

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

@MAWOVancouver @MAWOVan

info@mawovancouver.org 778-938-1557

Member of the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network

MAWO #94 Created by: Azza Rojbi, Ali Yerevani, Tamara Hansen & Janine Solanki

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 94

newsletter October 2023 5th edition

mobilization against war & occupation

**End Canadian Complicity!
Ceasefire Now!
Lift the Siege on Gaza Now!
Stop Bombing Gaza Now!**



Vancouver 5000+ rally in defence of Gaza & Palestine on October 21, 2023.

Upcoming Events Endorsed by MAWO:

SAVE THE DATE!!! Upcoming Palestine Protest Endorsed by Mobilization Against War and Occupation
www.mawovancouver.org

DAY OF ACTION FOR PALESTINE

**END CANADIAN COMPLICITY! CEASEFIRE NOW!
LIFT THE SIEGE ON GAZA NOW!
STOP BOMBING GAZA NOW!**

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3
@ 5:30PM

Plaza on the south side of Surrey City Hall
(outside Surrey Central SkyTrain station)



October 9, 2023

Statement by Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)

October 7, 2023 marks a turning point in the over 75 years of the genocidal and racist Zionist Israeli occupation of Palestine. In an unprecedented move, Palestinian resistance fighters from Gaza launched defensive military operations in Israel including air, sea, and ground attacks, surprising Israel and catching one of the most technologically advanced militaries in the world unawares.

The Israeli Zionist propaganda machine and mainstream imperialist media are frantically trying to paint Israel as a victim of terrorism and has launched a vicious dehumanization campaign against Palestinians, openly calling Palestinian people monsters and human animals. However, it is evident that this is a war and the actions of Palestinian resistance fighters are an act of defense in this war.

This war has been one of oppressor against oppressed and did not start on October 7 but has been waged since 1948 when Israel was founded as a state on the land of Palestine by imperialist countries, with the false recognition and legitimization of the United Nations. Resisting oppression and occupation is not terrorism, fighting for dignity is not terrorism. The Palestinian people have been fighting for their right to self-determination and the right to return to their homes, which were brutally taken away by the Zionist Israeli regime.

Decades over decades, the Palestinian people have faced forced expulsion from their cities and villages to overcrowded refugee camps, which in Gaza constitutes the 3rd most densely populated place on earth. Palestinians have faced ethnic cleansing and massacres, with over 10,748 Palestinians killed since September 29, 2000, including over 2,434 Palestinian children killed. Palestinians especially in the West Bank have faced an ongoing Israeli Zionist policy of home demolitions, with



over 56,502 Palestinian homes demolished by Israel since 1967, not including homes destroyed through bombing campaigns against Gaza. Palestinians also are subject to arbitrary detentions and torture. Out of 5,000 Palestinian political prisoners, over 1,200 are held without charge or trial under indefinitely renewable administrative detention orders, many of whom are children as young as 12 years old. Daily life for Palestinians in Gaza and

West Bank is defined by occupation, with checkpoints and blockades limiting freedom of movement even to jobs and school, lack of access to food, water, medicines and basic necessities, and the constant threat of military attack from the Israeli Zionist regime's military or racist Zionist settlers.

In the last year, the life under Israeli occupation has gotten measurably

worse. The UN declared 2023 as the deadliest year for Palestinians since it started counting deaths in 2006, even before the current indiscriminate Israeli assault on Gaza. From January 2023 until the beginning of October, Israeli forces and racist Zionist settlers killed more than 250 people in the West Bank, including over 50 children. There have been repeated Israeli military assaults into areas of West Bank, including three major Israeli military incursions into the Jenin refugee camp. In Jenin, during these attacks Palestinians were terrorized and killed by deadly airstrikes, hundreds of Israeli ground troops, helicopter gunships, rockets and

FREE PALESTINE



WILPF CANADA

FREEDOM FOR PALESTINE

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Invites you to join people all over the world calling for CEASEFIRE!

11 AM Nov 4
Vancouver Art Gallery

All genders and all faiths are welcome to come share food, flowers and song.

WILPF statement: <https://tinyurl.com/afz9ju45>

Continues on page 3

Self-Determination for Palestine! United Front Against Israeli Occupation of Palestine!



Vancouver Rally for Palestine organized by Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network on July 22, 2023.

By Janine Solanki

For over 74 years, the Palestinian people have been fighting for their right to self-determination and the right to return to their homes, which were brutally taken away by the Zionist Israeli regime. Decades over decades, the Palestinian people have faced forced expulsion from their cities and villages to refugee camps, which are some of the most densely populated settlements in the world. Ethnic cleansing and massacres, routine airstrikes on homes and infrastructure, deadly military assaults, home demolitions, checkpoints and blockades, arbitrary detentions, and lack of access to food, water and basic necessities are part of the ongoing Israeli racist regime's brutality and insults against Palestinians.

