

stop the war! stop the occupations!

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MAWO 30

newsletter

February 2011

mobilization against war & occupation

Statement by Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) Regarding the Mass Struggle in Egypt, North Africa & the Middle East

The people of Egypt are in a struggle for their right to self-determination, their right to say "No!" to a U.S. backed dictator and U.S. domination and intervention in their country. Egypt is the second largest recipient of US military aid in the world, the first being Israel. For the last 30 years, the U.S. government has supported and backed Hosni Mubarak. Now that the people of Egypt are demanding that Mubarak leave, the U.S. is trying to figure out how to best continue its plunder and exploitation in Egypt as well as reducing the damage to as little as possible to the Zionist regime of Israel. This is what the people of Egypt are fighting against, against colonialism, imperialism and their local puppets. The U.S. government does not have the right to say who should or shouldn't lead Egypt. U.S. HANDS OFF EGYPT!

Today in North Africa and the Middle East, an unprecedented historic event is unfolding. The people of Tunisia remain in the streets, not satisfied with just the departure of ex-President Ben Ali, but continuing to demand that all vestiges of his government are torn down. People in Egypt and their revolution continue to gather by the millions in the streets, vowing to remain until Mubarak leaves and their demands are met. They are joined by the mass struggle of people in Yemen, Jordan, Algeria, and now Morocco, and also those fighting against imperialist war and occupation in Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine and Iran.

In the last month, the call of struggle has been roaring across North Africa and the Middle East. As demonstrations continued in Tunisia, Lebanon, Yemen, Jordan, Algeria, and erupted across Egypt, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) supports the great heroic struggle of all these nations for self-determination, for justice, for liberation and above all for the dignity of humanity and FOR A BETTER WORLD.

All news and videos from both major and independent media clearly showed the peaceful character of these mass demonstrations and of the strong demands of the people of Egypt telling Mubarak to "Get Out!" and the US government not to interfere in the affairs of the people of Egypt. We especially salute the amazing and crucial role of young people in this revolution. Their power, strength, creativity, courage and intelligence have already provided a sustainable movement for

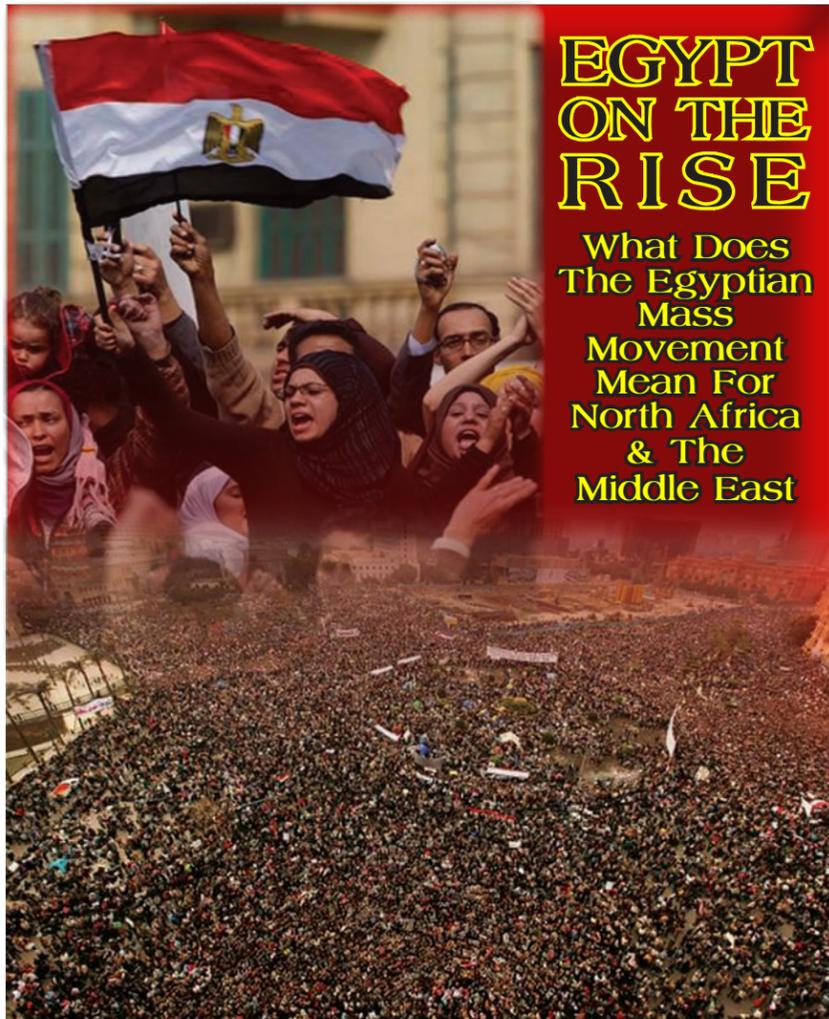
fundamental change.

