

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

**MAWO 32**

newsletter

March 2011

mobilization against war & occupation

### Statement by Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)

## DON'T ATTACK LIBYA!

# US, CANADA, UN, NATO HANDS OFF LIBYA! STOP NO-FLY ZONE OVER LIBYA!

March 17, 2011

Yet again the United Nations Security Council, this criminal tool of the US war machine, decided to bring another sovereign country to the bloodbath. Today, Thursday, March 17th, the UN Security Council passed a resolution (10 for, and 5 abstaining), that not only imposes a no-fly zone over Libya, but in detail gives all possible options for imperialist countries to attack Libya with whatever they may see fit. With resolution 1973, the US, UK, Canada, France and all other imperialist countries declared war on the people of Libya. The United States of war, destruction and killing successfully brought together a coalition of war mongers under the shameless new fake term of the "International Community." Immediately after passing resolution 1973, the United States, France, UK, Italy and NATO announced that they are ready to act and impose a no-fly zone and whatever necessary measure needed to be taken against Gaddafi and the Libyan government. Here in Canada, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, not lagging behind, instantaneously announced that Canada will send 8 CF-18s fighter jets to help enforce the UN resolution of a no-fly zone over Libya. Furthermore, Canada's foreign affairs minister, Lawrence Cannon, stated "Canada is open to all options", and when asked if this means deploying troops on the ground he responded, "protecting citizens that are being literally murdered by Gaddafi, is what the resolution calls for."



them. One, we haven't forgotten the killings of millions of people in Vietnam, more than a million people in Rwanda, killings of more than one million people in Iraq just from 2003 until now, as well as hundreds of thousands of innocent people in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Congo, Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia and many other poor and sovereign countries by the very same imperial powers. These crocodile tears are not for human lives in Libya but it is for the oil and gas of Libya, which has the proven largest underground reserves in Africa. Two, how ironic and preposterous it is that the so-called international community includes

the backing of the Arab League which in its latest meeting only 11 out of 22 countries participated with 2 against a no-fly zone. How credible would be the support of the Arab League for the no-fly zone when only 40% are in agreement. However there has been almost no mention of the African Union (AU), with 53 countries and the Organizations of Islamic Countries (OIC), with 57 members, where both organizations utterly rejected any foreign interference or intervention in Libya. "The African Union last Friday [March 11] meeting in Addis Ababa rejected any military intervention in Libya urging the international community to observe the rules of international laws and find a non military intervention strategy to end the crisis", and "The meeting [OIC, March 8] emphasized the imperative of respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity of Libya and non-interference in its internal affairs stressing the principled and firm position of the OIC against any form of military intervention to Libya." How preposterous it is that the two Arab countries which are so far participating in the no-fly zone, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, are both participating as mercenary forces in killing people and supporters of the opposition in Bahrain. How credible are these and Arab countries like Yemen, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other s that while they are killing their own opposition

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We need to remind ourselves that resolution 1973 is not to bring democracy and human rights to the Libyan people. There is no saving of human lives or any humanitarian intervention on behalf of the Libyan people that can be performed by imperialist powers. Indeed, this is such an obvious hypocrisy by these war mongers because none of those precious human values mean anything to

## The Disasters Threatening the World

Excerpt of Reflection by Fidel Castro

If the speed of light didn't exist, if the closest star to our sun weren't four light years away from Earth, the only inhabited planet in our solar system, if UFOs truly existed, imaginary visitors to the planet would continue their journey without understanding much of anything about our long-suffering human race.

Just a few centuries ago in the long history of humanity, no one knew what happened on the other side of the globe. Today we can find out instantaneously and, sometimes, they are events of great importance which affect all of the world's peoples.

With no further introduction, I will limit myself to the most important news of the last two days.

AFP. Yemen: Three protesters dead, including 12-year-old boy"

12/03/11

"SANA (AFP)—Three protesters died, among them a 12-year-old boy, and hundreds were injured on Saturday in Yemen, where rebels accused the police of having used poison gas to disperse them."

"One protester died and close to 300 were injured or poisoned by gases..."

"According to the UN, 37 protesters and at least six police have died since the beginning of the disturbances in Yemen."

ABU DHABI, Mar 14 (Reuters)

"A jump in oil prices and the fast recent drawdown in global stocks of cereals could herald a supply crisis, FAO Director General Jacques Diouf told Reuters..."

"The high prices raise concern and we've been quickly drawing down stocks..."

LONDON (AP) — British-based defense contractor BAE Systems PLC bribed Saudi officials in return for lucrative arms deals in Saudi Arabia, according to a newly released secret U.S. diplomatic cable on the WikiLeaks website.