Jenin Refugee Camp

2023 has already become the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since the United Nations began recording in 2005, with over 200 Palestinians killed at the hands of Israeli military forces and racist Zionist settlers. Jenin refugee camp has long been the site of brutal Israeli attacks and massacres, and so far, in 2023 has been devastated by two Israeli assaults. On January 26, Israeli military forces killed 10 Palestinians, including two children, in Jenin.

On July 3, Israeli forces invaded Jenin again and, for two days, terrorized Palestinians in Jenin with deadly airstrikes, hundreds of soldiers, helicopter gunships, rockets and armoured vehicles. Around 4,000 Palestinians fled the Jenin refugee camp during the assault and returned to find hundreds of homes destroyed and uninhabitable, the local water network destroyed, cutting off sewage and water access for a vast number of homes, and the destruction of roads and other infrastructure. The human cost of this criminal attack was 12 Palestinians killed, including four children, and 143 Palestinians injured. Around the world, this savage Israeli assault was condemned and protested. In Vancouver on July 5, an emergency action "We Stand With Jenin" banner drop was held at a busy overpass, called by the Samidoun, Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network (Samidoun.net), and with the support and participation of Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) and Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice.

U.S., Canada, Israel Hands Off Palestine

Israel's continued occupation of Palestine would not be possible without the military, financial and political backing of the U.S. government and other imperialist countries, including Canada. The government of Canada has supported Israel since it was founded on Palestinian land in 1948, and today Scotiabank, one of Canada's largest

banks, is the top foreign investor in Elbit Systems, an Israeli weapons manufacturer. Elbit Systems produces 85% of Israel's armed drones, which are marketed as "battle-tested," alluding to the fact that they are regularly used to assassinate and injure Palestinians.

On July 22, Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network held a protest action in downtown Vancouver in solidarity with Palestine and to demand "Shut Elbit Down!", which activists and supporters from Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) and Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice supported and participated in. After leafletting to passersby, protesters marched to a nearby Scotiabank branch to hear from speakers and to demand Scotiabank divest from Elbit Systems. The action was also part of an International Day of Action in solidarity with six Palestine Action activists, who face imprisonment and court cases in response to their protests in Britain against Elbit Systems. One of the Palestine Action activists, Ronnie Barkan, was in Vancouver for the action and spoke at the rally against Elbit Systems and against the Zionist Israeli regime. To sign a letter demanding Scotiabank divest from Elbit Systems, you can visit www.actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-scotiabank-to-divest-now-from-elbit-systems

U.S. and Canada Hands Off the Palestinian Rights Activists

Activists in support of Palestine and in many other social justice struggles are facing increased attacks on their organizing from right-wing forces and imperialist governments. Recently the Alliance for Global Justice (AFGJ) faced attacks from Zionist media that have resulted in the company, which processes credit card donations to block AFGJ and its projects from use of this critical fundraising tool. This attack has impacted Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, as well as over 140 organizations that are fiscally sponsored by AFGJ. Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) has signed on to the Alliance for Global Justice Resistance Campaign and encourages supporters to stand in solidarity and also sign on to the Resistance Campaign at www.afgj.org/resistance-campaign-sign-on

In Canada and around the world, we must continue standing in solidarity with the Palestinian people in a strong united front and demand self-determination for Palestine! Israel, stop brutalizing and killing Palestinians! Free all Palestinian political prisoners! Right of return for all Palestinians!

For upcoming events against imperialist wars and in solidarity with Palestine, visit www.mawovancouver.org or follow on Facebook @MAWOVancouver and Instagram and Twitter @mawovan

Continued from page 1

armoured vehicles, and faced destroyed homes and massively damaged sewage and water networks. In a further insult to Palestinians, worshipers at Al Aqsa Mosque in al-Quds (also known as Jerusalem) have faced repeated raids and attacks by Zionist Israeli police and military, as well as by racist Israeli settlers.

This has all been part of a genocidal campaign of ethnic cleansing by the Israeli regime, led by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu who since 2019 has repeatedly proposed and planned to annex the West Bank and Gaza. This is nothing new, but a longstanding policy of ethnic cleansing since 1948. In September 1992, former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a delegation from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy "I would like Gaza to sink into the sea".

For over 75 years, Palestinians have tried every avenue to assert their right to self-determination, including legal and diplomatic measures. 78 resolutions in the United Nations demanding that Israel respect various aspects of Palestinian human rights have been repeatedly violated. All so-called solutions imposed by imperialists and Israel on Palestinians since 1948, especially the Oslo Accord in 1993, have not brought peace. Instead, as planned they have prolonged and expanded the racist Zionist Israeli occupation and war against Palestine. From October 7, 2023, the defensive military operation of Palestinian resistance fighters from Gaza into Israel has effectively ended all deceitful plans in the past, present and future. Today the tide is turning as Palestinians won't accept any false promises or distractions and are fighting for their self-determination and right to exist as a nation and to form a nation-state.