The Iranian revolution of 1979 overthrew the puppet monarch and the dominance of U.S. imperialism for good. Today, the fundamental demand of the great Egyptian people is the same: to cut off the bloody hand of imperialism and its client regime at home. No wonder the U.S. government is shaking in their boots in the wake of the current uprisings and revolutions in Egypt and Arab countries. While on the surface, considering the international financial and economic crisis, it may seem that the mass struggle of people in Egypt is rooted in the domestic social problems and social crisis caused by these issues, in fact, this great mass movement is internationalist in scope.

This is vital and important to understand that 32 years after the Iranian revolution, the Egyptian uprising and revolution is again shaking the existence of imperialist presence and domination in North Africa and the Middle East. Mass movement in Tunisia, current ongoing revolution in Egypt, mass struggle in Yemen, Jordan and Algeria, all in all have rolled back the imperialist offensive that started with the new era of war and occupation in October 2001 with the occupation of Afghanistan and then Iraq and present preparation of war with Iran. From the point of view of the relationship of forces on the international scale, this is the most important achievement so far. Especially the continuation of resistance and struggle of millions of masses in Egypt has put the whole oppressed people of the region in a better position against imperialism and colonialism.

We call upon all people in Canada and everywhere around the world to join in solidarity with the people of Egypt, North Africa and the Middle East, who are not only fighting for just their rights, but fighting for the rights of all humanity. In this new era of war and occupation, a world of death, destruction and exploitation at the hands of imperialist governments like the US and Canada, it is more significant than ever that we, as peace loving people who believe in a better world, now have an example, millions of examples, of how that world can be won!

Long Live the people of Egypt!
Long Live the people of Tunisia!
Long live the people of Jordan, Yemen, and Algeria!



EGYPT ON THE RISE

What Does The Egyptian Mass Movement Mean For North Africa & The Middle East

TUESDAY February 8
Joe's Cafe - in the Large North Hall
1150 Commercial Drive at William Street

7pm

MULTIMEDIA * SPEAKERS * DISCUSSION

Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO
WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

**THE DIE IS CAST FOR MUBARAK
MUBARAK'S FATE IS SEALED**

Reflection by Fidel Castro

Mubarak's fate is sealed, not even the support of the United States will be able to save his government. The people of Egypt are an intelligent people with a glorious history who left their mark on civilization. "From the top of these pyramids, 40 centuries of history are looking down upon us," Bonaparte once said in a moment of exaltation when the revolution brought him to this extraordinary crossroads of civilizations.

By the end of the Second World War, Egypt was under the brilliant governance of Abdel Nasser, who together with Jawaharlal Nehru, heir of Mahatma Gandhi; Kwame Nkrumah; and Ahmed Sékou Touré —African leaders who together with Sukarno, then president of the recently liberated Indonesia— created the Non-Aligned Movement of Countries and advanced the struggle for independence in the former colonies. At the time, the peoples of Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa, such as Egypt, Algeria, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Western Sahara, the Congo, Angola, Mozambique and other countries immersed in the struggle against French, English, Belgian and Portuguese colonialism backed by the United States were fighting for independence with the support of the USSR and China.



After the triumph of our revolution, Cuba joined this movement in motion.

In 1956 Great Britain, France and Israel launched a surprise attack against Egypt which had nationalized the Suez Canal. The brave and supportive action by the USSR, which included a threat to use its strategic missiles, stopped the aggressors dead in their tracks.

The death of Abdel Nasser on September 28, 1970 was an irreversible setback for Egypt.

United States never stopped conspiring against the Arab world, which holds the largest oil reserves on the planet.

There is no need to profoundly debate this matter; it is enough to read recent news dispatches on what inevitably is transpiring.

