

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION

#5

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

Iraq After June 30:

The Occupation is Not Over!

Since the so-called 'handover' of sovereignty in Iraq on June 30th, the events on the ground make one thing clear: the occupation of Iraq is not over, and the so-called 'handover' was nothing but a hoax designed to provide a cover for the continued US-led occupation of Iraq. This occupation has been a disaster for the imperialist occupiers, and in the few weeks since June 30th the crisis of the occupation has only deepened, for both the people in Iraq and the forces suppressing them.

Along with the continued presence of over 160,000 troops, the US-led occupation forces have continued their relentless assaults and bloodbath against the people in Iraq since June 30th. In the last 3 weeks, in the name of rooting out 'Al-Qaida' elements in Fallujah, the US has officially 'resumed' its bombing campaign in Fallujah 3 times, each time causing the deaths of dozens of Iraqis and completely destroying Iraqi homes and neighborhoods. With this many bombings, can the US really claim to have ever stopped its assaults on the people in Fallujah?

Using the same methods as the US to justify these massacres in the name of fighting 'terrorism,' the Prime Minister of the US-appointed interim government Iyad Allawi has officially given what he referred to as a 'green light' for the US-led forces to carry out this wholesale slaughter of Iraqis in Fallujah. This shows the true extent to which this so-called 'handover' in Iraq was nothing but a hoax: what 'sovereign' government would rubber stamp the slaughter of its own people by occupying forces? This act by the 'interim government,' along with the host of other repressive measures it has either approved of or carried out since June 30th, further exposes the fact that the imperialist occupation in Iraq



Iraqi protest outside U.S. Military Base, July 2004



Demonstration in Iraq, July 22nd 2004

has not ended.

This is only the latest of the several crises in legitimacy that the US-led occupying forces have faced in Iraq since the initial war on Iraq began in March 2003. The Abu Ghraib prison scandal struck a tremendous blow to the moral legitimacy of the occupation in the eyes of working and oppressed people all over the world, and this scandal continues to deepen as the number of allegations of prisoner abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan reaches 94.

Outside of Iraq, the crisis of the US-led occupation in maintaining support and assistance from other countries deepened as the Philippines, faced with the potential beheading of a Filipino man who was being held in Iraq, joined the several other countries that have pulled their troops out from Iraq. Facing the growing threat of anti-imperialism from its own population, the government of the Philippines decided that it had to pull its troops or potentially set off an uprising that it might not be able to contain.

The continued resistance of the Iraqi people to the occupation of their country is the main factor that is creating this overall crisis for the forces occupying Iraq. Faced with unbearable conditions under the US-led occupation, including more than 70% unemployment, terrible sanitation conditions, and almost zero 'reconstruction' of even the most basic social services

and infrastructure, the Iraqi people are doing what human beings have naturally and always done when faced with such grueling conditions of occupation: they are fighting back. The brutal repression, killing, maiming, and imprisonment they face as the US-led occupation forces attempt to suppress this resistance have not been able to crush the need for the people in Iraq to struggle against these inhuman conditions.

Since the June 30th 'handover' in Iraq, attacks have been carried out by the Iraqi resistance against US military installations, members of the new 'interim' government, and the fledgling US-trained Iraqi police forces. In addition, the mass mobilizations of Iraqis throughout the country continue on almost a daily basis, especially mobilizations of the ever-growing unemployed Iraqis demanding jobs, basic labour standards, and an end to the occupation.

It is the responsibility of people worldwide who are opposed to war and occupation to realize the real situation in Iraq after the so-called 'handover': the occupation is not over, and it must be defeated. The international antiwar movement, standing in solidarity with the resistance in Iraq, must continue to build an effective movement to weaken, and eventually defeat, the US-led occupation of Iraq. We must demand:

End the Occupation! US/UK Out of Iraq! Bring the Troops Home Now!

No Security Under an Apartheid Wall: Israel's Ongoing War on Palestinians

"It's not time for the court to take this as a legal question. It's better that it remains for discussions between the parties."

Bill Graham, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, speaking against International Court action against the Israeli Apartheid Wall.

Within only June and July 2004, Israel has continued and escalated its ongoing war on the Palestinian people: bulldozing homes leaving thousands homeless in the Gaza Strip, missile strikes from helicopter gunships on communities and marketplaces in Rafah and throughout Gaza, assassination attempts against Palestinian leaders, the shooting and murder of Palestinians in peaceful demonstrations, constant raids, and the ongoing confiscation of Palestinian land. As each atrocity falls

in the shadow of the massive and growing Apartheid Wall, we see that there can be no security for the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation.

The construction of Israel's Apartheid Wall adds a physical barrier to the 56-year old economic, political and racist divisions between Palestinians and Israelis that Zionism has created. In early July, the UN International Court of Justice made a ruling that the 700 kilometer-long "Security Fence" is illegal. This ruling is ultimately a result of the pressure the Palestinian resistance is putting on Israel, and consequently, on all imperialist countries.

