

MAWO

The Newsletter of Mobilization Against War and Occupation

www.mawovancouver.org / mawoinfo@yahoo.ca / 604-322-1764

OCCUPATION IS OCCUPATION

***End the Occupation of Iraq,
Palestine and Afghanistan***

**END THE US / UK OCCUPATION OF IRAQ!
NO UN OCCUPATION!
OCCUPATION IS OCCUPATION BY ANY FORCE!**

Just after the US appointed the Iraqi Governing Council in November 2003, they resumed their bombing campaign on the people of Iraq. This bombing campaign leveled entire neighbourhoods from helicopter gunships, established new military checkpoints and carried out desperate and murderous raids of 'suspected terrorist hideouts.' Despite public statements about beginning the 'transfer of power' to the Iraqi people, the US / UK forces are clearly still locked in a war for the control of Iraq. Increasingly, the US / UK forces are losing this war to the people of Iraq who are heroically resisting imperialism, with or without the US puppet Governing Council.

The so-called 'transfer of power' to the Governing Council has not affected the status of the 160,000 occupying troops in Iraq and it has not had any real effect on the imperialist strategy behind the US / UK occupation. The Governing Council itself is in shambles. An article in the New York Times in November showed part of this disintegration, stating 'only seven or eight of the 24 GC [Governing Council] members show up at meetings anymore.'

If the creation of the Governing Council has not changed the nature of the occupation of Iraq, and is not even functioning as a governing body then why was it established and why does it still exist? The answer is that the establishment of the hand picked Governing Council was a US tactic to change the face of the occupation in order to try to strengthen the same old imperialist body. By changing the face of the occupation, the US hoped to increase the legitimacy of the occupation in the eyes of the Iraqi people and all those around the world who oppose the occupation. This mask has already fallen away and no one, least of all the Iraqi people, has been fooled.

However, the failure of the Governing Council is the least of the US's problems. A recent Newsweek poll has rated the disapproval rate for Bush's policies in Iraq risen to over 40% in the US. Outside the US, the problem is even worse for imperialists. A recent poll conducted by Pew research has shown that growing international anti-Americanism is generally directed towards the policies, not the people of the US. The root of this shift in consciousness towards anti-imperialism amongst poor, working and oppressed people all around the world, which could be called the anti-war movement, is the biggest problem the US has in carrying out their imperialist conquering of Iraq. The root of this movement is the Iraqi resistance.

Despite the establishment of the Governing Council, despite the bombing campaigns of 'Operation Iron Hammer' and 'Operation Ivy Cyclone' and despite the huge spectacle that was made of the capture of Saddam Hussain, the resistance against the occupation of Iraq continues to build. Beyond the daily attacks on US and coalition troops, helicopters, bases and hotels are the demonstrations, marches and strikes that are activating all the people of Iraq against the occupation and against imperialism. This resistance has trapped the US in a losing game. With the bodycount of US soldiers past the 500 mark and the occupying forces in growing danger of being driven out, the US's choices are running out and they are getting more desperate.

The agenda behind the co-called progressive talk of 'internationalizing the occupation' through the United Nations is nothing more than a bigger, more elaborate Governing Council. Attacks by Iraqi resistance have shown that people in Iraq are against the occupation of their country, period. Occupation, whether carried out by US or UN forces, would be the same occupation and would be met with the same resistance. Whether it is an occupation controlled by the US or by a wider grouping of imperialist countries does not make any difference to the Iraqi people.

There are only two sides in the debate about the occupation of Iraq: for or against. The anti-war movement in Vancouver and internationally must take the side of the Iraqi people. Their resistance is the foundation of the anti-war movement and their demands must be our demands: **END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ PALESTINE AND AFGHANISTAN! SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ, PALESTINE AND AFGHANISTAN! BRING ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**



Canadian Soldiers in Kabul, Jan 15, 04

CANADA'S HANDS OFF AFGHANISTAN!

Since the deployment of some 1,500 Canadian troops to Afghanistan in 2001, Canada has been actively participating in the US-led war on terrorism and trying to improve its position among other imperialist countries on the world stage. This occupation is failing for Canadian and US imperialism whose forces have failed to establish themselves or their puppet government beyond Kabul and, admittedly, have no control over Afghanistan. From the time of the supposed liberation of the Afghan people to date, the conditions for women and all oppressed people in Afghanistan have not really changed.

After a US air raid hit eastern Afghanistan in December 2003 killing six children, not coincidentally the second US air raid within twenty-four hours to murder Afghan children, the United Nations called for an inquiry on US coalition forces. The UN said the blunder and others alike create "A sense of fear and insecurity" for Afghans. Life under military occupation and beneath a puppet government headed by President Hamid Karzai and controlled by imperialists is a life of fear and insecurity for the Afghan people. Karzai's promises for so-called free elections by June 2004 would be controlled by these same imperialists. The same fear, oppression and insecurity that Afghan people felt under the Taliban are ever present under the Canadian forces occupation. Suffering from this violent oppression and poverty under occupation, the Afghan resistance to occupation is rising. *(continued on back)*



Israeli bulldozer levels Palestinian home; Jan 23, 04

Endorsers of MAWO events to date: BC Hospital Employees Union, Simon Fraser Student Society, Langara Students Union, Kwantlen University College Student Association, UBC Graduate Students Society, Douglas Students Union, Lawyers Against the War, Native Youth Movement - Vancouver, Indigenous Environmental Network, Capilano Social Justice Committee, 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...

