

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION #10

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR AND OCCUPATION

www.mawovancouver.org | info@mawovancouver.org | 604-322-1764

CANADA'S "PEACEKEEPER" MASK DROPS

THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT IN CANADA
MUST ACT NOW!

On Thursday July 14th the new Canadian Chief of Defense Staff, General Rick Hillier fired off the opening guns of the new Canadian war drive. His announcement that 2,000 more Canadian troops will be sent to Afghanistan by February of next year to "be able to kill people" was not the beginning of the shift to the right of Canadian imperialist policy but it was significant in exposing the unanimity of the government of Canada's brazen racist war mongering. Hillier's words signaled a clear shift from the typical strategy of the government of Canada, which has managed, until now, to cleverly cloak its imperialist actions in the language of "peacekeeping".

Really, Hillier has done us in the anti-war / anti-occupation movement in Canada a favor with his clarity of words. He explained better than most anti-war groups in Canada have managed to that "We're not the public service of Canada, we're not just another department. We are the Canadian Forces and our job is to be able to kill people." And not just to kill any body... Hillier further explained just what the approach of the Canadian Forces has been in Afghanistan, even before he took command of the NATO forces occupying the country. He was quoted in the Globe and Mail as saying, "These are detestable murderers and scumbags, I'll tell you that right up front. They detest our freedoms, they detest our society, they detest our liberties." And "We're not going to let those radical murderers and killers rob from others and certainly we're not going to let them rob from Canada."

The entirety of Canada's imperialist strategy is contained in Hillier's words. The anti-war movement and all poor, working and oppressed people in Canada must hear them as a grim prophesy of the dark days to come. What exactly are the "radical murderers and killers" in Afghanistan – now (thanks to the occupation forces) the poorest country in Asia – able to "rob from Canada"? The only position Canada has that is threatened by the struggling Afghan people is the position of the Canadian military occupying their country. It should be clear to us in the anti-war movement that the "detestable murderers" in Afghanistan are there courtesy of the NATO occupation. These are the forces that have lowered the Afghan life expectancy by four and a half years from 2003 to 2004.

For people in Canada, the "risky business" is not, as Hillier said,

whether or not further troop deployment to Afghanistan might spur terrorist attacks within Canadian borders, it is that the shift to the right in regards to Canadian imperialist policy and action is being taken by ALL major political parties in Canada across the board. Hillier's comments should have elicited outrage from at least some major politicians on the grounds that his statements were racist, war mongering promises of death and destruction in the name of Canadian imperialist interests. Instead, his statements were defended by the leaders of all major political parties:

Conservative Party MP Gordon O'Connor: "[Gen. Hillier] speaks



Canadian soldiers detain Afghan prisoners.

like a soldier, not a diplomat. He's starting to give the public an idea that the troops are about to go in a dangerous area and he's trying to explain why they're going there in the pursuit of terrorists."

Liberal Party leader and Prime Minister Paul Martin: "General



Demonstration against occupation of Afghanistan, Kabul.

Hillier is not only a top soldier, he is a soldier who has served in Afghanistan. The point he is simply making is we are at war with terrorism and we're not going to let them win."

New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton: "Controlled anger, given what's happened, is an appropriate response. We have a very committed, level-headed head of our armed forces, who isn't afraid to express the passion that underlies the mission that front-line personnel are going to be taking on. A bit of strong language in the circumstances, I don't find that to be wrong."

STOP THE CANADIAN WAR DRIVE!

All people in Canada must realize that it is not only political blindness to ignore the wars and occupations that Canada is carrying out; to ignore the imperialist policies and actions of the government of Canada would mean unforgivably irresponsible complicity with the Canadian imperialist war drive. We are now living in a Canada that has

dropped away its mask of "peace" in order to continue a hard shift to the right, unfettered by the government's public relations illusions. This shift has been a long time in coming.

