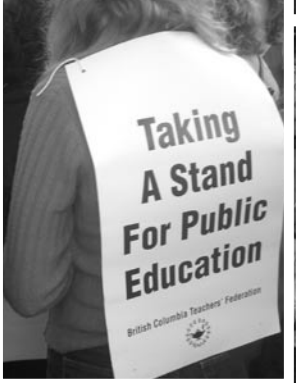


STOP THE WAR AT HOME AND ABROAD!

meansthat working people in BC are moving into the centre-stage-position of the fight for social justice against the reactionary attacks of big business and imperialist government. The brave and unified move of BCTF members to stand up and fight against the BC Liberal government attacks, despite the strike being slandered as “illegal” by the government and the courts, has already set an



Rally in support of striking BCTF workers, October 11 2005.



MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION

#11

example of struggle for all working people and sent a message to the government and big business. This message has been backed up with the solidarity of all unionists and working, poor and oppressed people in BC (including thousands of students!) who have stood with the BCTF in the streets and on the picket lines and shouted back, “An attack on one is an attack on all! Solidarity forever!” It is with this spirit of unity that MAWO and the anti-war movement also stands with the BCTF, the TWU and all working people, in defense of our right to organize, against the war at home, and for dignity and justice.

The wars and occupations that have launched the 21st Century have had an impact on working people in Canada beyond the feelings of solidarity we have for oppressed people facing the bombs and guns of war oceans away. These wars and occupations abroad have been accompanied by an increasing war at home. This war at home has taken the shape of the very attacks that we have witnessed over the summer in BC on the Telecommunication Workers Union (TWU), the Canadian Media Guild (CMG), and the BC Teachers Federation (BCTF).

The democratic right to organize: the foundation of all rights of all oppressed people

The attacks on all unions in BC in 2005 have one thing in common: they all attack the right of working people to organize. This similarity is also the reason that this chain of strikes and lockouts are so important for all working people in BC and across Canada. If the government and companies can take the right of working people to organize then all our other hard won rights fall vulnerable.

Telus vs. TWU (July 21, 2005 to present): When Telus locked out the TWU it was with the distinct purpose of breaking the union. Why? So that Telus will have the “flexibility” to “compete” on the world stage. The main sticking point of five years without a contract was that Telus wants to liquidate the TWU’s hard won contract protections against contracting out jobs.

CBC vs. CMG (August 15 - October 11, 2005): Another lock-out... and again the main issue is around union jobs, job security and contracting out. In a familiar refrain, the CBC’s position was that they needed to “streamline” operations to “compete” in a competitive media market.

BC Liberals vs. BCTF (October 7 to present): The BCTF strike began as a job action for reasonable pay raises and a reduction in class sizes. But after the government force-fed-legislated the old, completely unacceptable, contract back to the BCTF and refused to negotiate or recognize the BCTF to even be in a bargaining position, the strike took on new meaning. Overnight, the BCTF battle against the BC Liberal government took on a leadership position for the whole labour movement and all working people in BC. This was not only because the working conditions of teachers are also the learning conditions of more than 600,000 students in BC, but even more importantly, because the BCTF is fighting the battle of the right of working people to organize ourselves in unions, to hold these unions to protect our rights, and to use these unions as weapons to further our rights and interests against reactionary opponents like the BC Liberal government and big businesses throughout Canada.

BC Labour struggle: The centre stage of the struggle for social justice in Canada

As the government of Canada’s war abroad has come home, labour struggles have become a constant feature of life in British Columbia. The commonality of the attacks on all working people has made the solution plain: working people must unite in struggle, or be destroyed. The intensity and importance of the outcome of these struggles to all working people

NOT FOR WAR! Money for Jobs, Housing, Healthcare, Education, and Social Programs



Canada Out of Afghanistan!

Call for an Independent Public Inquiry into the Canadian Occupation of Afghanistan!

Inquiry into the Canadian Occupation of Afghanistan!

