

MAWO

The Newsletter of Mobilization Against War and Occupation

Who is MAWO?

**November 22 to March 20 and on...
Against War and Occupation**

When the international anti-war movement sprang into life in the fall of 2002 it was in defense of the people of Iraq against the murderous war drive of the United States. Although it reached and involved more people than any international movement in history, the anti-war movement stumbled when the active bombing war in Iraq became a war of occupation. But now, along with the organization of resistance in Iraq, the international anti-war movement has begun to reorganize itself against this occupation-phase of war.

In October of this year, the US military was performing massive house to house raids throughout Iraq, arresting and detaining people suspected of being active against occupation. The shootings of crowds in marketplaces and 'firefights' between the most well armed soldiers in the world and Iraqis armed only with stones and occasional rifles were becoming daily occurrences. Almost every day there was news of another attack on US forces.

On top of the violence carried out against them by occupation troops, the people of Iraq face poverty, hunger, joblessness, homelessness, a lack of running water, schools and electricity. Although the US government tries to blame the rise in Iraqi resistance on so-called "terrorists" with "suspected ties to Al-Qaeda" or "Baath Party loyalists", it is clear that anti-occupation consciousness is taking hold of the people of Iraq stronger and faster than the US military could.

With the escalation of organized resistance by the people of Iraq against the occupation of their country, the international anti-war movement has come back to life. In Vancouver on October 29, at a meeting called by the Student-Youth Committee Against War to organize a demonstration against war and occupation on November 29, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) was formed.

The challenge the anti-war movement faces is to effectively educate, organize and mobilize people against this era of war and occupation. This work is especially important in communities of colour, with Muslims, immigrants, refugees, youth, students and indigenous communities: people most deeply impacted by war and occupation.

MAWO is committed to building a movement against war and occupation with oppressed people in the leadership of the movement. We are organizing a series of events from November leading up to the international mobilization on March 20 to build this movement.

On November 29th, MAWO is sponsoring the "Youth Against Occupation" conference at UBC Robson Square along with the Student-Youth Committee Against War. Through this conference, we will establish the connections between University, College and High School campuses necessary to develop the energy of young people into a powerful movement against war.



**END THE OCCUPATION
OF IRAQ, PALESTINE AND AFGHANISTAN!
BRING THE TROOPS
HOME NOW!**



MAWO is organizing the **first annual Anti-War Mini Film Festival on December 20th** at Britannia Community Centre to educate and mobilize people against war through the power of art and culture. We will be following this up with a **demonstration against war and occupation on January 24th** at the Art Gallery and a **conference on February 21st**.

MAWO has joined the international March 20th call to action against war and occupation. At our **demonstration at the Art Gallery on March 20th** we will be joining with people all around the world in recognition of the first anniversary of the beginning of the brutal bombing of Iraq and against the ongoing war and occupation.

As long as this era of war and occupation continues MAWO will be organizing, educating and mobilizing against it. We welcome you to join us to beat back the US-led war machine, bring the troops home and **END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ, PALESTINE AND AFGHANISTAN!**



Endorsed by: BC Hospital Employees Union, Simon Fraser Student Society, Langara Students Union, Kwantlen University College Student Association, Lawyers Against the War, Native Youth Movement - Vancouver, Indigenous Environmental Network, Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, Youth-Third World Alliance, Redwire Native Youth Media, Iranian Committee Against War, Friends and Family of Mexican Political Prisoners, UBC Africa Network, UBC Student Environment Center, Free the Cuban Five Committee, Student-Youth Committee Against War, Coalition Against the War on the People of Iraq, UBC Women's Center, UBC Social Justice Center, Purple Thistle Youth Center, Lisa Barrett -Mayor Bowen Island, Bikes Not Bombs Vancouver, Emily Carr Student Coalition for Social Justice, Langara Women's Centre, UBC Graduate Students Society External Affairs Committee, AMS Bike Co-op, Mesopotamian Orphans & Women Education & Welfare Society, Toronto Native Youth, Langara GLOBAL, Korean Student Network Against War, Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Advocates, Richmond Mosque, Tri-Cities Mosque, Muslim Youth Centre-Surrey, Colour Connected-UBC, Langara First Nations Centre, PRIDE UBC

The War is Not Over! End the Occupation of Iraq!

The three primary justifications for war on Iraq by the Bush administration were the imagined Weapons of Mass Destruction, the preposterous links to Al-Qaeda, and the removal of Saddam Hussein. (As Saddam 'bad guy' against Bush 'good guy') It was promised that these goals would be achieved quickly and smoothly, and that Iraqi civilian casualties would be minimal. Reality has been much harsher.

As the American war machine pushes forward in an attempt to cement its power within Iraq, it has been bogged down in a mix of the fierce resistance of the Iraqi people and the growing anti-war / anti-occupation movement around the world.

The ongoing murder and repression of Iraqi civilians is the price paid by a people who assert their right to

live by their own rules. On November 17th US troops shot and killed three Iraqi civilians including an eleven-year-old boy. The previous day, they had launched a satellite guided missile at an unconfirmed location, believed to be a "guerrilla camp", the first time such weaponry had been used since the cessation of "official" combat.

Since the mid-air collision which downed two Black Hawk helicopters, the US began "Operation Iron Hammer". American troops have ruthlessly raided and destroyed neighbourhoods and homes throughout Iraq while arresting anyone they suspect of being "sympathizers" to resistance. As a result hundreds of people have been killed, thousands injured and hundreds of homes destroyed.

