

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 29

newsletter

January 2011

mobilization against war & occupation

Long Live the Egyptian People's Struggle!

Long Live the Tunisian People's Struggle!

Long live the Struggle of the People of Yemen, Jordan & Algeria!

U.S. Hands Off North Africa & the Middle East!

International Action Center statement -- Jan. 28, 2011

A seemingly all-powerful military, police and media apparatus, that has had the support of the U.S. superpower for decades, is crumbling before the even greater strength of a united people who have first conquered fear and may now push the dictator's regime into the dustbin of history.

This struggle began in Tunisia in December when a young street vendor chose to burn himself rather than face humiliation. It has spread to Algeria, to Yemen, to Jordan and now to the largest and most central state in the Arab world, Egypt. This country, with its rich ancient history and its impoverished population -- with more than 80 million people it is the largest of the North African states -- is now finding its way back into center stage of world events.

Ever since the Camp David agreements, Egypt has been a client state of U.S. imperialism. The U.S. has supplied Egypt with \$1-2 billion in military aid over the years since the 1979, second only to the aid the U.S. gives to the Israeli settler state. This aid includes the tear gas, rubber-coated bullets and live ammunition supplied the Egyptian riot police.

In turn, Hosni Mubarak's Egypt supported the U.S. war against Iraq in 1991; it blocks the entrance to embattled Gaza today. Because Egypt is the lynchpin of U.S. imperialist foreign policy within the Arab countries, the current revolutionary crisis

in Egypt raises the possibility -- even the likelihood -- that Washington will attempt to intervene in Egyptian internal affairs, with a good chance that this will mean military intervention.

Tonight (Jan. 28) President Barack Obama -- realizing the Mubarak dictatorship's days were numbered, made some statements distancing the U.S. from the 30-year-old regime in Egypt. We should remember, however, that in his State of the Union message, President Obama spoke of the U.S.'s alleged role spreading 'democracy,' but he pointedly avoided mentioning Egypt.

As an anti-war and anti-imperialist solidarity group working within the United States, the International Action Center pledges to help build actions in solidarity with the people of Egypt and of all of those countries where people are struggling for democracy and freedom from imperialist domination. Thus the IAC will join the actions of the Egyptian community in the United States protesting the Mubarak regime, and it will build actions to demand that the U.S. desist from intervening in Egyptian affairs and especially that there be no military intervention against the Egyptian people.

Over the next days there are demonstrations planned in cities around the U.S. to show solidarity with the Egyptian people's struggle. The IAC calls on its supporters to join these actions.

LONG LIVE TUNISIA!

Tunisia at the Crossroads

Mass Movement - Uprising - the Lessons

MAWO Discusses and Celebrates Departure of Tyrant Ben Ali from Tunisia

Responding to a historic sequence of events in Tunisia, where a mass movement has emerged within the space a few weeks and has forced dictator Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali to flee after a repressive rule of 24 years, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) called for a forum to discuss the issues titled, "Tunisia at the Crossroads". Although organized in less than three days, the forum saw more than 50 people from many different communities, including Tunisians living in Vancouver, attend to discuss these important developments and their consequences.

The program included a compilation of news and video footage which began with clips of Western analysts doubting the impact or longevity of the initial Tunisian protests focused on unemployment and rising prices, and then moved onto video after video of the huge mass protests which rocked Tunisia's ruling elite and their imperialist backers.



of thousands of people. You see their creativity, their initiative, their leadership. All the people you didn't expect to be like this, because revolution speeds up the whole process of life and releases the true energy of masses, therefore it brings out all the great potential of masses of people that under tyrannical regimes is suppressed. This is what we see today in Tunisia."

In the current context of massive destruction and suppression caused by the new era of war and occupation, he said that Tunisian people gave a great gift to the people of the world, "They brought the sweetest thing, the victory of human beings, the victory of people." He emphasized the duty of people around the world is to support the mass movement in Tunisia, which is becoming increasingly organized, but that the most difficult part is yet to come: what to do now, and how to create a process which reflects the interests and desires of millions of Tunisians fighting for their dignity and self-determination.