"...BAE, Europe's largest defense contractor, paid more than 70 million pounds (\$113 million) to a Saudi prince..."

"EFE. Ashton not discounting possibility of imposing flight exclusion zone over Libya"

"Catherine Ashton, high representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs, did not discount the possibility of imposing a flight exclusion zone over Libya after meeting in Cairo today with Amr Moussa, secretary general of the Arab League."

"TRIPOLI, 14 (ANSA)—Muammar Gaddafi's forces

today attacked Ajdabiya, in eastern Libya, and the locality of Zuwarah in the northeast, while the opposition National Council assured that it would recover positions and said that it has an international commitment to establish a flight exclusion zone."

"The Council confirmed today that it has won a commitment from the United States, Britain and France to prepare a flight exclusion zone."

"General Abdul Fattah Younis, member of the rebel military council, affirmed that they will recover positions in the coastal areas and eastern region of the country..."

"We shall retake control of those cities and soon they will feel our army advancing on Sirte and Tripoli..."

"100,000 VOLUNTEERS JOIN GADDAFI'S FORCES"

"TRIPOLI, 14 (ANSA)—Around 100,000 volunteers have joined the Libyan armed forces since the start of fighting between troops backing Muammar Gaddafi and rebel groups, government sources said today."

"Bahrain: opposition condemns "occupation" after arrival of Saudi soldiers."

MANAMA, Mar 14 2011 (AFP)

"The people of Bahrain are facing a real danger: that of war on Bahraini citizens without a declaration of war, the seven members of the opposition, including the Shiite Wefaq group highlighted in a communiqué."

"We consider the entry of any soldier, any military vehicle into the land, air of maritime space of the kingdom of Bahrain as a flagrant occupation, a conspiracy against the unarmed Bahraini people, and a violation of international agreements, the opposition added."

"MORE PROTESTS YEMEN, BAHRAIN AND MOROCCO"

"MANAMA AND ADEN, 13 (ANSA)—Protest demonstrations continued today in Yemen, where three people died, Bahrain and Morocco, in actions against the governments of those countries, local sources reported today."

"...in Saudi Arabia, dozens of people gathered today in the vicinity of the Ministry of the Interior in Riyadh calling for the release of a group of activists detained by the police."

"MANAMA (AP)—Tens of thousands of Bahraini protesters encircled one of the royal family's palaces Saturday, shouting calls for political freedom and the king's ouster a day after a similar march triggered a

continued on next page

## LONG LIVE THE MASS POPULAR STRUGGLE IN NORTH AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST FOR FREEDOM, SELF-DETERMINATION & BASIC RIGHTS!

### Statement by Mobilization Against War & Occupation ~ MAWO

February 24, 2011

For more than two months people in North Africa and the Middle East, from Morocco to Yemen, have been in struggle for freedom, social justice, democracy, a better life, human dignity and self-determination. The growing momentum of this mass uprising has changed the social and political life of millions in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Bahrain, Libya, and to some extent, Syria and Iran. However, one must note that three countries, Libya, Syria and Iran, unlike the rest of the countries in the region, are not ruled by an imperialist client regime. In these countries, within the framework of being independent of imperialism, as well as the framework of the struggle of masses of people for their rights, the dividing line between revolution and counter revolution is more complicated. Fundamentally, the revolutionary movement that is unfolding today everywhere in North Africa and the Middle East is anti-autocratic and anti-imperialist in character.

The popular mass radical movement started in Tunisia in mid-December 2010, when an unemployed graduate student who was working as a street vendor set himself on fire in protest to humiliation and police brutality. After 28 days, on January 14, 2011, the protest rallies that were sparked and inspired by this incident forced the tyrant Ben Ali, the president of Tunisia for 23 years, to give up power and flee to Saudi Arabia. The popular mass struggle and victory in Tunisia elevated the social and political awareness in the already volatile atmosphere and generated a powerful confidence in millions of people that sparked a chain of mass protests and revolutionary struggle across North Africa and the Middle East. Strongest of all of these mass uprisings was in Egypt, where 18 days of marches, rallies and strikes by all layers of society, especially poor and working people, finally brought down the vicious dictator Hosni Mubarak, after 30 years in power.

The victory of the people of Egypt and Tunisia has set an important example for other countries in the area in terms of increasing immensely the radicalization and consciousness of working and

oppressed people. Furthermore, the similarity of the socio-economical crisis in the region has reinforced the escalation of mass protest to all North African and Middle Eastern countries, either imperialist client regimes or independent ones, in the form of wide spread social and political unrest. The autocratic rulers of Tunisia and Egypt used all suppressive measures to crack down the mass protests. Hundreds of people were killed and thousands were injured, as well as hundreds of protesters were rounded up. However, mass killings and arrests did not demoralize and alter the protest movement. On the contrary, it encouraged more the heroic masses of Tunisia and Egypt to bring down their tyrants more effectively.