The level of resistance to the US led war and occupation is a mass anti-occupation consciousness against imperialists developing in Iraq. As this anti-imperialist sentiment spreads, the US military is unable to tell the difference between 'guerrillas' and 'civilians' so they are bombing entire Baghdad neighbourhoods.

The war is not over in Iraq, indeed in many ways it has just begun. As Iraqi resistance becomes a mass movement and an international outrage continues to grow against this war and occupation, the battle lines are being drawn. Along these lines the polarization is sharpening within Iraq and around the world: those who are against occupation and for self-determination versus those who continue to try to suppress it.



Why we are Against Occupation

In this era of international economic crisis, which is the result of imperialist powers' management of production and distribution of goods, these same imperialist powers have adjusted their earlier imperialist strategy of economic and structural manipulation. In other words, their suppression, exploitation, colonization and meddling in the affairs of oppressed nations. This era has been replaced with war and direct occupation as their main strategy to exploit, plunder and expand their economical and political hegemony in order to manipulate the market. As always, the expansion of imperialist powers is at the expense of oppressed people around the world.

The US in Iraq, Canada in Afghanistan and over indigenous nations within Canada's borders, Israel in Palestine and France in the Congo are all following this strategy. All imperialist countries have theft of resources and military and political control of the region in mind when they invade, wage war, install puppet governments or otherwise occupy oppressed nations. Through an end to occupation, oppressed nations fight for the control of their own wealth and resources. This is a fight for an end to the terrible unfair global division of wealth that demands that more than 1.2 billion people to live on less than \$1 a day or more than 2 billion less than \$2 a day while imperialists thrive.

Through an end to occupation, oppressed people can reclaim the human dignity that is theirs and fight for control over their own resources, territory, their own future and their own government. It is the work of all poor, working and oppressed people, through the international anti-war movement to support them.

END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ, PALESTINE, AFGHANISTAN, INDIGENOUS NATIONS IN CANADA AND ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS

1st Annual Vancouver ANTI-WAR MINI-FILM FESTIVAL

Featuring feature films, shorts and documentaries about war and occupation in the 20th and 21st century

DECEMBER 20
BRITANNIA COMMUNITY
CENTRE AUDITORIUM
Organized by MAWO

Other upcoming MAWO events leading up to the March 20 demonstration:

January 24

March and Rally

Against the War and Occupation of Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan
1pm at the Vancouver Art Gallery

February 21

Conference Against War and Occupation

Time and Place T.B.A

Are you young? A student? A young worker?

**JOIN THE STUDENT-YOUTH
COMMITTEE AGAINST WAR**

**Next Meeting: Thursday November 27
6:30pm**

Langara College Student Union Lounge

stopwar_students@yahoo.ca 604-294-1053 / 604-254-1630

Stop the Deportation of Palestinian Refugees! Stop the War at Home and Abroad!

For over 100 Palestinian refugees in Montreal waiting to be deported back to the dismal refugee camps from which they have come, the war abroad will never be separated from the war against immigrants and refugees within Canada.

Since the establishment of the state of Israel, Palestinians have been shot, bombed, arrested and tortured while their homes have been demolished. Israel's role of suppression of Palestinians and Arabs for absolute exploitation and plundering by imperialists like US and UK extends beyond Palestinians to all Arab nations and the whole Middle East. Because the state of Israel has carried out this oppression against Palestinians because of their race, ethnicity and religion, virtually all Palestinians qualify as refugees under both the UN Charter and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act of Canada.

However, since 9-11, citing 'national security', the Canadian Government has stepped up their campaign against the rights of Palestinian and all refugees. Twenty-three year old Abdel Majeed Ahmad is one of a hundred Palestinian refugees in Montreal who has been served with a deportation order. On Thursday November 6th, he was this first of this hundred to be deported from Canada to a jail in the US, where he will almost certainly be deported again to a Palestinian refugee camp.

The 'war on terrorism' has scapegoated Palestinian refugees as a cover for Canada's suppression of the rights and securities of all immigrant workers. As people are increasingly displaced through the war and occupation raging on in Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan, the Canadian Government is ensuring that these same people will not be able to seek amnesty from this terror in Canada. MAWO and the anti-war movement must defend the rights of the hundred Palestinian refugees in Montreal and of all immigrants and refugees. We demand the return of Abdel Majeed Ahmad to Canada, an end to the deportation of the hundred Palestinians in Montreal and an end to the war at home and abroad.

Write Canadian Minister of Immigration Denis Coderre demand an end to these deportations and for full status for all hundred Palestinians: minister@cic.gc.ca / coderd@parl.gc.ca / coderd1@parl.gc.ca / Phone: 613-957-0312 / Fax: 613-957-2688

GET INVOLVED WITH MAWO!

Meetings every Wednesday
6:30pm Britannia Community Centre
(Commercial Drive at Napier St)

International Day of Action
1st Anniversary of the beginning of the bombing of Iraq
The war is not over, The anti-war movement is not over

MARCH 20

**Against the Occupation of Iraq
Palestine and Afghanistan**

March and Rally

12-3 pm

Vancouver Art Gallery

Organized by Mobilization Against War and Occupation

youth AGAINST occupation

A Student and Youth Conference to build the anti-war movement in the Lower Mainland
Saturday November 29, 11:30 to 6pm
UBC Robson Square Room c-300

To register contact: 604-322-1764 / 604-254-1630

stopwar_students@yahoo.ca

Organized by the Student Youth Committee Against war and MAWO

CONTACT MAWO at mawoinfo@yahoo.ca / 604-322-1764 / 604-254-1630