The forum also featured two speakers, Azza Willow, a young Tunisian social justice activist, and Ali Yerevani, the political editor of the Fire This Time Newspaper and an organizer in the 1979 Iranian Revolution.

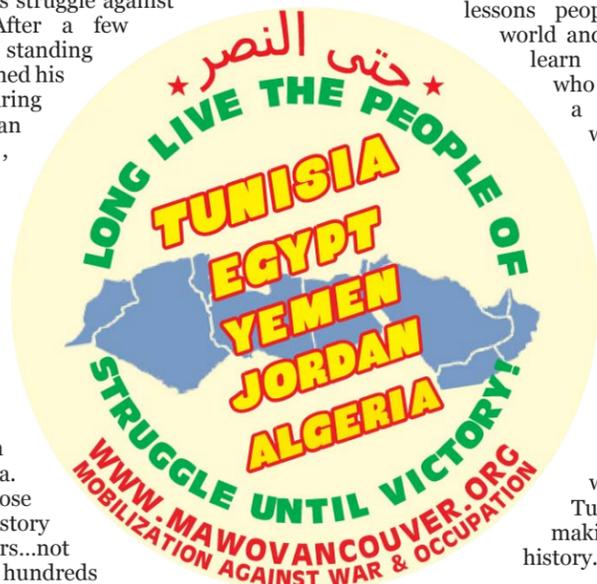
Azza gave a very moving presentation about the differences between the outside image of Tunisia as a stable tourist paradise portrayed by the majority of Western media, and the reality of growing up in a country where freedom of expression, association, and political participation were all stifled and suppressed by a tiny and brutal ruling elite. She said, "I'm so proud of Tunisians for standing up and showing to everyone that it's possible to change things and to be united." She ended by pointing out that Tunisians are not out on the streets celebrating the ouster of Ben Ali, but are continuing to protest against an interim government which includes the elements of the old ruling elite.

Ali Yerevani, the next speaker, began by asking the audience to stand up for applause in appreciation for the heroic struggle of the people of Tunisia for opening a new era of mass struggle against imperialism. After a few minutes of standing ovation, he opened his talk by comparing the 1979 Iranian Revolution, which itself was also a huge mass movement that overthrew another imperialist backed dictator, to the current situation in Tunisia. "You see those neglected in history become leaders...not dozens, but hundreds

He placed particular importance on the current struggle by people of Tunisia to remove all people associated with the previous regime from any new government. If Tunisians are successful in breaking these last links between their former rulers and their imperialist backers, they will have made a big step forward for oppressed people around the world, and will have caused a big setback for imperialist powers like the United States, France, England and Canada. Ali emphasized that "the overthrow of the tyrant Ben Ali and continuing mass movement and revolutionary process is indeed a great victory for the oppressed people of the world within the set back imposed on them by imperialists in the last 10 years by the brutal and criminal war and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq. This is a great breeze of change in resisting colonialism and their proxy regimes for a better world for all."

Discussion after the speakers focused on the importance of events in Tunisia, and their effect on other Western-backed regimes in Northern Africa and the Middle East. Others also pointed out the important lessons people around the world and in Canada can learn from a people who stood up to a government which refused to represent them and united to change it. MAWO will continue to follow closely how events in Tunisia unfold, and continue to organize in solidarity with masses of Tunisian people making their own history.

MAWO's Latest Button
To get buttons contact MAWO



LONG LIVE TUNISIA EGYPT YEMEN JORDAN ALGERIA



mass movement uprising the lessons

FREE PUBLIC FORUM MULTIMEDIA SPEAKERS DISCUSSION WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND JOE'S CAFE 1150 COMMERCIAL DRIVE (LARGE NORTH HALL) 7PM

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

AFGHANISTAN UPDATE:
Multimedia • Speaker • Discussion
HOW WAR AND OCCUPATION BROUGHT MORE MISERY FOR AFGHAN WOMEN
Tuesday February 8 7 pm
Joe's Cafe (In Large North Hall) 1150 Commercial Dr.
MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION (MAWO) WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

DON'T ATTACK IRAN!

What Would Einstein Say?