Without any doubt, the mass rallies and uprisings that have unfolded in the countries with overwhelmingly U.S. client regimes are in nature an anti-imperialist movement.

The U.S. for decades has plundered the wealth and natural resources of these countries. The U.S. has armed these regimes with all the weaponry and military assistance necessary to suppress their population for the interest of multinational corporations and blood-sucking imperialist financial institutions. How could it be that these massive protest movements against local client regimes do not aim at imperialist exploitation and domination? After all, all these movements are a reaction to imperialist domination and exploitation. In fact, the client regimes have only been the base of operation for imperialist countries and their corporations.

The revolutionary mass movement in North Africa and the Middle East has so far undoubtedly imposed a huge setback for imperialist hegemony in general, and the U.S. war-drive in particular, in the region. This revolutionary movement also created world-wide solidarity with people in struggle. However, it must be said that thus far the U.S. and other imperialists, with the help of international institutions and especially the mainstream mass media, have been able to manipulate the world public opinion to prevent more sympathy and solidarity, needed to support effectively the people of North Africa and the

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## EMERGENCY PICKET!

# NO WAR

UN/NATO/US: HANDS OFF!

SAY "NO!" TO "NO FLY ZONE"

on LIBYA

SAY "NO!" TO SANCTIONS

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR LIBYA!

**TUES. MARCH 22, 5PM**  
**US Consulate (1075 W. Pender St.)**

Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)  
www.mawovancouver.org



MAWO's Latest Button  
To get buttons visit website

## March 17th Statement on Libya

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members or helping other countries to suppress their opposition, now are so concerned about the opposition in Libya. Why are these countries and their imperial masters conducting such a huge campaign against the Libyan government and advocating a no-fly zone, military attack and sanctions while they are completely silent on the violence being perpetuated on millions of people in North Africa and the Middle East, namely the suppression and massacring of people and protesters in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Furthermore, in the case of Bahrain, the security and special forces from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE, are acting as merciless mercenaries to suppress the growing opposition.

Third and not least important is that the new war drive in the Middle East and North Africa which is unfolding against Libya, is a very important strategic move by the United States and other colonial powers. The mass revolutionary movement that started in late December 2010 in North Africa and the Middle East has changed the balance of forces further in favour of the working and oppressed people of this region. It definitely slowed down the US war preparation against Iran and sank them more deeply in the quagmire of Iraq and especially Afghanistan. This mass movement is in its early stages of development. With the US attacking Libya, they are clearly attempting to roll back the powerful revolutionary movement started more than two months ago. By defeating the government of Libya, it reinforces the army and police against protesters everywhere in North Africa and the Middle East. Of course the defeat of government forces in Libya also means a great opportunity for imperialist forces to either influence the opposition forces more or to get rid of them altogether.



All progressive and peace-loving people and organizations must strongly condemn this new war drive. We must come together as a real international community to stop this new madness by the US and other colonial powers.

Needless to say, in this critical time our unity is essential to defend the people of Libya, the people of the Middle East and North Africa and to build an effective antiwar movement. This is the time that all antiwar and anti-occupation organizations come together under one clear strategy against all US and other imperialist military interventions. This is a time to abandon all illusions that there might be anything progressive and human to overthrowing the Libyan government or helping the opposition in Libya through imperialist intervention such as sanctions, a no-fly zone or military attacks. It is clear as sunshine that the consequences of this attack will be catastrophic for humanity. The unfolding mass revolutionary movement and ousting of Mubarak and Ben Ali

in Egypt and Tunisia have been a fresh struggle for anti-imperialist movements in the region. It certainly reversed the setback imposed on the working and poor people of the world through the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. What the great masses of North Africa and the Middle East need to see is not another Iraq but rather another Egypt. Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO), strongly condemns the UNSC resolution 1973, the imposing of a no-fly zone on Libya, and the undermining with any justification of the self-determination and sovereignty of the Libyan people. We demand:

- DON'T ATTACK LIBYA!
- US, CANADA, UN, NATO HANDS OFF LIBYA!
- STOP NO-FLY ZONE OVER LIBYA!
- REVOKE UNSC RESOLUTION 1973 AGAINST LIBYA!
- ALL IMPERIALISTS OUT OF NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST!

