



MAWO

Mobilization Against War and Occupation

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END THE COLONIAL OCCUPATION OF IRAQ!

The Message of the Iraqi People's Uprising:

US-UK and all foreign troops Out of Our country!

End Occupation, Iraq For Iraqis!

No Liberation With Occupation, Yes to Self-Determination!

Hundreds of dead bodies on the streets of more than 15 cities in Iraq, blood, shattered bones, smoke and gunfire everywhere. The killing and shooting of innocent people by US and allied forces, the bombing and rocketing of homes, schools and hospitals, and demonstrations in every major city and town against occupation and mass killing; are all the result of the 'liberation' that the US brought to Iraq one year ago. One year after the occupation of Iraq began the United States has achieved nothing but a state of terror and blood in Iraq. A week prior to the beginning of the US's new military terror campaign of April 4th the US imposed an extension of war on the people of Iraq. They began this campaign by shutting down the main opposition newspaper and arresting key opposition leaders. Since Last Sunday April 4th, more than a thousand people have been killed, with more than 500 in Falluja alone. Thousands have been injured and hundreds of homes and buildings have been destroyed by the US military machine. In just the first six days of this 'siege' more than 51 US soldiers have been killed, bringing the total death of American soldiers since 'liberating' Iraq to 652 soldiers.

People's Resistance Deepens the Crisis in Iraq for Occupiers

The course of events in Iraq, including the increase in mass resistance to occupation and growing anti-imperialist sentiment, has deepened the differences within the US ruling class and also the US appointed Governing Council. In the US there has been a heavy criticism of George Bush's handling of the war and occupation. Many politicians have expressed their serious concern that Iraq is moving toward a mass insurrection and possibly revolution, as well as that another defeat like Vietnam could completely destroy the US's ability to maintain its course of military aggression and hegemony in the world. Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts said in an official statement and also in an interview with CNN that, "This is the George Bush's Vietnam War."

In Iraq the situation is even worse. According to the Aljazeera website, "Several of the council's 25 members spoke out against what they called the 'mass punishment' of Fallujah's people in the siege, launched early Monday by U.S. forces to uproot insurgents in the city." Resulting from the deep crisis within ruling circles in Iraq, at least three members of the Iraqi Governor Council (IGC) resigned until the issue is resolved peacefully with negotiation. Also last Monday, the Iraqi interior minister resigned under pressure and in defiance to the US military offensive. The situation is so volatile and sensitive that Pachachi, the closest member of the IGC to the US criticized the US, saying, "We consider the action carried out by US forces as illegal and totally unacceptable."

Why a US offensive Now?

Recent US military aggression against the people of Iraq is a result of a couple of factors. Generally, this was an inevitable action by the US in light of their total failure to bring "Democracy", to "Liberate" Iraq and establish a legitimate government and constitution. The US and Paul Bremer, its representative in Iraq, failed on all accounts. In the political level, the governing council is, more than ever, split on every issue with many members already resigned or considering resignation. The IGC also failed to become a legitimized body of governing for Iraq since it has never been accepted as an independent body by people in Iraq, and the constitution which passed by the IGC became, in a matter of days, irrelevant and unacceptable for people. In fact, every political initiative and political discourse of the US and its puppet IGC to create a new US-desired-Iraq has failed completely. On the level of economy, the situation is even worse since unemployment is higher and people are worse off than even under the Saddam Hussein regime. In spite of the CNN report that the US and IGC have created new jobs, internet cafes, installed new computers in colleges, and fixed the water system, all and all, these reported actions have not covered even 10 percent of Iraqi needs for a new life and a minimum decent standard of living.



To understand all these political and economical disasters, one must add the frequent killings, arrests, the torture of Iraqi people by the US-UK and its allies and the mounting repression to suppress independent and opposition voices in Iraq.

The deteriorating political and economical situation in Iraq in the last couple of months made the US ruling class very nervous and uncertain about the future of Iraq; and more concretely, uncertain about the effectiveness of their vicious terror tactics. A growing unrest has risen based on dissatisfaction with US policies and the increasingly repressive measures of the US killing military machine against the human and democratic rights of Iraqis. This unrest has made it clear for the US ruling class and Pentagon that Iraq is heading to a social explosion that could make the US presence in Iraq a fantasy. The present war and military offensive on the people of Iraq is an attempt to chop off the head of this growing anti-imperialist consciousness in advance before it becomes completely out of control and revolutionary.

Iraqi People United Against Occupation

In spite of the so-called 'Shiite against Sunni' fabrications that attempt to make Iraq's political problems look like a religious factional fight, the course of events since March 20 have shown clearly that there is a strong convergence movement in Iraq between different religious branches or ethnic groups against occupation. On March 19 and 20, hundreds of thousands of Sunni and Shiite people all around Iraq marched and rallied together against the US-UK criminal occupation. Even Colin Powell, US Secretary of State, had to admit this new important development when he said last Friday, "...there are signs of tactical contact between Shia and Sunni..." He is damn right on that.

The emergence of a united mass anti-imperialist, anti-war and anti-occupation movement in Iraq has opened a new era of mass protest that will advance the struggle of Iraqi people for liberation and sovereignty. Despite the recent US-imposed war on the people of Iraq, this new factor – the emergence of a united anti-imperialist consciousness - will eventually change the relationship of forces in favour of the working people and toilers of Iraq. The international community, and especially people who live in Canada, must support this very important development. We also cannot remain silent and passively observant to what is going on in Iraq right now. We need to stop this massacre and stop the terrorization of Iraqi people. It's time to say, along with the Iraqi people, "End Occupation!" "Iraq for Iraqis!" In the last year, the Iraqi people have shown a great power of organization and mobilization for resistance and fight back. Let's join them.