Reflection by Fidel Castro

In a Reflection published on August 25, 2010 under the title of "The Opinion of an Expert", I mentioned a really unusual activity of the United States and its allies which, in my opinion, underlines the risk of a nuclear conflict with Iran. I was referring to a long article by the well-known journalist Jeffrey Goldberg, published in the US journal The Atlantic in September of that year, entitled "The Point of No Return".

Goldberg was not anti-Israeli, quite the opposite; he is an admirer of Israel and holds double citizenship with the US and also did his military service in that country.

attack. Even though some newspapers announced Abbasi's death, it was finally the Mehr agency that confirmed that he had managed to save his life. According to the Fars agency, 'unknown terrorists' on motorcycles drove closet o the vehicles to plant the lapa bombs."

"Members of the Ahmadineyad Executive and the Minister of the Interior, Mostafa Mohamad Najjar, directly accused the CIA and Mossad – the intelligence services of the US and Israel, respectively – of being behind these actions that presume a new blow for the country's nuclear race at the doors of a possible new round of talks with the 5+1 members..."



At the start of his article he wrote: "It is possible, as well, that "foiling operations" conducted by the intelligence agencies of Israel, the United States, Great Britain, and other Western powers—programs designed to subvert the Iranian nuclear effort through sabotage and, on occasion, the carefully engineered disappearances of nuclear scientists—will have hindered Iran's progress in some significant way"

The parentheses in the paragraph are also his.

After mentioning the enigmatic phrase, I carried on with the analysis of that Gordian knot of international politics that could lead to the war which was so feared by Einstein. What would he say if he had learned about the "frustration operations" destined to make the most capable nuclear scientists disappear?

Maybe because it was so absurd and incredible, I didn't pay too much attention to it, but months later, upon reading the recent accusations by the Iranian government, as well as news and opinions of well-informed people, the memory of that paragraph returned to my mind with a vengeance.

Four weeks before the end of 2010, an AFP agency dispatch informed:

"An Iranian nuclear scientist has been killed.

"Teheran accuses the United States and Israel of being behind a double assassination.

"AFP. November 30, 2010

"The hand of western governments and the Zionist regime is behind the assassination attempts'. Mahmud Ahmadineyad had no doubts when it came to look for the people guilty of the double attack on the nuclear experts that took place early yesterday in Teheran. Majid Shariari, professor at the Shahid Beheshti University of Teheran and member of the Nuclear Society of Iran lost his life and his wife was injured in an explosion reported a few metres from their home. His colleague Fereydoon Abbasi, a laser physicist at the same university and his wife were also injured after a similar

"With yesterday's attempt there are now three Iranian scientists who have been killed since 2007. Dr. Masoud Ali Mohamadi lost his life in Teheran last January after the explosion of a bomb as he was leaving his home, a death that has not yet been cleared up by the authorities who also accused the western intelligence agencies of trying to abort what they considered to be a right, the nuclear race for civilian purposes. The first victim in the heart of the scientific community was Ardeshir Hosseinpour, killed under strange circumstances in 2007 at the nuclear centre of Isfahan."

I don't remember any other moment in history when the assassination of scientists has been transformed into official policy on the part of a group of powers armed with nuclear weapons. The worst is that, in the case of Iran, it is being applied on an Islamic nation, with which, even if they are able to compete and surpass it in technology, they could never do it in a field where, for cultural and religious questions, it could surpass them many times in the willingness of its citizens to die at any moment if Iran should decide to apply the same absurd and criminal formula on the professionals of their adversaries.

There are other serious events related to the carnage of scientists, organized by Israel, the US, Great Britain and other powers against the Iranian scientists, something about which the mass media does not inform world opinion.

An article by Christian Elia published on the Rebelión website on August 25, 2010, reports that:

An explosion has killed the father of the "drones" (unmanned planes) – of Iran – but he is just the last of the scientists who have lost their lives in the country.

"To find a photo of Reza Baruni on the Internet is a mission impossible. However, in the last few days, his name was at the centre of a mystery that has many international aspects..."

The only thing certain is that Reza Baruni, the Iranian aeronautical engineer, is dead. An air of absolute mystery hangs

over everything else. All the industry analysts consider Baruni to be the father of the [...] UAVs (unmanned vehicles) of the Islamic Republic [...]. On August 1st, 2010, his house was blown up."