When the US began its war drive in Iraq, the government of Canada began its shift into gear of the era of war and occupation by quietly sending almost 2,000 troops to Afghanistan for a "humanitarian peace keeping mission." When Hillier took command of the NATO mission in Afghanistan it was billed as a transference of "Canadian values" to the reconstruction efforts. The government and media did not mention that practically all aid monies had been withdrawn and all reconstruction promises called off. They did not comment on the collapse of all infrastructure in Afghanistan, the almost absolute lack of employment, the climbing death rates of Afghan people, the lack of potable water, the complete suppression of women's rights or the shaky deals drawn up between the imperialist—phoney-puppet government of Hamid Karzai

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War Abroad = War at Home

Money for health care, housing, schools, welfare, womens' centres... not for war and occupation

In June 2005, less than one month before news that 2,000 troops are to be deployed to Afghanistan, the military budget of Canada was nearly doubled from \$13 billion to \$25.8 billion, to be implemented over the next five years. For people in Afghanistan the military budget increase means an intensification of the Canadian occupation; and for working, poor and oppressed people in Canada it means less of the central survival services that we need.

Along with the increased military budget for the purpose of attacking people abroad, we can see the increase in neo-liberal attacks at home. Since the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan, in British Columbia alone, these attacks have come in the form of cuts to health care, social housing and resources for

women and poor people, increased racist immigration legislation, tuition hikes as well as worsening conditions for working people such as healthcare workers and government service employees. Similar attacks on oppressed people have been happening all across Canada.

It is not a coincidence that Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and Afghanistan is the poorest country in Asia. It is the fact that the government of Canada is in the business of, and has the easiest time, attacking the most marginalized and oppressed layer of people, both at home and abroad. The situation for people in these countries has continued to deteriorate under occupation. In Haiti and Afghanistan there is a lack of infrastructure, jobs,

services, and security, all of which were supposed to be brought to these countries by its occupier, Canada.

Well, if Canada is cutting jobs, services and infrastructure at home how does it propose to bring these necessities to the people of Haiti and Afghanistan? It is impossible and was never part of their plan. Because the government is not our ally, we as working and oppressed people are the ones who must lead the struggle against imperialist war and occupation. In doing this, we recognize that we have the same enemy as Afghans and Haitians; it is the government of Canada. Our weapon against their attacks is solidarity, fighting for and demanding self-determination for oppressed nations abroad and for social justice at home.

STOP THE CANADIAN WAR DRIVE!

Canada’s “Peacekeeper” Mask Drops

in Kabul and the warlords that run the majority of the country. However, they lost no time in exploiting the deaths of two Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan to double the Canadian military budget.

Canada’s imperialist strategy unfolded further to view through their February 2004 invasion of Haiti that overthrew Jean

Bertrand Aristide, Haiti’s first democratically elected president in history, and replaced him with the puppet government of Gerard Latorture.

Of course, none of this is really new. The foundation of Canada is the theft of Indigenous land and resources that make up all of the territory of Canada. This land has been stolen through the

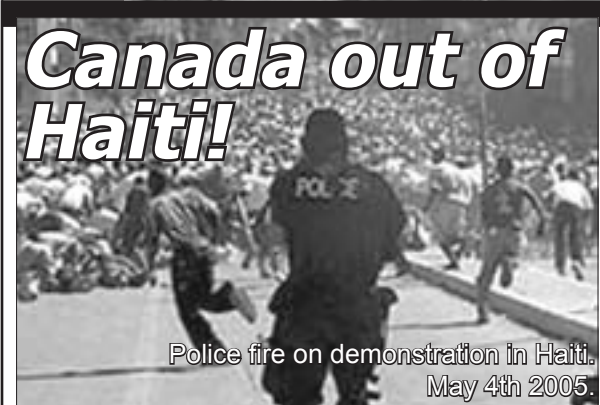
same methods that Canada is now using in Haiti and Afghanistan; through the genocide of entire Indigenous nations, the murder of millions of Indigenous people and the criminalization of Indigenous cultures and communities.

The implications of Hillier’s proclamations are huge. They call for an immediate escalation of war in Afghanistan and, additionally, for the deployment of 100 armoured vehicles to the Sudan. These “missions” require not only a deep investment in military budget and Canadian Forces recruitment, but a political campaign of the entire government of Canada to shift the consciousness of people in Canada to accept that “our job is to kill people” to accomplish C a n a d a ’ s imperialist a g e n d a . This means an escalation of the racist propaganda that Hillier threw out unopposed by any major politician that the opponents of Canadian imperialism are “terrorists”, “scumbags” a n d “murderers”.

