

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION - MAWO

#9

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR AND OCCUPATION

WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG/INFO@MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG/604-322-1764

This Mayday, Demand... CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN AND HAITI!

May 1st marks the celebration of Mayday - the international day of workers' solidarity. As Canadian imperialism continues to attack the lives of millions of working people in Haiti and Afghanistan, within Canada, working and oppressed people face attacks in the form of wage reductions, layoffs, and privatization of social programs. According to the Canadian government, attacks on working and poor people at home are justified with the same language that is used to increase the military budget by \$12.8 billion over the next five years: in the interests of the "Canadian economy", and position on

the "world stage". Since rising out of the successful mass movement for the 8 hour workday, the tradition of Mayday has always been celebration, but also defense of poor and working people against attacks on our rights, freedoms and lives. In the era of war and occupation poor and working people who live in imperialist countries have a particular responsibility to fight for the rights of people who are attacked by imperialist war and occupation while we struggle for our own rights against reactionary

legislation. Mayday 2005 must be about the lives and rights of working, poor and oppressed people under attack at home and abroad, with an emphasis on opposing Canadian imperialism from within Canada. In Afghanistan, where Canada has pledged to maintain a long term presence, the three and a half year occupation has created a larger humanitarian crisis for the Afghan people as 700 children die every day from preventable disease, and one woman dies every 20 minutes due to complications during child birth.

For people in Haiti, the Canadian, US, and French

overthrow of the democratically elected government in February 2004 has resulted in over 80% of the country's almost 7 million people being unemployed. Canada still participates in the United Nations' occupation of the world's fourth poorest country, terrorizing the citizens of the poorest neighbourhoods and killing those who dissent against the occupation.

Canada has carried out its military growth sneakily. When the US went to war in Iraq, Canada stationed ships in the Persian Gulf as stop off points for the US military and sent troops to Afghanistan, freeing US soldiers up for the job in Iraq - all while managing to smoothly convince many people that Canada was not participating in the war. And today, in April - May 2005, the Canadian government is sending troops with the UN to Sudan-Darfur as another test, dipping toes in all the oceans of the world stage.

In early 2004 MAWO launched a campaign against Canada's invasion, war and occupation in Afghanistan, Haiti and beyond. The "Operation Canada Out!" campaign has since organized consistent petition stops and public education forums in all the neighbourhoods of Greater Vancouver against the occupations of Afghanistan and Haiti. The result of this work has been the collection of more than 7,000 signatures demanding "Canada out of Afghanistan and Haiti!" - an important contribution



Children walk through rubble in Kabul January 2005

to the struggle against the lies of the Canadian ruling class that "Canada is a peace keeping country."

Through the occupations of Afghanistan and Haiti, we can unmask the Canadian government as an imperialist enemy of poor, working and oppressed people all around the world - including within the borders of Canada. MAWO's Operation Canada Out! campaign is in the true spirit of Mayday - standing against Canadian imperialism and demanding self-determination, justice, freedom, and dignity for Afghanistan, Haiti, and Indigenous nations in Canada alongside all working, poor and oppressed people in the world.

MAWO's Operation Canada Out! Committee meets every Wednesday at 5pm - Joe's cafe (Commercial Dr and Charles St.)



UN troops on patrol in Haiti

Two Years Too Many! End the Occupation of Iraq!

Since the beginning of the war on Iraq in March 2003 we have heard talk of bringing 'freedom' and 'democracy' to Iraqis. So far this has involved bombings, torture in prisons, and the death of over 100,000 Iraqis. In March of 2005 George W. Bush tried to gloss over the horror of the occupation by claiming that it was all part of a greater "plan", beginning with the elections staged at the end of January. He stated, "Iraqis are taking big steps on a long journey of freedom. A free society requires more than free elections; it also requires free institutions, a vibrant civil society, rule of law, anti-corruption, and the habits of liberty built over generations."

Under the US imperialist occupation, "security" means a \$300billion war budget. "Anti-corruption" means only

\$2.5billion of the \$18.4billion allocated by US-AID has been spent on reconstruction and aid throughout Iraq. "Freedom" means living life under the constant fear and humiliation of guns, tanks, checkpoints and 160,000 foreign troops.