On October 5th 2005, three Canadian soldiers were wounded when a bomb went off near a Canadian military convoy in the outskirts of Kandahar. Less than a week later on October 12th, a rocket attack on the Canadian embassy in Kabul wounded two Afghans. The resistance to Canadian military presence in Afghanistan has been increasing since the decision to deploy 2,000 more troops to Afghanistan by February 2006. Defence Minister Bill Graham said himself that, “When we move our troops to the Kandahar region... it will actually be more in the line of a combat mission.” (Oct. 13th 2005). The declaration of

\$12.8 Billion in Canadian taxpayer dollars were recently added to the Canadian military budget in order to fund an occupation that simply causes increased suffering for the people of Afghanistan. As stated by the Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), “The persistence of the current instability and the West’s support of the Northern Alliance terrorists in Afghanistan proves that the US and her allies pay no attention to human rights and women rights, but seek only their political and economical interests.” This imperialist occupation becomes further exposed with the resistance to, and attacks on

Canadian Forces, which are increasing every day. **Call for an Independent Public Inquiry to organize against the Canadian war drive in Afghanistan!**

Since forming in October 2003, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) has been calling for an end to the occupation and an immediate withdrawal of all NATO, including Canadian, troops from Afghanistan. With the increased deployment of Canadian troops announced by General Rick Hillier in July 2005, the campaign for “Canada Out of Afghanistan” has gained urgency. Why was the decision to add 2,000 troops passed through parliament without public consultation? Why is \$26.8 Billion annually being

turned over to the military while the government cuts social programs? Is the occupation of Afghanistan legal? According to who? These questions have not been asked, let alone answered. Today, MAWO has responded to the lack of both public and parliamentary debate by calling for an independent public inquiry into Canada’s war drive in Afghanistan. This call will open the debate and set the foundation for the anti-war movement in Canada to organize against the occupation of Afghanistan.

US/UK, GONNOD HANDS OFF IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, PALESTINE, HAITI, SYRIA, IRON GURD & VENEZUELA

we can see that the involvement of the Canadian military in Afghanistan is not with benevolent ideals of helping an impoverished country rebuild itself.

the resistance to, and attacks on

Canada out of Afghanistan! Stop the Canadian War Drive! Call for an Independent Public Inquiry into the Canadian Occupation of Afghanistan!

SELF DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!

US/UK OUT OF IRAQ! Let War Resisters Stay in Canada!

“This is a very positive day for the Iraqis and as well for world peace,” shared George Bush, about the October 15th constitutional referendum in Iraq. But, after almost three years of occupation this constitution is as hollow as the shells of Iraqi homes and factories, bringing nothing but the continued promise of 160,000 troops, a shortage of food, water and electricity, unemployment and zero control for Iraqis over their own lives and futures.

This attempt at legitimacy, much like the elections in January, has not convinced Iraqis, the international community, or even the US troops that the occupation of Iraq is in the interests of oppressed people in Iraq or anywhere in the world.

War Resisters: Soldiers Who Fight for Justice

Recruitment goals for the US Army are 11% short of targets despite an increase in intensity of recruitment and 20% more recruiters on the streets. The US Government has desperately tried to instigate, “the most aggressive retention program since the American Civil War...The Army will spend a record \$400Million on bonuses this year to keep troops in the ranks” said Kelly

Fraser a representative from the Pentagon. At the same time troop morale in Iraq is almost non-existent, with over 10% of all soldiers in Iraq being held by the stop-loss



US War resister Kyle.

program without knowledge of when they will be allowed to go home.

Since the initial bombing and invasion, the Pentagon has admitted to nearly 6,000 US desertions. Some of these “War Resister” soldiers have returned to the US to face persecution, some remain underground and some have come to Canada demanding refugee status.



CUBA

VENEZUELA

Recently the governments of Cuba and Venezuela have come under

consistent attack by the United States administration. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has been the face of many of these attacks, saying on April 29th 2005, “It is well known that we have concerns about the Venezuelan government’s activities in this region that can be destabilizing, and the Venezuelan government’s activities at home which call into question its commitment to democracy.” Then on June 28th she said, “For nearly 50 years, the regime of Fidel Castro has condemned the people of Cuba to a tragic fate of repression and poverty...to accelerate the demise of Castro’s tyranny, President Bush created the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba.”

