

MWOWO #4

Mobilization Against War & Occupation

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DEMOCRACY IN AMERICAN STYLE OCCUPATION IS TORTURE



President George Bush has recently repeatedly emphasized that the US military intervention in Iraq has introduced 'democracy' to Iraq; and that the ultimate goal of the war was the 'liberation' of Iraq. What George Bush didn't reveal was that the US merely liberated Iraq from Saddam for the purpose of enslaving it for US capital and corporations. All the examples of brutality, humiliation, suppression and torture exercised upon the people of Iraq are the best proof of that.

In the last month American style 'democracy' and 'liberation' have undoubtedly been shattered by two new moral and political failures.

One: Mainstream media all around the world, especially in the US, has portrayed the pictures of Iraqi civilians tortured and sodomized in the Abu Ghraib prison with shock and disbelief. It is needless to say that people who are familiar with mainstream media manipulation know that these crocodile tears are nothing but damage control. The extent of the brutality, inhumanity and illegality portrayed in these pictures has brought shame and embarrassment for Americans.

The magnitude of the US government becoming more hated by the people of the world is so huge and so frightening that even top American politicians have no choice but to confess it. But the question was, is and will be: Is this behavior atypical of the US government and the routine practice of its military killing machine?

People from the third world, from Vietnam to the Philippines and Indonesia, from Afghanistan and Iran to Grenada and Panama and Chile tell us 'NO, we have lost millions of our loved ones to this military killing machine and its torture chambers.' Abu Gharaib is not an exception to the rule but is a repeated morale failure of the US government for decades around the world.

Two: The myth of the 'hand over of power' to a sovereign new independent Iraqi government on June 30th. This claim is nothing but a big hoax, and indeed an insult to human intelligence. How can Iraq become a 'sovereign' nation, and how will Iraqis gain their 'full self-determination' according to George Bush, when:

- a.) After the 'hand over' there will be 160,000 US/UK soldiers in Iraq who will ultimately determine every aspect of life including running the government in Iraq;
- b.) If the US military machine is not intact in Iraq, who is going to protect US companies and corporations' 250 billion dollars of investment in exploiting Iraqi people and plundering their resources?
- c.) Can this so-called independent government make its own decisions and ask the US to get lost? and;
- d.) What legitimacy will this government-administration body have when 99.99 percent of Iraqi people have had no say on it? And finally;
- e.) Even if there was an election in Iraq, what kind of legitimate election would it be when there are 160,000 US soldiers occupying Iraq? How would it look if during the next US presidential election, the United States was occupied by 3 million Iraqi, Palestinian, Iranian, Pakistani and Afghan soldiers armed to the teeth ready to enforce the election result democratically?!



It is time that the US and all other imperialist powers understand that the war game is over and immediate withdrawal is on the agenda, if it is not already too late. Remember the French in Indochina and Algeria? The US in Vietnam and Somalia? England in India and Afghanistan? This one will be a big defeat for the US,

bigger than all previous defeats together.

The people of Iraq will resist occupation and colonization; and so do we, in support and in solidarity with them, now, tomorrow, in the future and to the last breath.

US OUT OF IRAQ! BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME NOW!

PULLING BACK OR NEW ATTACK WHAT IS THE REAL INTENTION OF ISRAEL IN GAZA?



"Warning: Sharon resembles a wounded bull. A wounded bull is a dangerous animal. His plan is dead. He is incapable of dismantling a single settlement. His only way out is to order a spectacular military operation."

-Israeli newspaper, Gush Shalom, in an article expressing the view of 60% of Sharon's own party opposing the plan to withdraw from Gaza and dismantle settlements; May 2004

"There is no forgiveness for the people who treat an old woman this way."
-Israeli Justice Minister *Yoses Lapid*, In response to this photo from Rafah May 2004

Since the beginning of May 2004, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have launched an offensive against Palestinians in Rafah, one of the largest and oldest refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. From the first to the 10th of May,

Israel demolished more than 400 residential buildings, creating over 1,100 homeless Palestinians. Then, on May 13th, the IDF launched "Operation Rainbow" escalating the slaughter and destruction in Rafah. The declared objective of this mission, according to Israeli officials, is to destroy a network of underground tunnels between Rafah and Egypt by toppling between 600 and 2,000 Palestinian houses along the Egyptian border south of Rafah. As of May 28, 220 houses have already been turned to ash, while another 140 have been crippled, leaving 4,487 (821 families)



cont...