On April 5th 2005 the director of the Infectious Diseases Control Centre (IDCC) called on the new Iraqi government to prevent new disease outbreaks saying, "All our efforts could come to nothing if the government doesn't take urgent action to reduce sewage on the streets and repair the water purification system." Spreading disease, contaminated water and non-functioning sewage systems are the aftershocks of the US's massive campaign of bombing destruction of all infrastructure. According to studies done by the

Commission for the Compensation of Fallujah Citizens, 70% of buildings in Fallujah were destroyed in the 2004 siege.

Since the January elections little has changed for the people



Demonstration in Baghdad calling for an end to the occupation. April 9th 2005.



Iraqi Woman Argues with US Soldier, April 22nd 2005.

of Iraq. The history of the last two years of war in Iraq show the nature of the

occupation against the Iraqi people. The people of Iraq are left with little choice but to resist the occupation.

They are demanding their self-determination and compensation for the destruction and humiliation they have suffered at the hands of the US. We must stand together with them against the brutal occupation of their country by continuing to demand: US/UK OUT OF IRAQ!



Hands Off Iran!

Since naming Iran as one of the "outposts of tyranny" in January, the US has allocated \$3 million to fund pro-US organizations and individuals in Iran on top of the \$14.7 million the US already spends yearly on pro-imperialist TV and radio broadcasts to Iran. Additionally, the US and EU have been negotiating tightening sanctions on Iran with the pretext of a supposed Iranian nuclear weapons program, weapons that imperialism considers somehow "different" than the massive nuclear arsenals possessed by the US, Israel, and some EU member countries. And while running media slur campaigns to try to prepare people both inside and outside Iran for imperialist attack, the US has also been collecting intelligence to be used in compiling Iranian targets for US bombing raids, aided by its bases in Afghanistan and Iraq. On top of this Israel also has been performing military exercises to prepare for an attack on sites in Iran. The goal of these imperialists in attacking Iran would be to reverse the huge blow to imperialism delivered after the 1979 Iranian revolution that overthrew the US-installed Shah and removed US imperialism from Iran.

Hands Off Syria!

At the same time, the US has also been increasing pressure against Syria. A propaganda campaign against Syria began in earnest after the 2003 invasion of Iraq, when US media began accusing Syria of directing the Iraqi resistance and hiding the non-existent Iraqi "weapons of mass destruction" that the US-UK initially used as a pretext for invading Iraq. The campaign against Syria has intensified after the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al Hariri, of which the US accuses Syria, without concrete evidence. The US has withdrawn its ambassador to Syria and is openly considering strengthened sanctions. Military strikes have also been discussed.

Stop the US war machine!

Throughout this political, economic and military buildup against Iran and Syria, the international anti-war movement must also prepare - and organize - against the US war machine. The self-determination of Syria, Iran and other oppressed nations must be defended against imperialist intervention and aggression.

Hands off Syria and Iran!

March 20 2003 to March 20 2005 and beyond...

The people of the world speak as one:

No to War! No to Occupation!



Bombay, India March 19, 05

After two years of occupation, the international days of action on March 19th and 20th were a clear denunciation of the occupation of Iraq by the people of the world who gathered united across nationality, religion, race, gender and all barriers. The single voice of all oppressed people in the world rose out of these gatherings demanding the dignity, justice, freedom and self-determination that is fundamental to life for all people.

Below is a partial list of the cities and towns in more than 30 countries around the world where March 19th and 20th demonstrations were organized. On March 19th and 20th in every one of these places there were actions like the rally organized in Vancouver by MAWO on the 19th and the conference on the 20th. Taken together, these rallies are a sign of the great power that working, poor and oppressed people have when we unite. And



Fallujah, Iraq, March 19, 05

taken in the long line of two years of consistent anti-war and anti-occupation action and counting, these international days of action teach us one important lesson. In Vancouver (as across the world), we must continue to organize, educate and mobilize against the occupation of Iraq as a part of this living and growing international movement against war and occupation.