At the most recent United Nations summit in August 2005, Cuban and Venezuelan representatives challenged the US’ dominant role in the

also emphasized that the US is supposedly “fighting terrorism” while at the same time they are harboring self-confessed anti-Cuban terrorist Luis Posada Carriles

Cuba and Venezuela: Examples of how to stand up against imperialist aggression

The US administration accuses Cuba of forcing its population to live in “repression and poverty”, but the CIA’s own statistics show the great advances Cuba has made despite 45 years of economic blockade by the US. Some examples of this are Cuba’s unemployment rate, 2.5%, which is lower than the US at 5.5%. While more than 50 Million people in the US lack health insurance, and, for young people, going to university in the US means drowning in debt and poverty, both health care and university are free and

US HANDS OFF

UN, and drew attention to the hypocrisy of their phony “War Against Terrorism”, which is used by the US to justify its war in Iraq. Cuban and Venezuelan representatives

The anti-war movement must defend Cuba and Venezuela!

UPCOMING ACTION

**US/UK OUT OF IRAQ
CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN**

**STOP THE CANADIAN WAR DRIVE
STOP THE WAR AT HOME AND ABROAD**

**SELF DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINE,
HAITI, IRAN, SYRIA, CUBA, VENEZUELA,
INDIGENOUS NATIONS IN CANADA**

**MARCH + RALLY
MARCH 11th
MARCH 12th
MARCH 13th
MARCH 14th
MARCH 15th
MARCH 16th
MARCH 17th
MARCH 18th
MARCH 19th
MARCH 20th
MARCH 21st
MARCH 22nd
MARCH 23rd
MARCH 24th
MARCH 25th
MARCH 26th
MARCH 27th
MARCH 28th
MARCH 29th
MARCH 30th
MARCH 31st**



Iraqi Demonstration in Fallujah.

Of the reported 150 War Resisters in Canada, at least 12 have gone public. All have seen what the occupation of Iraq is, laid down their guns and refused to participate, exercising their basic rights as soldiers and human beings.

The Anti-War Movement in Canada must Defend War Resisters!

It is on these grounds that US War Resisters must be supported in Canada en masse. The Government of Canada denied refugee status to the first US War Resister Jeremy Hinzman, and this is only one example of many postponed hearings, and a complete state of limbo for War Resisters.

War Resisters is not only a direct affront to the war in Iraq, but a catalyst for Canada’s own rising anti-war movement which seeks to expose where the Government of Canada’s interests lie. These interests have little to do with oppressed people around the world, and

Self-determination for Iraq Now!

Refugee Status for US War Resisters in Canada!

US/UK Out of Iraq!

everything to do with blatant imperialist war and occupation.

All people in Canada who are interested in the cause of peace and justice must stand in solidarity with people in Iraq and for the rights of US soldiers and demand:

Refugee Status for US War Resisters in Canada!

US/UK Out of Iraq!

In this era of increasing wars and occupations- from Iraq to Haiti, from Afghanistan to Indigenous Nations in Canada and on to Palestine- Cuba and Venezuela stand as examples for those struggling against imperialist aggression. The increased attacks against them by the US administration must be taken seriously, not only for the principle of defending their right as oppressed nations to self-determination, but also because of what we stand to learn from these countries as countries that are fighting for justice, education, health and most of all as fighters against imperialism.

Get Involved

with MAWO!

Meetings every wednesday!

6-30pm

Britannia Community Center

1861 Napier st

(Commercial dr @ Napier)

www.mawovancouver.org

Mawo Newsletter #11 created by Alison Bodine, Shaakei Lochan, Shannon Burdock, Nita Palmer, Sophie Ziner, Tamara Hansen, Ivan Dury, Andrew Malenri, Brian Luchtsinger, Thomas Davies.

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