Let's take a look at the news:

January 28:

"(DPA) - More than 100,000 Egyptians took to the streets today to protest against the government of President Hosni Mubarak, despite a prohibition of demonstrations issued by authorities..."

"Demonstrators set fire to the offices of Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP) and police surveillance points, while in downtown Cairo they threw rocks at police who tried to disperse the crowd with tear gas and rubber bullets."

"US President Barack Obama met today with a group of experts to become better informed on the situation. Meanwhile, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said that the United States would reassess the multimillion dollar aid it provides to Egypt as events transpire."

"UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon also sent a strong message from Davos."

"(Reuters)- President Mubarak ordered a curfew in Egypt and the deployment of army troops backed by armoured vehicles in Cairo and other cities. Violent clashes between demonstrators and the police have been reported."

"Egyptian forces, supported by armoured vehicles, deployed throughout Cairo and other major Egyptian cities on Friday to put an end to large-scale protests demanding the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak."

"Medical sources reported that so far 410 people have been injured in the protests, while state television announced a curfew for all cities."

"The situation represents a dilemma for the United States, which has expressed its desire for democracy to spread throughout the region. Mubarak, however, has been a close ally of Washington for several years and the beneficiary of extensive military aid."

"(DPA)- Thousands of Jordanians protested today across the country after Friday prayers, demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Samir Rifai, and political and economic reforms."

In the midst of the political disaster assailing the Arab world, leaders, who were gathered in Switzerland, discussed the cause of the phenomenon which they described as global suicide.

"(EFE)- Several political leaders at the Davos Economic Forum called for a change of the growth model."

"The current model of economic growth, based on consumerism and a disregard of environmental consequences, can no longer be sustained because the planet's survival is at risk, several political leaders warned today in Davos."

"The current model is global suicide. We need a revolution. Revolutionary thinking. Revolutionary action," warned Ban Ki-moon. "Natural resources are becoming more and more scarce," he added, during a debate on how to redefine sustainable growth at the World Economic Forum."

"Climate change is also showing us that the old model is more than obsolete," said the head of the UN.

"The UN secretary general added that in addition to basic survival resources such as food and water, 'one resource is the scarcest of all: Time. We are running out of time. Time to tackle climate change.'"

January 29:

"Washington (AP)- President Barack Obama tried the impossible: winning the hearts and minds of Egyptians furious with their autocratic ruler while assuring a vital ally that the United States has his back.

States has his back.

The four-minute speech Friday evening represented a careful balancing act for Obama. He had a lot to lose by choosing between protesters demanding that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak step down from a government violently clinging to its three-decade grip on the country."

"Obama...didn't endorse regime change. Nor did he say that Mubarak's announcement was insufficient."

"Obama's address was the most forceful of the day, but it stuck largely to the script already set by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and White House spokesman Robert Gibbs."

"(NTX)- The Washington Post called on the Obama administration to use its political and economic influence to convince President Mubarak to step down in Egypt."

"The United States should use all its influence, including the more than 1 billion dollars in aid it provides each year to the Egyptian army to assure its ultimate outcome (the surrender of power by Mubarak)," the paper states in its editorial."

"...in his message delivered on Friday night Obama said that he would continue working with President Mubarak and regretted that he had not mentioned eventual elections."

"The newspaper described Obama's position as 'unrealistic' along with that of Vice President Joe Biden, who told a radio station that he would not call the Egyptian president a dictator, and that he did not think that he should resign."

"(AFP)- US-Arab organizations demanded that the government of President Barack Obama stop supporting the Mubarak dictatorship in Egypt."

"(ANSA)- The United States once again expressed its 'concern' over violence in Egypt and warned the government of Mubarak that it could not act as if nothing had happened."

Fox News reported that Obama only had two poor options with respect to Egypt.

"...warned the Cairo government that it could not 'reshuffle the deck' and act as if nothing had happened in the country."

"The White House and the State Department are closely following the situation in Egypt, one of Washington's main allies in the world, and the recipient of some 1.5 billion dollars annually in civilian and military aid."

"United States news agencies are giving extensive coverage to the disturbances in Egypt and have been indicating that the situation, no matter how it is resolved, could result in a headache for Washington."