Hillier’s statement must be a call to action for the anti-war movement and all progressive people in Canada. We must identify and organize against the occupation of Afghanistan as Canada’s Iraq. We must meet the racist and warmongering propaganda blow for blow and take up a campaign against Canadian war and occupation seriously, dedicated and without hesitation. We must struggle and organize against the coming Canadian war machine as though the lives of millions of people and the future of the world hang in the balance – because they do.

NO TO HILLIER’S RACIST WAR MONGERING!

CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!



On July 6, 2005 more than 350 UN occupation forces massacred 23 Haitians in Cite Soleil. Despite heavy repression, one week later the Haitian people met this with a demonstration of 5,000 in Cite Soleil. Canada’s involvement in an occupation responsible for this Cite Soleil’s massacre, increasing poverty in the poorest country in Latin America, countless murders and house raids has exposed the farce of Canada as a so-called peacekeeping nation.

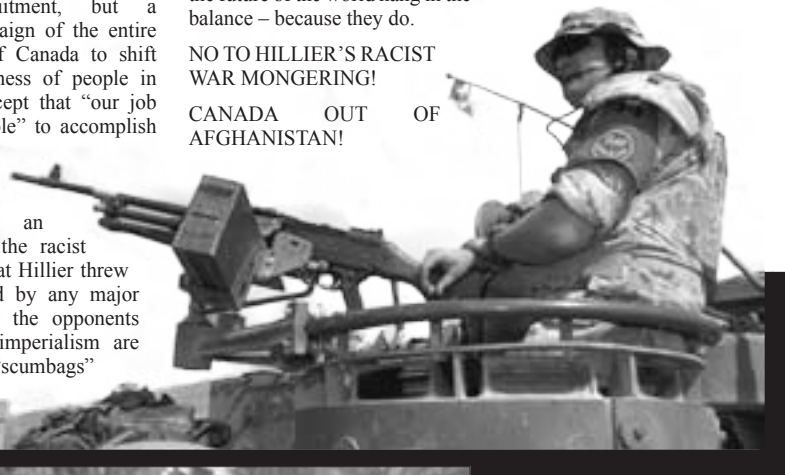
Since the February 29th, 2004 overthrow of Haiti’s first democratically elected president Aristide by Canadian, French and US forces, sharp contradictions

between action and words of the government of Canada have been exposed. The 100 RCMP sent to “stabilize” Haiti train former death squads who carry out the murderous campaign to eliminate all opposition to the occupation. With 132 years of experience in repressing Indigenous nations in Canada, the RCMP attempts to “restore law and order” in the favor of the occupation by training the so-called “Haitian National Police” to crush the fight for Haitian self-determination.

Since the overthrow of Aristide, the minimum wage in Haiti has been eliminated, opening the door for Canadian garment

CANADA OUT OF HAITI!
SELF-DETERMINATION FOR INDIGENOUS NATIONS IN CANADA!

Get involved with MAWO’s “Operation: Canada Out!” campaign with petition stops against the occupation of Afghanistan and Haiti all around the lower mainland and picket-demonstrations against the Canadian war drive outside of the Canadian Forces Recruitment Centre at 1070 W. Georgia St. The next picket-demonstration will be Thursday July 28th, 3pm to 4:30pm. Contact MAWO for more information.



Self Determination for Indigenous Nations in Canada!

Defend the Sto:lo, Mi’kmaq and all Indigenous nations in Canada!

When General Rick Hillier announced the expansion of Canada’s bloody imperialist strategy abroad, the colonial government at home, at the same time, was making moves to further consolidate stolen Indigenous land within Canada.

Mi’kmaq

On July 20th 2005, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that members of the Mi’kmaq Nation, whose territory makes up part of New Brunswick and all of

many acts of resistance within the last few years, members of the Cheam First Nation, which is part of the Sto:lo Nation, blockaded a fisheries truck and the Railway that goes through their territory in response to attacks by DFO officers on band councillors, and they blockaded the CN Railway once again to protest against the logging of Elk Creek by Cattermole Timber.