BRING THE TROOPS HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN! *(continued from front)*

Canada's plans to lead occupation forces in Afghanistan in 2004 and its unofficial involvement with the war on Iraq (relieving US forces in Afghanistan to go to Iraq, providing billions of dollars in military equipment, providing intelligence surveillance and through the refueling of US aircrafts carrying troops and supplies to Iraq) are all signs pointing towards its developing role in this new era of war and occupation. Currently, in Canada, this role is masked under the guise of "Peace-keeping". According to Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan Chris Alexander, 'Paul Martin, in his [Liberal Leadership] acceptance speech, made quite a big emphasis on looking hard at our foreign and defense policies and how they

might be adjusted to meet the challenges of the current world'. The 'Current world', being this new era of fierce competition between imperialist countries for new markets and for the domination of already existing markets, resources, regions, nations and people. Have we forgotten already that Canada is the same imperialist-colonial country whose foundation was built upon the murder, plundering and exploitation of indigenous people? Do we fail to recognize that this same "Peacekeeping" country persists in humiliating and suppressing the self-determination of indigenous peoples within

Canada's borders for their own colonial-imperialist interests? It is the same racist-colonialist assertion that Indigenous nations in Canada cannot govern themselves on their own land as with the Afghan people. It is the same imperialist racism, war and occupation that asserts that the Afghan people are somehow incapable of determining their own destiny without the help of outside forces. And these are the same racist imperialists that will continue their attacks, wars and occupations on the people of the third-world if we in the anti-war movement don't stand in strong solidarity with the Afghan peoples' fight for self-determination and demand 'Canada out of Afghanistan! Bring all troops home now!'



END RACIST SECRET TRIALS IN CANADA!

Justice for Adil Charkaoui and all immigrants, refugees and non-status people in Canada!

Adil Charkaoui moved to Canada with his family in 1995 from the North African country of Morocco. All his family has been granted Canadian citizenship but he has been continuously denied.

Since May of 2003, Adil, a permanent Canadian resident, has been detained without charges in a Canadian prison because CSIS and the Canadian government have accused him of having links to al-Qaeda. No evidence has been presented to back up this allegation and no criminal charges have been laid. Considered 'guilty until proven innocent,' Charkaoui appeared before a judge on Friday January 23rd for his second attempt to be released on bail. Without any evidence to prove it, the judge upheld the CSIS 'Security Certificate' and decided that Adil remains a 'threat to Canadian national security.' Along with four other Muslim men held on Security Certificates in Ontario and Quebec, Adil Charkaoui is being held in prison while the government plans his deportation from Canada.

The Security Certificate provisions of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, passed in the wake of 9-11, allows the Canadian government to arrest, detain and deport non-canadian-citizens who are accused of being a 'national security threat.' The detainees have no chance of bail, their detention can be indefinite, and no one including themselves or their defense is allowed access to the evidence being used against them. This process also includes closed and secret sessions in which the detainee and the defense cannot participate and the court is not given a mandate to deny the allegations.

Security Certificates and Secret Trials are in fact part of the Canadian government's campaign of racist fear-mongering, using the cover of 'National Security' to terrorize immigrant and refugee communities of colour. By attacking and criminalizing Muslims and Arabs in Canada, Security Certificates and Secret Trials continue the oppression of people displaced by war, occupation and global poverty and support imperialist war and occupation abroad.

We demand an end to racist Security Certificates and Secret Trials and an end to the criminalization of Muslims, Arabs, immigrants and refugees in Canada. We demand the immediate release of Adil Charkoui and that he not be deported. We must demand the abolishment of so-called 'Security Certificates' and 'Secret Trials' in the interests of equality and justice for all immigrants, refugees, non-status people and everyone in Canada and for an end to imperialist war and occupation at home and abroad.

JUSTICE FOR ADIL CHARKAOU! NO ONE IS ILLEGAL!

CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN! BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW!

Canada Prime Minister Paul Martin, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham: Canada is currently increasing the size and scope of its role in the occupation of Afghanistan, and as the killing, destruction and oppression of the people of Afghanistan also increases, the Afghan people are still fighting for self-determination and against foreign control of their country.

In response, we, the undersigned, demand that Canada immediately remove all troops from Afghanistan and cease any intervention in Afghanistan. We insist that the demands of the Afghan people for sovereignty be met and that all occupying forces are removed.

NAME:	ADDRESS:	SIGNATURE:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Please clip and mail the completed petition to:

Mobilization Against War and Occupation

PO Box 21607 Vancouver BC V5L 5G3

For more info or more petitions: mawoinfo@yahoo.ca / www.mawovancouver.org / 604-322-1764

GET INVOLVED WITH MAWO!

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

Are you young? A student? A young worker? **JOIN THE STUDENT-YOUTH COMMITTEE AGAINST WAR:**

Meetings every Thursday, 6:30pm @ Joe's Café, 1198 Commercial Dr.

Back by popular demand from an over capacity premier:

UNCOVERED:

THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT THE IRAQ WAR
(followed by critical discussion about the film and the state of war and occupation today)

FEBRUARY 8TH, 6:30PM

@ COLLINGWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE,
5288 JOYCE ST (1 block South of the Joyce Skytrain Station)

A free film night organized by MAWO

MAWO PRESENTS *An Anti-war / Anti-Occupation conference:*

THE POLITICS OF WAR AND OCCUPATION... (and why the war is not over)

SUN FEB 22ND

- 10AM TO 7PM -

@ Britannia Centre,

1661 Commercial Drive

CONFRONTING IMPERIALISM AND COLONIZATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Global Day of Action

**BRING ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!
END THE OCCUPATION!**

MARCH 20TH

- 1PM - VAG -

THE WAR IS NOT OVER!

Organized by MAWO

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