MAWO is Endorsed by:

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

Palestine Under Attack Cont....

innocent victims homeless, without a place to rest their heads at night. Naturally, the devastation of Operation Rainbow has not been restricted to the destruction of inanimate objects. Fifty-six Palestinians, ten of whom were children, have been senselessly murdered, with another 200 injured.

Amidst these attacks, Israel is claiming to be withdrawing from the Gaza Strip. If they are really leaving, why the new military offensive? If these tunnels are such a threat, why would the IDF leave to allow them to be rebuilt? In fact, Sharon is not withdrawing from Rafah at all. Even under their admitted plans, Israel would continue the occupation by maintaining the control over the airspace and borders of Rafah and all of the Gaza Strip, even after the so-called 'withdrawal' is complete.

This move is opposed by many settlers and most of Sharon's party itself, but, according to Sharon, is necessary in order to maintain key settlements and all of Palestine 'for all eternity.' Through the murder and destruction in Rafah in May alone, it is easy to see just what is meant by Israeli 'withdrawal': the continued murder, terrorization and suppression of Palestinians in order for Israel to take and maintain control over all of Palestine.

When people throughout Palestine and around the world call for an end to the brutal Israeli occupation, it is not for this phony 'withdrawal'. We are against this murder and destruction, for an immediate end to 'Operation Rainbow' and for the full self-determination of all Palestinians.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ORGANIZED BY MAWO

June 12th : Antiwar Picnic

Who is MAWO? Join us for a day of speakers, bar-b-q, music, performances and antiwar movement building

1pm into the evening at Trout Lake Park
Victoria dr. at 12th Ave

Vancouver Mobilizes, United!

Muslim Community Protests War and Occupation

In response to increased and brutal attacks being waged on the people of Iraq, the torture inflicted by the US/UK occupation and in solidarity with the Iraqi resistance, communities worldwide have increased mobilization in recent weeks. On Monday May 24, as part of this growing international momentum, more than 1,500 people gathered in downtown Vancouver in response to a call-out made by the Council of Shia Muslim Communities of BC (CSMC-BC), United Muslims, Muslim Canadian Federation and other religious and humanitarian groups. Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) supported and actively built this event from the outset of the organizing effort.



Speakers who addressed the crowd represented Hindu, Christian, Buddhist and Muslim communities, students, women, immigrants and refugees. From Clergy for Compassionate Humanity to young Muslim women studying at university, speakers condemned the US occupation of Iraq and the torture of Iraqi people. Speakers called on all of us to unite; as the Shia and Sunni have in Iraq, as working and oppressed

people in struggle all over the world must to effectively build opposition against those who use war and occupation to plunder the wealth of third world Muslim and working people. The unity displayed on May 24th was inspiring. This is an important step forward for the Vancouver anti-war movement. Overcoming the divisions imposed on us, as poor, working, and oppressed people

in struggle, by the same forces oppressing people abroad, allows us to unite and become stronger against imperialism. This unity means that we will become stronger along with our brothers and sisters worldwide as, together, we build a powerful, dynamic and effective movement against war and against occupation. END THE US/UK OCCUPATION! STOP THE TORTURE AND DESTRUCTION! IRAQ FOR IRAQIS!



June 19th : Public Forum

The US-UK 'Handover' of Power in Iraq:

Independence or Hoax
Can the promised June 30th 'transfer of power' happen under occupation? A free public forum to demand an immediate, unlimited and unconditional end to the occupation and for self-determination for Iraq. Collingwood Neighborhood House (2 blocks south of Joyce skytrain) *this event not organized by Collingwood*

June 26th : Fundraiser

Music Against Occupation
A MAWO Cultural Night and Fundraiser

Doors 8:30 Show 9:00
El Cocal - 1037 Commercial Dr.
Performers TBA
check out www.mawovancouver.org for updates!

June 30th: National Day of Action

No 'Handover' Under Occupation!
Self-Determination Now!
End the Occupation of Iraq!

5:30 PM

Rally : Vancouver Art Gallery
March to US and UK Consulates

MAWO # 4 Created by Nicole Burton, Ali Yerevani, Nikki Kourmouzis, Kira Koshelanyk, Tim Fraser, Brennan Luchsinger, Samad Irani, Nasim Sedaghat, and Ivan Drury

GET INVOLVED WITH MAWO!

Meetings every Wednesday 6:30 PM at Britannia Community Center (Napier St. at Commercial Dr.)

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