"On August 17, 2010, Debka (very close to Israeli intelligence) publishes news of Baruni's death and reveals its conclusions: the Iranian engineer's home blew up because of the explosion of three very powerful explosive devices. Baruni was murdered."

"But the murkiest episode in contrast is the death of Massud Ali-Mohammadi, professor of nuclear physics at Teheran University, murdered on January 11, 2010 in the Iranian capital. Professor Ali-Mohammadi died in the explosion of a motorcycle-bomb detonated from a distance at the time the professor was leaving his home to go to work..."

An article published on the CubaDebate website informs:

"Israel acknowledges that it has murdered an Iranian scientist last week."

"Mossad, the Israeli secret service, acknowledged that last week it murdered Majid Shariari and wounded another physicist in Iran, according to Mossad sources, in an operation carried out in Teheran. 'It is the latest operation by the head of the Mossad', the people heading Israeli secret services state with satisfaction at a meeting in their Gelilot headquarters to the north of Tel Aviv."

"Gordon Thomas, a British expert in the Mossad, confirmed in Britain's Sunday Telegraph that Israel is responsible for this double murder destined to obstruct the Iranian nuclear program."

"Thomas states that all the Israeli assassination attempts in the last few years against personalities associated with the Iranian nuclear project have been committed by the Kidon (bayonet) unit. According to the Jewish newspaper

Yediot Ahronot this unit is made up of 38 agents. Five of them are women. They are all between 20 and 30 years old and they speak several languages – including Persian – and they are able to come and go from Iran with ease. They are based in the Negev Desert."

In the days of the Diaspora, the left wing in the world united in solidarity with the people of Israel. Persecuted for their race and religion, many of them fought in the ranks of the revolutionary parties. The peoples condemned the concentration camps that the European and world bourgeoisie wanted to ignore.

Today the leaders of the State of Israel practice genocide and are associating themselves with the most reactionary forces on the planet.

The alliance between the leaders of that State and the South Africa of the hateful apartheid regime is still to be cleared up; in complicity with the United States they supplied the technology to develop the nuclear weapons directed towards striking at the Cuban troops which, in 1975, were confronting the invasion of racist South Africa, whose disdain and hatred of the African peoples was no different from the Nazi ideology which murdered millions of Jews, Russians, gypsies and other European nationalities in the concentration camps of Europe.

If it hadn't been for the Iranian revolution – stripped of weapons it swept over the best-equipped ally of the United States on the flank of the Soviet super-power – today it would be the Shah of Iran, supplied with nuclear weapons, and not Israel, who would be the principal bulwark of the Yankee and NATO empire in that region that is so strategic and immensely rich in oil and gas for the sure supply of the most developed countries on the planet.

It is an almost inexhaustible subject.

Fidel Castro Ruz
January 6, 2011

MONTHLY PROTEST ACTION!

FREE THE HEROES

*** ANTONIO * RAMON * GABRIEL * FERRANDO ***

HELD IN U.S. PRISONS

UNJUSTLY

CUBANS

GET OUT OF U.S. PRISONS

Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011

4-5pm

U.S. Consulate
1075 W. Pender St.

Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver
www.free-the-5-vancouver.ca

Who's MAWO?

Mobilization Against War and Occupation is a coalition of over 50 endorsing organizations and also individual members, most of which are working class organizations, student groups, grassroots organizations, and ethnic communities. This is including Indigenous activists and groups from the third world as well as women, youth and elder fighters for social justice and against war and occupation. We are the people in struggle because we are people that suffer at the hands of imperialism. We have the energy, drive and will for change because it is in our interest to make this change in order to create a better world for all of humanity!

Get involved



with MAWO!

Meetings & Forums
Tuesdays - 7:00PM
For location, please visit our website:
mawovancouver.org
e. info@mawovancouver.org
t. 604-322-1764
f. 604-322-1763

* Upcoming Organizing Meetings *

Tuesday February 1 & Tuesday February 15
7:00pm
Britannia Community Center
Learning Resource Centre
1661 Napier Street