

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 May 22 & June 5

7 pm

Britannia Community Center - Learning Resource Centre
1661 Napier Street

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stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 38

newsletter

May 2012
1st Edition

mobilization against war & occupation

NO TO NATO! ABOLISH NATO!

JOINT STATEMENT FROM UNITED NATIONAL ANTIWAR COALITION (UNAC) FROM THE U.S. AND THE STOP THE WAR COALITION FROM BRITAIN

ORGANIZERS OF THE ANTI-NATO DEMONSTRATION IN LONDON ON SATURDAY, MAY 19 AND IN CHICAGO SUNDAY, MAY 20

On the weekend of May 20th, NATO officials will gather in Chicago.

Military action against NATO's agenda. Israeli yahu calls Iran "an ex-Republican and Demothe US are in favour of

Pressure for NATO intergrowing. NATO is maso of democracy, while its in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia tervention will inflame the be to increase the West-region.

NATO will also discuss the occupation in Afghanistan. Though the war is clearly lost, occupying forces are set to stay for at least two more years. Keeping NATO troops in place will lead to more atrocities and make a negotiated peace much more difficult.

The US and the UK are the lynchpins of the NATO coalition and responsible for more wars of aggression around the world than any other power.

UNAC and Stop the War Coalition will therefore be holding major protests in the US and the UK to say no to a new war on Iran; to oppose the threat of intervention in Syria; and to call for the immediate withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

Please join us and spread the word.

For more information on US protests visit www.UNACpeace.org or www.CANG8.org

For more information on UK protests visit <http://bit.ly/I510MJ>



Iran will be high on Prime Minister Netanyahu's leadership in "tough action."

vention in Syria is also querading as a champi-members back dictators and Yemen. Military infighting. Its only aim will ern powers' grip on the

MONTHLY ANTIWAR RALLY & PETITION CAMPAIGN

NO WAR! NO SANCTIONS! HANDS OFF IRAN & SYRIA!

SATURDAY MAY 26TH 4PM
VANGOUVER ART GALLERY
ROBSON STREET

- END THE OCCUPATIONS OF AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, PALESTINE & HAITI
- SAUDI AND ALL FOREIGN TROOPS OUT OF BAHRAIN
- U.S., U.K., CANADA, FRANCE, NATO, HANDS OFF LIBYA NOW!
- U.S. HANDS OFF NORTH AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST!
- SELF DETERMINATION FOR INDIGENOUS NATIONS & ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!
- FREE BRADLEY MANNING NOW!
- JOIN THE WORLD WIDE FREE BRADLEY MANNING CAMPAIGN TODAY!

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION - MAWO
WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

Nasrallah slams Syrian opposition, stands by Assad

By AFP Beirut

Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah on Tuesday vowed to stand by his embattled ally President Bashar al-Assad to the end, lashing out at Syria's opposition for cosying up with Washington and Israel.

"From the very beginning, we have made it clear that we stand by the (Syrian) regime, a regime of resistance" against Israel, Nasrallah said in a speech to mark the Shiite commemoration of Ashura.

Nasrallah's speech, broadcast on a giant screen to tens of thousands in the Shiite stronghold just south of Beirut, came after he made a brief public appearance before the frenzied crowd.

The black-clad leader heaped criticism on the Syrian National Council, the main anti-Assad opposition coalition, slamming the council for aiming to "destroy Syria."

"The so-called Syrian National Council, formed in Istanbul, and its leader Burhan Ghaliun ... are trying to present their credentials to the United States and Israel," Nasrallah said.

The Shiite leader's comments came after Ghaliun was quoted as saying a Syria run by the country's main opposition group would cut military ties to Iran, Hezbollah and the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas.

"There will be no special relationship with Iran," Ghalioun, a 66-year-old university professor, told the Wall Street Journal in an interview published on Friday.

"Breaking the exceptional relationship means breaking the strategic, military alliance," Ghalioun was quoted as saying. "After the fall of the Syrian regime, (Hezbollah) won't be the same."

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of self-determination of sovereign nations. Self-determination means it is up to the Iranian people to decide how to conduct their internal affairs including the form of government and social order. For those who are, out of naivety or desperation, focusing their campaign against the government of Iran- we must remind them that true regime change from outside of Iran is only possible through imperialist military intervention, period. Therefore no matter what nice words they use against sanctions and military intervention as soon as they are distracted from the main focus against foreign intervention, and begin talking about regime change, they are willingly or unwillingly on the same side as the imperialist campaign for the destruction of Iran.