"If Mubarak falls, reports Fox, the United States and its other principal ally in the Middle East, Israel, could have to face a government of the Muslim Brothers in Cairo, and a turn towards anti-western sentiment in the North African country."

"We were betting on the wrong horse for 50 years,' former CIA agent Michael Scheuer told Fox. "To think that the Egyptian people are going to forget that for half a century we supported dictators is a dream," he concluded."

"(AFP)- The international community increased its pressure on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to implement political reforms and to stop the

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Long Live Tunisia ~ Egypt Yemen ~ Jordan ~ Algeria! Mass Movement - Uprising - the Lessons

MAWO Forum Discusses the Ongoing Revolution in Egypt:

In the last month, the call of humanity for dignity and self-determination has been roaring across North Africa and the Middle East. As demonstrations continued in Tunisia, Lebanon, Yemen, Jordan, Algeria, and erupted across Egypt, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) organized a community forum to reflect upon the great gains made by the mass movement so far, and the future of what might come. The forum, titled "Long Live Tunisia - Egypt - Yemen - Lebanon - Jordan - Algeria," focused largely on the developing situation in Egypt, which in the past week, since Jan 25th, has seen millions of people marching in the streets demanding that current President Hosni Mubarak - Get Out!

The forum brought together around 50 people from many communities in Vancouver, including participants from Latin America, indigenous nations in Canada and many people from Egypt and other third world countries and regions such as Pakistan, Iran, South Asia, Africa, Europe and the U.S. People attended and joined in a lively discussion, whether as activists and organizers, students, or just people who want to stand in solidarity with the heroic people of Egypt, North Africa and the Middle East. The forum started at 7:30 pm and came to an end at 11:30 pm after almost everyone participated in a very lively political discussion.

The program began with a selection of both current and historic video clips that enabled people to learn more about the history of Egypt and gave a context to the current uprising. Recent videos from both major and independent media clearly showed the peaceful character of these mass demonstrations and of the strong demands of the people of Egypt telling Mubarak to "Get Out!" and the US government not to interfere in the affairs of the people of Egypt. The recent change in the dynamics of the demonstrations was also quickly apparent, as late this week Egyptian government thugs began violently attacking protesters in order to try and play "divide and conquer" with the people of Egypt.

Following these videos, the program began with a panel of three speakers. Emcee of the forum, MAWO Outreach Coordinator Janine Solanki, introduced the first speaker, Ahmad Badawi. Ahmad is a political activist and organizer from Egypt. From his experience as an activist and youth organizer in Egypt, Ahmad brought his perspective of the current situation and prospects for the continuation of the struggle. Ahmad spoke of the role of young people in this revolution and how mass struggle in Egypt will impact and inspire the whole Arab world to join the fight against puppet governments for democracy, justice and liberation. The next to speak was Zeinab Ali, a young social justice activist from Egypt. Zeinab gave a moving presentation which was also very personal as her brother had been

demonstrating in Tahrir square and had been injured that day. The passion and pride that Zeinab has for the people of her country was apparent to everyone in the room, all of who were energized by her words and assurance that the Egyptian people would struggle until victory.

As a participant in the 1979 Iranian Revolution, Ali Yerevani, Political Editor of the Fire This Time Newspaper, the final speaker of the evening, spoke about the impact of the Iranian Revolution on US imperialism and the lessons that this has for the current uprising and revolution in Egypt. He spoke about how, since 1979, Iran has been independent from the dictates of the US government, explaining that this was also the fundamental demand of the Egyptian people and the reason why the US government is shaking in their boots in the wake of the current uprisings. Ali emphasized that while on the surface, the mass struggle of people in Egypt

is rooted in the domestic social problems and social crisis caused by these issues, in fact, this great mass movement is internationalist in scope. He continued by saying that, "This is vital and important to understand that 32 years after the Iranian revolution, the Egyptian uprising and revolution is again shaking the existence of imperialist presence and domination in North Africa and the Middle East." Then he concluded, "Mass movement in Tunisia, current ongoing revolution in Egypt, mass struggle in Yemen, Jordan and Algeria, all and all have rolled back the imperialist offensive that started with the new era of war and occupation in October 2001 with the occupation of Afghanistan and then Iraq and present preparation of war with Iran. From the point of view of the relationship of forces on the international scale, this is the most important achievement so far. Especially the continuation of resistance and struggle of millions of masses in Egypt has put the whole oppressed people of the region in a better position against imperialism and colonialism."