## Feb. 24th Statement on Libya

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Middle East. They have also partially succeeded so far in bringing the focus of the mass movements to just two issues. One, that the struggle of the mass movement is only a fight against dictators! And two, that they support these mass social and political movements and are on the same side as the protest movement. They have tried to register this on the world scale as well as well as in the Middle East and North Africa. In other words, their effort so far has been to direct this dynamic revolutionary movement into a safe hub, diverting the growing awareness of the masses locally and internationally away from the role of the imperialists' destruction in the region. The U.S. and other imperial countries have been trying very hard to do this, with the instrumental help of whatever is left of the old rotten regimes in the Middle East and North Africa.

While this manoeuvring worked at the beginning of the mass movement, now it has become clear that in Tunisia and Egypt working people have already advanced their struggle to fight for rights beyond the dismissal of dictators.

In non-client countries, such as Iran, Syria and Libya, the U.S. and other imperialists are campaigning simultaneously for democracy and democratic rights, as well as for regime change. However, their campaign in countries like Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain, Jordan and Yemen is merely for "transition to democracy." All the while they are working with what remains of other client regimes to channelize the mass movement into a safe and harmless order. Essentially, the imperialists need to establish in the world that movements in all these countries, either imperialist client regimes or independent regimes, all have the same nature and character. But in fact, while they preach for transitional governments in the client countries, they propagate for regime change in independent countries, a clear practice of double-standards and hypocrisy. It is of vital importance to understand that there are two types of countries in North Africa and the Middle East; those that are independent of imperialist countries like Iran, Syria and Libya, and then all the rest, that in different degrees are client regimes, including Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Jordan, Bahrain and so on. In the latter countries, the mass movements must get rid of client regimes and imperialist domination. On the contrary, the mass movement in the independent countries must reinforce the anti-imperialist consciousness, in rejection of imperialist domination and military intervention at the same time as they are fighting for a better government or regimes.

The return of imperialism to the independent countries and the establishment of client regimes in them is a severe harm and setback for working and oppressed people in the region. Such a defeat restores the balance of forces in favour of imperialism and brings back more misery and exploitation for decades to come. It is more

troubling to realize that Iraq and Afghanistan are still under the boots of the U.S., UK, Canada and their allies and that Palestine is more remote than ever from any dignified solution. Furthermore, such a defeat changes the dynamics of opposing forces completely in favour of the U.S., not only in the region, but on a world scale.

We must understand that there is big difference between regimes like Mubarak in Egypt, Ben Ali in Tunisia and Ali Abdullah Saleh in Yemen, and regimes in Iran and Libya. The first three regimes have all been puppets of the colonialist countries, therefore people of those countries must oust those puppet regimes in order to advance the movement against imperialism. The regimes of the two latter countries are against imperialist domination in their countries and indeed are independent of imperialism (though they are not truly anti-imperialist regimes). We are against any attempt by imperialists to campaign to overthrow these independent, non U.S. client regimes, be they good or bad regimes. It does not mean we support them politically, not at all. If there is any struggle in these countries against their governments or regimes, it must be absolutely an internal affair without imperialists' interference.

Since the beginning of the mass revolutionary movements, the U.S. and European imperialists have not conducted such a regime change campaign as the one that is now conducted against Libya. Imperialist countries of the U.S. and Europe are serious about intervention in Libya. Condemnation of the Libyan government by the EU and the U.S., the proposal for a UN intervention, the emergency session of the UN Security Council to adopt policies and decisions to ease military intervention by NATO or the UN, the potential imposition of a no fly zone, the imposition all sorts of sanctions, and finally the asking for the removal of Gaddafi by imperialist authorities including Barack Obama, the president of the United States, all and all are to undermine the self-determination of the people of Libya. Imperialists are taking advantage of the confusion around the internal conflict in Libya, advocating the re-instatement of a client imperialist regime in Libya, in order to be able to freely exploit the resources of Libya including the vast reserves of oil and gas. We condemn all imperialist campaigns for military intervention in Iran and especially in Libya and say loudly, U.S., EU hands Off Iran, Libya and Syria. We are against all sorts of sanctions against Syria, Libya and Iran. We DO NOT want another Iraq, we DO want another Egypt.

We invite everyone to join Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) to campaign against the military presence of imperialists in North Africa and the Middle East and demand: Stop meddling in the internal affairs of all these countries; Stop the false campaign and provocations against Iran and Libya; U.S., UK out of Iraq, and U.S., Canada, NATO out of Afghanistan; Stop sanctions against Iran and Libya. U.S. get out of North Africa and the Middle East!

## Fidel's Reflection

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violent response from security forces."

"The protests in Bahrain are modeled on the uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia."

"Bahrain holds particular importance to Washington as the host of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet..."