This pressure is resulting in differences amongst different imperialist countries over how to best deal with the problem of the Palestinian resistance: not *whether* Israel should kill Palestinians and steal their land, but *how*. *Continued on Next Page*



Palestinian Youths in Gaza, July 2004

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 26TH

**THE JULY 26TH MOVEMENT AND
THE CUBAN REVOLUTION:
Why Cuba Is Important Today**

Monday July 26, 6:30 - 9pm @ the IWA hall
2859 Commercial Dr. (Commercial at 13th)

Presented by: Vancouver Communities in
Solidarity with Cuba

cubacommunities@yahoo.ca / 778 889 7664

JULY 31ST

MUSIC OF RESISTANCE

A MAWO fundraiser and cultural night

Saturday July 31 at El Cocal (1037 Commercial dr.)

Doors at 8:30 Show at 9:00 sliding scale \$3 - \$10

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

AUGUST 8TH

**Operation: Canada Out Petition Tour Stop
UNDER THE VOLCANO**

Sunday August 8th, Cates Park, North Vancouver

For more info on MAWO's Operation Canada Out
Petition Campaign see: www.mawovancouver.org

AUGUST 21ST

ALL DAY CONFERENCE

**Cuba & Venezuela in the
Era of War & Occupation**

Saturday August 21, at the IWA Hall,
2859 Commercial Dr. (Commercial & 13th) 11AM - 5 PM

Presented by: Vancouver Communities in
Solidarity with Cuba

cubacommunities@yahoo.ca / 778 889 7664

AUGUST 28TH

THE WAR IS NOT OVER!

THE OCCUPATION IS NOT OVER!

**March and Rally 3PM
Vancouver Art Gallery**

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

GET INVOLVED WITH MAWO!

Meetings every Wednesday 6:30pm
at Britannia Community Center
(Napier st. at Commercial dr)

The Israeli Apartheid Wall

Continued

To date, Israel's occupation of Palestine leaves no Palestinian unaffected by military assault, destruction, poverty and death. Far from changing this situation, the Apartheid Wall will cut roughly 700,000 Palestinians off from their work, farms, schools and lives (as in some places it cuts straight through Palestinian villages), and will deepen the poverty and oppression of Palestinians under Israeli occupation. However, if only the Wall, and not the Israeli Apartheid system is torn down, the situation of Palestinians will remain the same as it was before the construction of the Wall began: stateless, poor, oppressed, shot at, without electricity, schools or running water, and under occupation.

In order to end the oppression and brutality against Palestinians, the Wall must be torn down, but more importantly, the occupation of Palestine must end.

TEAR THE "SECURITY" WALL DOWN!

END ISRAELI APARTHEID!

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINE!



Demonstration in Gaza, July 22nd 2004

BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE ANTI-WAR, ANTI- OCCUPATION MOVEMENT: JUNE 30th, JULY 24th AND ONWARD

Less than one month after the June 30th 'handover' of power in Iraq, MAWO is mobilizing as part of the growing international movement against war and occupation. The July 24th mobilization is important as part of this international movement and as part of a series of consistent actions against war and occupation in Vancouver, but also as proof that the Iraqi people are right: the occupation is not over. To continue to build alongside the Iraqi resistance, MAWO organizes consistent mobilizations, but also petition drives, film nights, forums, and cultural events.

To build an effective anti-war / anti-occupation movement in Vancouver we must build peoples' understanding of and confidence in their unity with other oppressed people through outreach, education and mobilization. The political and regional expansion of MAWO's "Canada Out!" campaign is a part of this. Over 6,000 people from throughout the Lower Mainland have signed the petitions demanding an end to the Canadian occupations of Haiti and Afghanistan, and many have been part of laying the foundations of an effective mass movement with this campaign and its regional educational films and forums. On August 8th, we will be taking this campaign to the *Under the Volcano* music and cultural festival in Cates Park where we will also be participating in a workshop on women's resistance under occupation and speaking from the main stage.

MAWO has extended the same solidarity to a group organizing against the new U.S. aggressions toward Cuba. *Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba* (VCSC) formed and began organizing in June. MAWO has endorsed this group and their activities (such as *the Celebration for Cuba on July 26, 6:30pm at the IWA Hall on Commercial Drive*) in order to expand the scope of the anti-war movement to defend the right of Cuba to remain a country dignified and independent from US imperialism.

Uniting all oppressed peoples struggles for Self-Determination leads us forward, to the August 28th mobilization, 'THE OCCUPATION IS NOT OVER!' and onward into the fall to build a consistent and effective movement against this era of war and occupation. Our most powerful weapon in the fight against war and occupation is unity:

GET INVOLVED WITH MAWO!

MAWO meets every Wednesday, 6:30pm at Britannia Community Centre at Commercial Drive and Napier St. in Vancouver.

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, 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

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