Iran is not a threat to anyone. Iran is simply the target of imperialist powers because of its independence, geographical importance and political weight and influence in the whole region and beyond. Iran is surrounded by dozens of U.S. military bases all for their preparations to attack Iran. We must demand unconditionally that the U.S., UN Security Council, and EU end their sanctions on Iran. Stop assassinations of Iranian scientists and stop intervention in Iran. We must demand U.S., NATO and all imperialist out of the Middle East and North Africa and as well as an immediate end to the occupation of Afghanistan, Iraq and ending of interference in Pakistan, Libya and Syria.

U.S. Hands Off Iran!
U.S. Out of the Middle East and North Africa!

CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN

By Nita Palmer
<http://www.firethistime.net>

On March 28, 2012, the Fourteenth and Final Report to Parliament on Canada's Engagement in Afghanistan was released. The report outlines the "accomplishments" Canada has made in Afghanistan between 2008 and 2011. One must ask the question: what "accomplishments" does the government speak of when hundreds of independent reports have indicated only a decline in the standard of living since Canadian and other foreign troops arrived in 2001?

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's foreword to the report states that "[Canada's] ultimate objective, and that of the international community, is to help Afghans create a viable country — a more peaceful country that will never again be a safe haven for terrorists, a country that is better governed, a country in control of its own destiny." Yet with one look at the Afghan situation, it can be seen that, without a doubt, just the opposite has happened since Canada and other foreign forces have been in the country. Afghanistan is not more peaceful — it is a country being ravaged by war as we speak. It is not a country on the path

to eliminating terrorism — the war has only encouraged it. It is not a country which is better governed — President Hamid Karzai is laughingly referred to by Afghans, who largely see their new "democracy" as a farce, as the "Mayor of Kabul". And it certainly is not a country in control of its own destiny — how can it be when tens of thousands of foreign troops have taken over the country?



To those who would argue that Afghanistan is a "work in progress" and that peace and democracy do not come overnight, one must ask: what peace and democracy have ever been brought to a country at gunpoint? What human rights and prosperity have ever been brought by radioactive bombs?

Although the government claims that Canada has pulled out of the combat mission in Afghanistan, nearly 1000 troops still remain there under the guise of training the Afghan military and police. But if Canada has "pulled out" of the combat mission and troops are there only for training purposes, why are a full third of the troops which were there during the combat mission needed now? Regardless of the name put on the troops' role, one thing is clear: Canada is still very much an active

Latin American voices against foreign intervention in Syria

From Cuba, Venezuela and the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA)

ALBA member states voice support for Syrian government

<http://www.radiohc.cu>

Caracas, Feb 6, (RHC) -- Member countries of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) have condemned foreign efforts aimed at overthrowing the government of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad.

"The heads of state and government of the Bolivarian Alliance (ALBA) reiterate their condemnation of the systematic policy of interference and destabilization in the brother Arab Republic of Syria which (the policy) intends to impose by force on the Syrian people a change in rulers," the bloc's statement said.

The statement was issued during the

XI summit of the regional bloc in the Venezuelan capital, Caracas, on Sunday.

The statement also backed the peaceful settlement of the conflict through political dialogue, with respect to Syria's sovereignty.

Syria has been experiencing unrest since mid-March 2011, with thousands of people demonstrating both in favor and against the government of Assad.

Thousands have been reportedly killed, with the Syrian government blaming terrorist groups for the violence, while the West and the Syrian opposition repeatedly accuse the Assad administration of killing of protesters.

Cuba Denounces Campaign against Syria

<http://www.plenglish.com/>

United Nations, Feb 13 (Prensa Latina) Cuba denounced on Monday at the UN General Assembly manipulation and media lies promoted to justify aggression against the Syrian people.

Particularly alarming are the calls of those who promote regime change in Syria and are betting on the use of force and violence instead of contributing to dialogue and negotiation between all parties, said Pedro Nuñez Mosquera, Permanent Representative of Cuba to United Nations.

Speaking Monday at a meeting of the UN General Assembly convened to discuss the human rights situation in Syria, Nuñez Mosquera called to listen to proposals and actions of the Syrian government to resolve the conflict.

Nuñez Mosquera warned about incitement to violence, military aggression and foreign intervention advocated by media and senior officials of member countries of NATO.

A civil war in Syria or intervention of foreign forces would have serious

implications for international peace and security and in particular to the troubled Middle East region, said Nuñez Mosquera.

Nuñez Mosquera reiterated Cuba's rejection of foreign intervention, «either directly, or through support by irregular armed groups and the promotion of military adventures, which only raise destruction and deaths.»

The official recalled the position of NATO in the Middle East, unjustifiable bombing of Libya after the manipulation of a Security Council resolution and the acceptance and the complicit silence towards Israel's actions against the Palestinian people.