"United Arab Emirates to send troops to Bahrain"

"DUBAI, Mar 14 2011 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates announced Monday that they are going to send troops to Bahrain to contribute to 'preserving order and stability' in that neighboring country, where Saudi military personnel have already arrived for the same end."

"MANAMA, 14 Mar 2011 (AFP)—In reaction to the arrival of Saudi troops in the kingdom, the Bahraini opposition affirmed Monday that 'any foreign military presence will be considered as an occupation.'"

More than 1,000 Saudi soldiers, part of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Peninsula Shield Troops, have arrived in Bahrain, shaken by a wave of protests, a Saudi official told AFP."

"MEXICO (AFP)—The so called Operation Fast and Furious in the United States, which presumably permitted the deliberate entry into Mexico of close to 2,000 weapons, has placed relations between the two countries in a delicate moment, according to experts, and has prompted unanimous anger on the part of Mexican legislators."

"If the United States acted without including any Mexican authority, this is a totally unacceptable interference and a clear demonstration of Washington's lack of confidence in the Mexican police forces," Jorge Montaño, former Mexican ambassador in the United States, commented to AFP."

"Mexico is confronting an unprecedented spiral of violence which has left close to 35,000 dead since December of 2006 in confrontations between drug traffickers and anti-drug operatives, as well as 100 victims caught in crossfire."

"The Mexican Senate described Fast and Furious as 'an aggressive and unilateral operation and an attack on Mexico's sovereignty.'"

(IPS) March 14, 15:04

"It was reported tonight that Fukushima 1 reactor number one was melting after two emergency cooling efforts failed, aggravating fears of radioactive contamination. Explosions took place on Saturday and Monday in reactors number one and

three."

"Reactor number two functions with a fuel called MOX, an oxide mix, which contains plutonium, a substance especially dangerous to health."

"ROME, March 14 (ANSA) - A total of 442 active nuclear reactors exist around the world, concentrated in 29 countries and constructed by no more than 10 companies."

"Europe [...] where governments today began to review their nuclear policies has 148 reactors in 16 countries."

"To this group of plants in operation, 65 under construction can be added..."

"The highest number of nuclear reactors worldwide exist in the United States, with 104, followed by France (58), Japan (54)..."

Breaking news which just arrived in Cuba indicates that there was a third explosion in Fukushima:

(EFE) 15-03 20:13

"Radioactive leak feared as result of melting in the core of Fukushima reactor"

"Tokyo - The company operating the Fukushima nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan admitted today that it fears a radioactive leak as a result of a possible meltdown within the core of its reactor number 2, within which an explosion occurred this morning."

"Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) admitted that radiation could have been released after the reactor number 2 containment structure was damaged, while levels of radioactivity in the surrounding area reached 8.217 microsievert an hour, compared to the 500 allowed."

One can see the complex situation reigning in the Arab world, where a revolutionary wave has been unleashed.

The Saudi king is backing the NATO war in Libya, while, in Bahrain, NATO is backing the Saudi invasion. The blood of the Arab peoples will be shed to the benefit of the large U.S. transnationals, while oil prices will rise to unpredictable levels as wars are unleashed in the regions of highest production, and Japan's nuclear disasters are multiplying the resistance of peoples to a proliferation of nuclear power plants.

Squandering and the capitalist consumer societies in their neoliberal and imperialist phase are taking the world down a one-way street, where climate change and the growing cost of food are leading billions of people to the worst levels of poverty.

Fidel Castro Ruz

March 14, 2011

anti-war rally and petition campaign  
US HANDS OFF NORTH AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST!  
DON'T ATTACK LIBYA!

END THE OCCUPATIONS OF AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, PALESTINE & HAITI!

SELF DETERMINATION FOR INDIGENOUS NATIONS, TAMILS & ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!

US HANDS OFF IRAN, PAKISTAN & LATIN-AMERICA!

SATURDAY March 26 2:00pm  
Vancouver Art Gallery  
Georgia Street  
(In Between Howe St. & Hornby St.)

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION (MAWO)  
WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG



MONTHLY PROTEST ACTION!

**FREE THE CUBAN 5!**  
POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.

THURSDAY  
April 14  
4-5pm  
U.S. Consulate  
1075 W. Pender St.

Free The Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver  
www.freeThe5vancouver.ca

8 Years of War  
Devastation  
Resistance

**Iraq**  
Still occupied

WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION - MAWO

MULTIMEDIA - SPEAKERS - DISCUSSION  
TUES. March 22 7:30pm  
Joe's Cafe - In the Large North Hall  
1150 Commercial Drive at William Street

Get involved

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

with MAWO!

MAWO Newsletter #32 Created by:  
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