The new attacks by the DFO are attempts by the government



Novia Scotia, cannot harvest trees on their traditional territory without a permit from the colonial government. Contrary to treaties signed between the Mi’kmaq and British in 1760 and 1761, this ruling means that the government of Canada still refuses to acknowledge Mi’kmaq sovereignty over their territory.

The Mi’kmaq are an important Indigenous nation for the government of Canada to attack because they carry with them a legacy of strong resistance against colonial attacks, such as the Burnt Church fishing rights struggle against the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in 2000.

The denial of the Mi’kmaq’s right to harvest trees from their land, is one example among many of how the government of Canada is trying, again, to steal the land, resources and sovereignty of Indigenous nations in Canada.

Sto:lo

On July 17th 2005, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) officers seized nets from at least two Sto:lo vessels and threatened charges against the Sto:lo fishermen on the Fraser River, about 100 km outside of Vancouver. The fishermen were exercising their inherent rights to the resources in their rivers, rights that were never given up, or ceded, to the government of Canada or BC.

The Sto:lo also have fought against the DFO many times. Of

of Canada to suppress the Sto:lo people’s struggle for sovereignty. Continuing to fish is not only a matter of food and economy for Sto:lo people, it is a matter of resistance to a colonial government by an Indigenous nation seeking their right to their own land and resources.

Self-Determination!

The Canadian war drive is ultimately a question of land and resources, whether it is at the expense of Afghans, Haitians, or Indigenous people within Canada. To fight against this drive at home we must tackle Canada at its very rocky foundation: all poor and working people must unite with indigenous people to defend their sovereign right to their land and resources and demand their self-determination.

UPCOMING ACTION

EMERGENCY PICKET AND PROTEST
Against International Trade Agreements
CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!
CANADA OUT OF HAITI!
NO TO HILLIER'S RACIST WAR MONGERING!
Canada: "Peacekeeper" or "Terrorist Killer"?
Self-Determination for Indigenous Nations in Canada

3pm - 4:30pm
Thursday August 11
Canadian Forces Recruiting Office
(1070 W Georgia St)

Organized by: Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)
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MAWO # 10 Created by:
Kasia Machelak, Ian Beeching, Aaron
Mercredi, Ivan Drury, Brennan Luchsinger,
Alison Bodine.

Dia Internacional de Accion
Emergency International Day of Action

No Asylum in the US for Anti-Cuba Terrorist Luis Posada Carriles!
No Asilo en los EU. Para Este Terrorista Anti-Cubano Luis Posada Carriles!
EXTRADITE POSADA TO VENEZUELA!
EXTRADITAME A VENEZUELA!

US Hands Off Cuba!

Lift the Blockade Against Cuba!
Free the Cuban Five Held in US Jails!

march and rally
MONDAY AUGUST 29th
@ 4:30pm
Vancouver Art Gallery
(Robson St. & Howe St.)

¡EL MANDO FUERA DE CUBA!
¡Llévate al Biqueno Contra Cuba!

¡Libertad para los Cinco Cubanos Prisioneros en los EU!

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSO)
www.vancouverin solidarity.com

CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN
CANADA OUT OF HAITI
SELF-DETERMINATION FOR INDIGENOUS NATIONS IN CANADA

US/UK OUT OF IRAQ!
ISRAEL OUT OF PALESTINE!
US/EU HANDS OFF IRAN & SYRIA!

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!

RALLY & MARCH!
SATURDAY AUG 20TH **3PM**
Vancouver Art Gallery
(Robson St. & Howe St.)

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION
US/UK OUT OF IRAQ!

Self-Determination for Iran, Palestine, Afghanistan, Haiti, Iran, Syria and Indigenous Nations in Canada!
No Invasion! US/EU Hands Off Iran and Syria!

Bring All Troops Home Now! Stop the War at Home & Abroad!

3PM
SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 24
@ the Vancouver Art Gallery
(Georgia St. & Howe St.)

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION (MAWO)
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