... develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices." The CWPJN demands that the government of Canada sign the TPNW now!

Canada out of NATO!

NATO is not a defensive alliance. It undermines global peace and human security and exacerbates the climate crisis. Because of Canada's NATO membership, we are dragged into every war of the US empire. It's time to for Canada to withdraw from NATO and develop a non-nuclear, independent, foreign policy, free from arms exports to fuel wars and occupations, and without massive expenditures on weapons for future wars. With humanity facing global environmental and health crises, we need international cooperation, nonviolence and common security for all countries. Peace in Ukraine, and peace with Russia and China begins with negotiations, diplomacy, and an end to NATO.

A Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network statement.

[www.peaceandjusticenetwork.ca](http://www.peaceandjusticenetwork.ca)

A SPECIAL WEBINAR FEATURING SPEAKERS FROM CUBA, THE U.S. & CANADA, MUSIC & Q&A

THURSDAY JUNE 29, 2023  
8PM EASTERN TIME  
5PM PACIFIC TIME

¡Un webinar bilingüe en inglés y español!  
A bilingual webinar in English & Spanish!

CELEBRATE CUBA'S 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DAYS AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA & TRANSPHOBIA

«Por Todas las familias, el amor es ley»

«For all families, love is the law»

**Moon "Luna" Vázquez**  
Puerto Rican lesbian activist, US Women and Cuba Collaboration Steering Committee member (Seattle, US)

**Azza Rojbi**  
North African queer activist and Coordinator of Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade - Vancouver (Vancouver, Canada)

**Ise! Catzadilla Acosta**  
Coordinator of the Isabelas, the first group of lesbian and bisexual women in Cuba (Santiago, Cuba)

INTERNATIONAL U.S.-CUBA NORMALIZATION CONFERENCE COALITION  
[WWW.US-CUBANORMALIZATION.ORG](http://WWW.US-CUBANORMALIZATION.ORG)

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



Monthly Virtual Picket

**TUESDAY  
JUNE 27 2023**

7pm Eastern / Caracas  
4pm Pacific



Featuring report back from the «FREE ALEX SAAB» Conference in Caracas, Venezuela!  
+ Greetings from Venezuela Solidarity Groups Across Canada & Quebec!

Join the Free Alex Saab! Postcard campaign to U.S. President Biden!  
email: [fttvenezuelasolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:fttvenezuelasolidarity@gmail.com)



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# 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-35s. 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 estimated to be at least \$76.8 billion over 30 years.

Experts, including former procurement chief Alan Williams, have denounced this total cost of this fully disclosed by Williams said: information being billion-dollar opaque and piecemeal and comprehensive...(It) makes it appear the government is hiding the truth from Canadians."



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Our report Soaring: The Harms and Risks of Fighter Jets and Why Canada Must Not Buy a New Fleet details the many adverse financial, social and environmental impacts of fighter jets. Excessive operational and maintenance 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](http://nofighterjets.ca/ourwork).  
*Statement by the No Fighter Jets Coalition*



**#NoNewFighterJets #DropTheF35Deal  
TAKE ACTION**



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

## Fighting Against War, Fighting for Peace!

## STOP THE GENOCIDE OF PALESTINIANS!

On March 2, 2023, a 15-year-old Palestinian child named Muhammad Nidal Salim was shot in the back and killed by Israeli forces in the Palestinian West Bank town of Azzoun, along with two others who were wounded including a child in critical condition. This brutal killing is the latest in an escalation of Zionist Israeli attacks and raids against the people of Palestine. On January 26 an Israeli assault on the Jenin refugee camp killed 10 Palestinians including two children, and on February 22 an Israeli raid on the Palestinian city of Nablus killed 11 Palestinians, the largest Palestinian death toll in a single Israeli military operation since 2005. Near daily

funded and supported by imperialist governments around the world, led by the United States. From 1948 until today, Israel is a manufactured state on Palestinian land, existing only with U.S. funding and weapons and the diplomatic cover, political support, and aid that they receive from imperialist governments such as Canada. Each year, the United States gives \$3.8 billion in direct military aid to Israeli occupation forces. During the May 2021 assault on Gaza, the U.S. Biden Administration approved a \$735 million weapons sale to Israel. Israel would not be able to exist for even one week if not for the massive diplomatic, financial, and military support of the



killings of Palestinians at the hands of racist Zionist Israeli settlers and Israeli forces have brought the death toll to 72 Palestinians killed in the West Bank in the first two months of 2023, as reported by the New York Times on March 7.

Alongside raids by Israeli military forces, mobs of racist Zionist Israeli settlers have carried out at least 300 attacks on Palestinian villages in the West Bank. These rampages have been described as "pogroms", and have included shootings, violent and deadly beatings, and the vandalizing and burning down of Palestinian homes, stores and cars. These attacks on Palestinians by Zionist settlers have occurred while Israeli forces stand by and allow them to happen. During the February 26 attack on the village of Zaatara, the Israeli army protected racist settlers who shot Samih al-Aqtash, a 37-year-old Palestinian father of five, who later died from his wounds. Al-Aqtash had returned home the previous week after volunteering to help earthquake survivors in Turkey.

Attacks by Zionist Israeli forces and Zionist settlers against Palestinians are not new but have been happening since the occupation of Palestine began in 1948 continuing until today, 75 years later. 2022 was already the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank, with 152 Palestinians killed by Zionist Israeli forces. For 11 days in May 2021, 259 people, including 65 children across Gaza and the West Bank, were killed by Israeli forces. On May 11, 2022, Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was assassinated by an Israeli military sniper while reporting on an Israeli raid in the Jenin refugee camp.

The genocidal policies of Israel are

United States. Israel is a puppet regime of the U.S., manufactured to suppress and control the West of Asia. The state of Israel is not a secure land for Jewish people, but was and is a war machine state to divide and suppress the West of Asia on behalf of imperialist powers.

In the face of merciless attacks and ethnic cleansing, the people of Palestine continue to fight for their right to land and self-determination. Despite 74 years of suffering and hardship, since 1948 they have not given up the struggle for their rights and their land, including their right of return. No amount of violence by the state of Israel has ever been able to change that. Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice fiercely denounces the Zionist Israeli attacks against Palestinians and stands with the people of Palestine in their continued struggle against the brutal Israeli occupation.

Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice stands with the brave people of Palestine in their continued struggle for dignity and self-determination against the racist, Zionist, and colonial state of Israel. We call on all peace-loving, working-class, and oppressed people around the world to stand up and be consistently active in the ongoing fight for the liberation of Palestine! Palestinian liberation from Israeli racist Zionist occupation is liberation for us all.

**Israel/USA Hands Off Palestine!  
Stop Bombing and Killing Palestinians!  
Self-determination for Palestine!  
End the Israeli Occupation of Palestine Now!  
Long Live Palestine! Long Live International Solidarity!**

*Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice  
March 7, 2023*