All this shows that the promotion of human rights is not exactly self-motivation of those who call the General Assembly to rule on the issue before us today, Nuñez Mosquera stated.

Nuñez Mosquera pointed out that the international community must assist in safeguarding peace and stability in Syria and must not encourage actions that cause deaths, crime, attacks on innocent people and insecurity.

Venezuelan Parliament Votes by Majority for decision on Supporting Syria against Conspiracy

Mar 14, 2012

http://www.sana.sy/index_eng.html

CARACAS, (SANA) - Legislative National Assembly of Venezuela (the Parliament) agreed during a session held on Tuesday by a majority of votes on a decision presented by parliamentarians of Syrian origins for solidarity with the country in face of the conspiracy led by the USA to undermine Syria's stances in support to the resistance and the Arab and liberation international movements.

Speaker of the Venezuelan Parliament, Diosdado Cabello, underlined his country's support to the Syrian people and leadership, pointing out that Syria is encountering an imperialistic conspiracy.

For his part, MP Jull Jabbour, Head of the Syrian-Venezuelan Parliamentary Friendship Committee, who submitted the draft project for supporting the Syrian people and leadership at the Venezuelan parliament, said that the statement presented is not only meant to support Syria but also to unmask the imperialistic schemes which seek to make Syria pay for its national and pan-Arab stances in support of resistance.

Vice Chairman of the Committee of Popular Authority and Media, Julio Chavez, said that what is going on in Syria is similar to what Venezuela suffered from in 2002, when the conspirators used to spread lies about virtual crimes, pointing out that the Syrians' strong stance will foil the conspiracy.

« Interestingly, some countries which support the conspiracy against Syria do not have parliaments such as Qatar! » The MP said.

The decision, which was unanimously approved by all MPs of the Venezuelan Socialist Party, includes five introductory paragraphs and six acting articles. It stresses support to the Syrian people and leadership in the face of the U.S. imperialistic conspiracy with the aim of destabilizing the situation in the country through arming the terrorist radical groups in an attempt to drag the country into a civil war.

It also hails the reforms launched by the Syrian government including the referendum for a new constitution and urges the international community to reject interference in Syria's domestic affairs.

part of the military mission in Afghanistan.

Cracks in the Foundation

It is not only in Afghanistan that this polarization between the people and the US, Canada and NATO occupation forces has begun to show itself. A recent New York Times/CBS poll showed that 69% of Americans believe the US should not be in Afghanistan. This number is now higher than opposition to the Iraq war at any point.

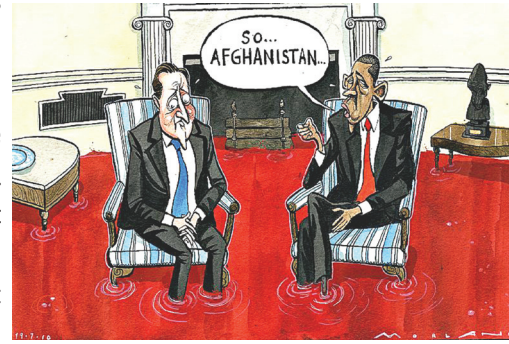
Not only is opposition to the occupation among poor and working people in the US on the rise, but opposition to the US and NATO war has appeared within the occupation forces themselves. In October 2009, Matthew Hoh, the Senior Civilian Representative for the US Government in Afghanistan's Zabul Province, resigned in protest over the occupation of Afghanistan.

Opposition to the US government's policies in the country was also exposed by US Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry's secret correspondence with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Increasing opposition to the war has forced the US, Canada, as well as NATO, to diffuse public anger and pressure by claiming they will leave in 2014. However, this claim is nothing more than an empty promise. After ten years of war and billions of dollars spent on the war in Afghanistan, they will not simply leave without establishing their interests in the country. To the US and Canadian establishments, it does not matter if Afghanistan remains in chaos, if life remains miserable for Afghans, as long as it is secured as a base for their military and economic interests in the region.

All You Need to Do is Leave! Out Now!

Over ten years of war have come at a terrible cost, not only to Afghan people, but, to people in the US and Canada as well. Nearly 3,000 NATO soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan; 1,942 of them American and 158 Canadian. In this country we are told there is no money in the pot for essential services such as education and health care, and we are facing new austerity measures such as the raising of the retirement age to 67. However, funds for the war in Afghanistan are flowing freely. The government of Canada has spent more than 22 billion taxpayer dollars on the war to date and is spending more every day.



This war has brought no benefit to people in Canada, and has brought nothing but destruction and suffering to Afghanistan. The most important thing Canada could do to help Afghan people is to leave immediately.