Ali also called upon all participants to make a decision to join in solidarity with the people of Egypt, North Africa and the Middle East, who are not only fighting for just their rights, but fighting for the rights of all humanity. Then Ali reminded participants that in this new era of war and occupation, a world of death, destruction and exploitation at the hands of imperialist governments like the US and Canada, it is more significant than ever that we, as peace loving people who believe in a better world, now have an example, millions of examples, of how that world can be won!

Long Live the people of Egypt!

Long Live the people of Tunisia!

Long live the people of Jordan, Yemen, and Algeria!



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.

Reflection by Fidel Castro

continued from last page

repression of demonstrators who that have been carrying out protests against his government over the last five days."

"Nicolas Sarkozy, Angela Merkel and David Cameron asked the president 'to initiate a process of change' in response to the 'legitimate demands' of his people and 'to avoid, at all costs, the use of violence against civilians,' in a joint declaration published on Saturday."

"Iran also called on Egyptian authorities to heed the demands being made on the streets."

"King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia said that the protests represent 'an attack against the security and stability' of Egypt and were being carried out by 'infiltrators' in the name of 'freedom of speech.'"

"The king called Mubarak by telephone to express his solidarity, reported the official Saudi press agency SPA."

January 31:

"(EFE) Netanyahu fears that the chaos in Egypt could favor Islam's access to power."

"Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said today that he fears that the situation in Egypt could favor Islam's access to power, a concern he said he shares with leaders who have spoken to him over the past few days."

"...the prime minister refused to discuss news reports by local media outlets that state that Israel has authorized Egypt to deploy troops in the Sinai Peninsula for the first time in three decades, considered a violation of the 1979 peace treaty between the two nations."

"In response to criticism against Western powers such as the United States and Germany that have maintained close ties with totalitarian Arab regimes, the German Foreign minister said, 'We have not abandoned Egypt.'"

"The peace process between Israelis and Palestinians has been at a standstill since last September, mainly because of Israel's refusal to stop building Jewish settlements in occupied Palestinian territories."

"Jerusalem, (EFE). Israel favors the continuation in power of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The Israeli head of State, Simon Peres, supported Mubarak today by stating that 'a fanatic religious oligarchy is not better than a lack of democracy.'"

"The declarations made by the head of State are

consistent with reports by local media outlets that state that Israel is pressuring its Western partners to tone down their criticisms of Mubarak's regime, which the Egyptian people and the opposition are trying to overthrow."

"Anonymous official sources quoted by the Haaretz newspaper said that on Saturday the Israeli Foreign Ministry sent a communiqué to its embassies in the United States, Canada, China, Russia and several European countries to request that ambassadors emphasize to local authorities the importance of stability in Egypt for Israel."

"Israeli analysts said that the fall of Mubarak could endanger the Camp David Agreements that Egypt signed with Israel in 1978 and the subsequent signing of the 1979 bilateral peace treaty, especially if it brings about the ascent to power of the Islamic Muslim Brothers, which have widespread popular support."

"Israel views Mubarak as a guarantor of peace along its southern border, as well as a key supporter in maintaining the blockade against the Gaza Strip and isolating the Palestinian Islamic movement Hamas."

"One of Israel's greatest fears is that the Egyptian riots, which follow in the wake of uprisings in Tunisia, will also reach Jordan, weakening the regime of King Abdullah II, whose country along with Egypt is the only Arab country that acknowledges Israel."

"The recent appointment of General Omar Suleiman as Egypt's vice president and, therefore, possible presidential successor, has been welcomed in Israel, which has closely cooperated in Defense matters with the general."

"However, the Egyptian protests show that the continuity of the regime is not necessarily guaranteed nor that Israel will continue to have Cairo as its main ally in the region."

As you can see, for the first time the world is simultaneously facing three problems:

Climate crises, food crises and political crises.

And we can add other serious dangers to them.

The risk of increasingly destructive war is very real.

Will the political leaders have sufficient serenity and equanimity to successfully face them?

Our species' fate depends on it.

Fidel Castro Ruz

February 1, 2011

MAWO Newsletter #30 Created by:
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