Aldergrove, B.C., Annapolis Royal, NS, Brampton, ON, Burlington, ON, Calgary, AB, Castlegar, B.C., Charlottetown, PEI, Cobourg, ON, Fredrickton, NB, Ft. Smith, NWT, Grand Forks, B.C., Halifax, NS, Hamilton, ON, Kelowna, B.C., Kingston, ON, Lethbridge, AB, London, ON, Medicine Hat, AB, Midland, ON, Mississauga, ON, Montreal, Quebec, Niagara/St Catherines, ON, North Battleford, SK, Oakville, ON, Ottawa, ON, Peterborough, ON, Port Hope, ON, Prince Albert, SK, Prince George, B.C., Quebec City, PQ, Quesnel, B.C., St.,

John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Saint John, NB, Salt Spring Island, B.C., Sarnia, ON, Saskatoon, SK, Toronto, ON, Vancouver, B.C., Victoria, B.C., Windsor, ON, Whitehorse, Yukon, Winnipeg, MB, Yellowknife, NWT, Akureyri, Albi, Arendal, Arvika, Athens, Barcelona, Belfast, Brussels, Budapest, Burgos, Castellon, Copenhagen, Donostia-San Sebastian, Dublin, Dundee, Gislaved, Gothenburg, Gävle, Heidelberg, Helsingborg, Helsinki, Istanbul, Jönköping, Karlshamn, Karlskrona, Kristianstad, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Lisboa,

Logroño (La Rioja), London, Luleå, Lund, Lysekil, Madrid, Malmö, Marseille, Nicosia, Norrköping, Nyköping, Oslo, Pamplona, Parma, Porto, Reykjavik, Rome, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Skellefteå, Stavanger, Stockholm, Sundsvall, Söderhamn, Torino, Tromsø, Umeå, Uppsala, Vienna, Västerås, Växjö, Warsaw, Zaragoza, Östersund, Belo Horizonte, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Carazinho, Cd Juarez, Maldonado, Managua, Marechal Cândido Rondon, Mexico City, Port-au-Prince, Porto Alegre, Rio de Janeiro, San Fernando, San José, Santiago, Sao Paulo, Vieques, Adelaide, Auckland, Brisbane, Canberra, Christchurch (Otautahi), Darwin, Kobe, Hyogo prefecture, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Victoria, Bangkok, Dhaka, Hanoi, Kakamigahara-city, Gifu-ken,



Vancouver, Canada, March 19, 05

Kuala Lumpur, Kyoto, Manila, Osaka, Rawalpindi, Sapporo, Seoul, Tokyo, Albuquerque, Baltimore, Charleston, SC, Chattanooga, TN, Chicago, Fayetteville, NC, Houston, Texas, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New Paltz, NY, New York, Riverside, CA, San Diego, CA, San Francisco, Saratoga Springs, NY, St. Petersburg, FL, Traverse City, Tucson, (a total of more than 800 cities and towns across the US), Cairo, Johannesburg, Baghdad, Fallujah, Kikurk.... (and many many more....)

MAWO IN MOTION!



"CIA Hands off Iran" Anti-US Protest in Iran October 1979



Protest against the occupation of Iraq in Syria March 2005

U.S. WAR DRIVE
Hands off Iran and Syria!

A Free Public Forum:
Featuring a presentation by a participant in the 1979 Iranian Revolution

Sat. May 21
6:30pm

Collingwood Neighbourhood House
5288 Joyce St.
(two block's South of the Joyce-Collingwood Skytrain Station)

Mobilization Against War and Occupation

604-322-1764 | www.mawovancouver.org | info@mawovancouver.org

This event not organized by the Collingwood Neighbourhood House

SATURDAY MAY 28

STOP THE U.S. WAR DRIVE!

HANDS OFF SYRIA! HANDS OFF IRAN!
END THE OCCUPATIONS OF IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, PALESTINE, HAITI, AND INDIGENOUS NATIONS IN CANADA!

RALLY & MARCH
1PM VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
(Georgia St. & Howe St.)

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR AND OCCUPATION (MAWO)

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GET INVOLVED! Meetings Every Wednesday 6:30pm Britannia Community Centre (Commercial Dr. at Napier St.) **ALL WELCOME!**

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