No, this would not bring immediate peace, democracy or human rights to Afghanistan - the road ahead for Afghans would be long and difficult. But foreign forces have shown unequivocally that they are not improving life in Afghanistan in any way. Above all, Afghan people have the right to self-determination - to build a country by and for Afghans, not foreign interests. It is our duty as human beings to demand an end to this brutal, illegal and unjust war. It's time to build a strong, effective and united antiwar movement in Canada and beyond. Building a movement which could end the war may seem an enormous task, but it was a movement of ordinary people in the US, and, of course the great resistance of Vietnamese people, that ended the infamous US war in Vietnam. We have no other option: if this war is to be defeated, it will be by you, me, and our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan.



U.S. HANDS OFF IRAN!

A JOINT STATEMENT FROM MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION (MAWO) & IRANIAN COMMUNITY AGAINST WAR (ICAW) February 1, 2012

Once again the United States and its little imperialist stooges like the UK, France and Canada are about to create another bloodbath in the Middle East, as they prepare for war and destruction against Iran. Iran is an independent sovereign country, whose heroic people have stood up for more than three decade against the U.S. and other imperialist countries' aggression and intimidation. The Iranian people have been targeted simply for exercising their inalienable right to self-determination and living with dignity by rejecting imperialist bullying and domination. For more than thirty years, the U.S. and its allies have imposed all kinds of sanctions, war, sabotage and terror on the people of Iran, but they have never been able to force them to accept the terms and rules of imperial powers.

Iran is the most important target of the U.S. in the Middle East and North Africa. Without bringing Iran to its knees it is not possible for imperialists to roll back the dynamism of growing anti-imperialist sentiment in the whole region. The United States' fundamental goal is for regime change in Iran. With a politically independent Iran, a powerful country in the Middle East, imperialists are not able to bring back their total hegemony to the Middle East, like they had before the great Iranian revolution of 1979. That revolution changed the relationship and balance of forces, if not completely, than indeed significantly, in favour of oppressed and working people of the Middle East, South Asia, as well as East, West and North Africa. Today, the message of the Iranian people to all oppressed nations of the world is much more powerful than anytime before. If thirty years ago the message was that it is possible to overthrow imperialist domination and get rid of puppet regimes; today the message is that countries under all kinds of imperialist pressure can advance independently in medicine, higher education and all practical and theoretical fields of science. This is what is frightening imperialists the most: that we do not need them for our development. Waging war with Iran is not only for restoring imperialist hegemony in the region and/or paving the road for the grand strategy of the US and Europe to move and isolate their powerful rivals, China and Russia. It is also to make sure the message of the Iranian people does not become a further aspiration for all oppressed nations to confront imperialist domination like we saw in last year in Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Morocco and Algeria. Today imperialists are frightened and shaken to

their bones!

In order for the U.S. and other imperialists to conduct a bloody war against Iran, they need to manipulate and shape public opinion in their respective countries and around the world. The ugly and completely deceptive campaign against Iran has moved from a hideous campaign to a tragicomedy. For decades Western powers filled our ears with how important and decisive it is to fight Iran, as the so-called centre of training and exporting terrorists, and put Iran with North Korea and Iraq in an "Axis of Evil". For a decade now they have been drumming up fear about the danger of Iran's peaceful nuclear activities. Ignoring that even if Iran somehow obtained an atomic bomb, how could they possibly use it against the 400 Israeli and 2,000 American nuclear warheads and their sophisticated nuclear defence technology? However, apparently this manipulation is not enough, now we have very recently learned from Mr. Panetta, the U.S. Secretary of Defence, that the United States is under threat of attack from Iran! So we are seeing the victimizer trying to paint itself as the victim and turning the victim into a menace. Ironically and hypocritically Israel, who is warning other countries of the region and the whole world about the dangers of Iran, is not a signer of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which does not seem to matter to any of its allies. Shouldn't we be more concerned about a heavily nuclear-armed Israel, which has established itself as an aggressor and war monger against Palestinian and Arab countries for more than 6 decades?

We need to realize by now that the U.S. and other imperial countries' ugly and untruthful campaign against Iran, is precisely the same as their world wide racist campaign of Islamophobia. It is all about domination and imperialist hegemony for the elimination of all resistance against imperialism that is gaining popularity in countries with Muslim populations. We have to be vigilant about imperialist tricks and manipulation while we are fighting back against war mongers. The focus today is not the nature of this or that regime, in this case namely Iran, but to oppose an imminent imperialist war drive against Iran. Like their campaigns against Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, as well as Syria, the U.S. policy of "regime change" can only bring devastation to the people of oppressed nations. To call for a dictatorial regime to be condemned or for regime change in Iran, from outside that country, is against the principal

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