Today the world is watching as the Zionist Israeli military is launching a massive attack on Gaza, indiscriminately collapsing whole apartment complexes, and targeting homes and hospitals. The Israeli Zionist Prime Minister Netanyahu has promised to turn Gaza into a "deserted island" and told Palestinian civilians to leave the territory. This warning to Palestinians to leave Gaza is entirely outrageous – Gaza is an open-air prison, with a population of over 2.3 million Palestinians that are essentially prisoners with absolutely no freedom of movement. Since 2005 Palestinians in Gaza have been blockaded by Israel by air, sea and land, surrounded a 65km long, 20 feet high concrete, iron and steel wall with radar systems, sniper towers and underground sensors. For 18 years Israel has controlled and restricted access to anything moving in or out of Gaza, including water, food, medicine, fuel, and electricity, and even Palestinians, journalists, aid organizations and visitors ability to leave or enter Gaza.

As of October 9, 2023 the death toll of Palestinians has reached 704 since October 7, mainly in Gaza but also in West Bank, and including over 150 children and thousands injured. There are reports that Israel is using internationally banned white phosphorus shells over residential areas in Gaza. The Israeli Zionist regime has declared a total blockade of Gaza, essentially cutting off water, food, medicine, fuel and electricity. The world is watching as the Zionist Israeli regime is massacring Palestinian people in Gaza.

Imperialist governments, led by the United States, are declaring their support for Israel. The US has moved aircraft carriers to the eastern Mediterranean sea and several air force squadrons to the region, as well as has promised additional munitions to

Israel. This imperialist support for Israel isn't because their governments really care about the Israeli people – since the Balfour Declaration by the British government in 1917, to the formation of Israel on Palestinian land, Israel has always been an imperialist project, first for Britain and today for the United States. Israel is the US forward base into West Asia, a foothold in the region from which to launch surveillance, military attacks, wars, and occupations, and to expand their plunder of resources and markets. The US imperialist new era of war and occupation has accelerated their drive for hegemony in the region, which we have seen since the war and occupation of Afghanistan in 2001, and continued with the war on Iraq, Syria, Libya and Yemen. This is why Israel as a Zionist racist and apartheid regime has never been a truly functional legitimate state. Without the economic, financial and military support of the US and their imperialist allies, including Canada, Israel cannot survive more than a few weeks. The US supplies more than \$4 billion a year in military aid to Israel, and in 2022 the US provided Israel with at least \$13.1 million per day in military aid. Canada also provides military aid and exports to Israel, and Canadian bank Scotiabank is the largest foreign investor in Elbit Systems, a major Israeli weapons manufacturer, who sells "battle tested" drones – battle tested against Palestinian people.

We have been lied to for years that the Israel-Palestine conflict is "complicated," and peace is distant. Before the Zionist project with the support of Britain and other imperialists imposed the state of Israel on Palestinian land, Palestinians of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faith lived in harmony side by side for centuries. Despite the claims that Israel needed to be created as a "safe" homeland for Jewish people, there can be no safety when that state is imposed by a genocidal occupation, as has been done on Palestinian land. This was just a convenient solution for racism in Europe and North America, where historically and today Jewish people face antisemitism, where Jewish people should have the right to live without discrimination. In fact, the safest place historically and today for Jewish people has been in West Asian countries, side by side with their Muslim neighbours! The solution that we are told is complicated is in fact simple. Palestinian's legitimate demand for the right to self-determination must be met, preferably a single democratic state with the fundamental right of one person, one vote, where Palestinian and Jewish people can live in together in peace and harmony. It is only the Zionist regime and their imperialist backers that are blocking this only viable solution from becoming a reality. If it this could happen in South Africa, it can happen in the entire land of Palestine today from the river to the sea.

Today solidarity with Palestine is more important than ever. While the imperialist and Zionist narrative tries to get support for the massacre of Palestinians that the Israeli military is unleashing on Gaza, it is up to the solidarity movement worldwide to demand an end to 75 years of Israeli Zionist occupation. Since October 7th, hundreds of thousands of people in dozens of countries around the globe are protesting against the Zionist Israeli regime and in defense of the Palestinian struggle against Israeli Zionist occupation, in over 100 cities around the world including 60 cities in Canada and the US. Today in Palestine and around the world, we are fighting for a new path forward against imperialism, against Zionism, and for the Palestinian right to self-determination.

**Free Palestine!
Self-Determination for Palestine!
From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!**