MAWO IS ENDORSED BY: Amigos De Cuba, AMS Bike Co-op, AMS Womens Center, BC Hospital Employees Union, Bikes Not Bombs Vancouver, Capilano Social Justice Committee, Coalition Against the War on the People of Iraq, Colour Connected-UBC, DJ-Ariel & Friends, Douglas Students Union, Emily Carr Student Association, Emily Carr Student Coalition for Social Justice, Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, Free the Cuban Five Committee, Seattle Freedom Socialist Party, Friends and Family of Mexican Political Prisoners, Indigenous Environmental Network, Iranian Committee Against War, Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Advocates, Korean Student Network Against War, Kwantlen University College Student Association, Langara First Nations Centre, Langara GLOBAL, Langara Students Union, Langara Women's Centre, Lawyers Against the War, Lisa Barrett - Mayor Bowen Island, Manik 1derful-Hiphop MC, Mesopotamian Orphans & Women Education & Welfare Society, Muslim Youth Centre-Surrey, Native Youth Movement - Vancouver, Pride UBC, Purple Thistle Youth Center, Queers United Against Kapitalism, Redwire Native Youth Media, Richmond Mosque, Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group, Simon Fraser Student Society, Stereoground Band, Student-Youth Committee Against War, Toronto Native Youth, Tri-Cities Mosque, UBC Africa Network, UBC Graduate Students Society External Affairs Committee, UBC Graduate Students Society, UBC Social Justice Center, UBC Student Environment Center, Vancouver Community College Students Union, Youth-Third World Alliance

Beyond March 20... Alongside the Iraqi People



"The people who are occupied have the right to fight occupation, whatever the means they use."

- Mosque imam Sheikh Ahmad Abdel Ghafur al-Samarrai on the fighting in Falluja

The international mobilizations of March 20th came and went as a powerful symbolic date in the history of the anti-war movement in Vancouver and around the world. But the real challenge for the international anti-war movement came at the end of the mass mobilizations on March 20: **WHAT NEXT?**

This question was answered for the anti-war movement less than three weeks after the demonstrations of March 20 by the most important anti-war organizers in the world: the Iraqi people.

On Sunday April 4th, the US launched a brutal offensive against people in towns and cities across Iraq. The Iraqi people fought back against the most powerful military force in the world with a unified resistance that should serve as an example to the international anti-war movement.

In the middle of the US-led 'siege' of Falluja, thousands of Iraqis marched down the highway from neighbouring Baghdad, burst through a line of soldiers and marched on to Falluja to deliver food and supplies to the people locked in combat against the US military machine. The same day of this heroic march, MAWO joined the call issued by International ANSWER for an international mobilization against the brutality of the US 'siege' and in support of the Iraqi resistance.

Because the battle in Falluja is not the end of the occupation, MAWO will continue organizing against the occupation of Iraq. And with the shift of the Canadian ruling class into a more active role in the international imperialist race for war, occupation and profit, MAWO is organizing a **march and rally on April 24th** to protest and resist this escalated imperialist strategy to 'put Canada back on the world stage.' It is our job, as an anti-war coalition in Canada, to expose, resist, and fight back against the role of Canada in the wars, occupations, destruction and plundering of the world, including the theft of indigenous land in Canada itself.

MAWO is continuing this fight through the months of April, May and beyond. On May 15th, MAWO has already begun planning for a major anti-war / anti-occupation conference focussed on the imperialist actions of the Canadian ruling class.

And on May 29th, we are planning for an **important demonstration** to lead us into a summer of resistance, focussing on the fundamental demand of self-determination for the people of Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, Haiti and Indigenous nations in Canada.

In this era of imperialist war and occupation, all poor, working and oppressed people must take a stand with the people who are fighting the battles against these

wars and occupations on the front lines. To take a stand alongside the Iraqi resistance means to build an effective mass movement capable of driving back the US, Canada and all imperialist powers. And since the fight against plundering and occupation and for self-determination and dignity is the same fight at home as it is abroad, the struggles of the Iraqi people against imperialism really are the struggles of this movement in Vancouver too.

MAWO is organizing to build this movement, alongside the Iraqis, Palestinians, Afghans and Indigenous people who are leading the fight against imperialism, war and occupation every day. This unity must continue so that every day is an international day of action in solidarity with the people of Iraq in struggle against the greatest weapon of mass destruction in the world: US imperialism.

We invite you to join us.



US gets ahold of a cactus

24 April CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN, HAITI AND INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES IN CANADA! PROTEST MARCH AND RALLY 12NOON ART GALLERY

25 April MAWO Fundraiser: El Cocal (1037 Commercial Drive) Doors 8:30 / 9pm
THE MUSIC OF RESISTANCE

15 May **Building a movement for self determination:**
in Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, Haiti and Indigenous Nations in Canada
An Anti-war / Anti-Occupation conference (location TBA)

29 May **SELF DETERMINATION:** US / UK Out of Iraq!
Sovereignty for Indigenous Peoples in Canada! Israel out of Palestine!
1pm Vancouver Art Gallery Canada Out of Afghanistan!
Canada / France / US Out of Haiti!



**GET INVOLVED
WITH MAWO!**

MEETINGS EVERY
WEDNESDAY 6:30PM
Britannia Community Centre
(Napier St. at Commercial Drive)

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