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 "OBILIZATION GAINST AR & CCUPATION STOPTREDA-SREEL WAR DRIVE! Hard Boll (Logang) and Pages 19

Mactings & Forums Tuesdays - 7:00PM For location, please visit our web sites

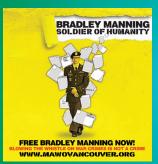
mawovancouver.org

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th 604+322+1764

* Upcoming Organizing Meeting *
TUESDAY February 26 & March 12 at 7 pm
Britannia Community Center - Learning Resource Centre
1661 Napier Street

MAWO Newsletter #42 Created by: Tamara Hansen, Janine Solanki and Ali Yerevani



Who is Bradley Manning "Soldier of Humanity"?

To find out more about the case of whistleblower Bradley Manning, pick up a brochure from a MAWO info table or download one from our website at: http://www.mawovancouver.org/materials/brochures/MAWO-BradleyManning-brochure.pdf









Mali: Mission Creep on Speed

Statement by Stop the War Coalition UK - January 29, 2013

This is mission creep on speed.

Two weeks ago we were told Britain would have no combat role in Mali and we would send just two transport planes. Now we are told the government is sending 350 British military personnel to Mali and West Africa to support French forces.

Prime Minister David Cameron is "keen" for Britain to get more involved in war on a new continent. He sent national security advisor Sir Kim Darroch to Paris to discuss what help Britain could provide. He has personally phoned French Prime Minister Hollande to offer more help and he is "keen to continue to provide further assistance".

The British government says it is prepared to send a "sizeable amount" of troops to provide military assistance to France.

This is how major wars begin. In the early 1960s, the United States started with a few "special advisors" in Vietnam. More than a decade later it left defeated, with over 50,000 American troops and at least two million Vietnamese killed.

Forgetting historical example is one thing. Ignoring the last few years is extraordinary. The disastrous wars in Afghanistan and Iraq — and the attack on Libya — were presented as humanitarian operations, complete with images of cheering local populations greeting western intervention — soon replaced by the devastation of the countries and huge death toll for the people they were meant to "liberate".

The spread of the "war on terror" to the Sahel region in Africa is a result of the chaos created by the Libyan intervention. It is also driven by the same motivations as previous wars, the desire to control vital energy reserves and other mineral resources. The region contains some of Europe's most important energy sources.

The Mali intervention will end with the same results: destruction, loss of life and deep anger against the west.

How long before the presence of thousands of western troops in their old colonial stomping grounds inflames new violence and resistance?

www.stopwar.org.uk



Endorsed by MAWO:

UNITED NATIONAL ANTIWAR COALITION (UNAC) STATEMENT ON SYRIA

Hands off Syria and Iran! End the Drone

We Need Jobs, Education Healthcare, Not Endless War!

The ominous signs of impending war with Syria escalate. NATO is massing troops and military equipment on Syria's borders, and preparing to install missiles aimed at Syria. U.S. warships are stationed off Syria's coast.

'Special operation' units are readied. The U.S. government has been supplying arms and logistical support to a few selected Syrian paramilitary groups favored by the U.S. as "replacements" for Assad. The media bombards us with arguments that support foreign intervention, supposedly for "humanitarian reasons". Like WMD's in Iraq, alarms are sounded, with no credible evidence, that Assad may unleash chemical weapons, thus establishing a pretext for invasion.

These are the facts that impel us to oppose any military, economic, diplomatic, or covert intervention aimed at controlling the internal affairs of Syria or any other

- > The Syrian people in their majority, regardless of their political positions re: the current government, have rejected calling for foreign intervention, such as occurred in Libya.
- > Sanctions harm the people of Syria by causing food shortages, power outages, and blocking the distribution of goods.
- > The U.S. is directly involved in arming and training a few selected Syrian militias favorable to the U.S., contributing to the escalation of violence, direct foreign military intervention, and total destabilization.
- > The people who always suffer the most are the people not engaged in the armed struggle.
- > We see the results of 'humanitarian'

U.S. wars and occupations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya today, where the people, especially women and children. are worse off than before, with millions dead, injured, and/or displaced, an infrastructure and economy in shambles, and where there is no peace. A country that has a river of Iraqi, Afghan, and Libyan blood on its hands has no right to tell other countries what to do.

> The U.S. government's goals in Syria are to gain dominance in a part f the world that holds the vast majority of the known oil reserves and to gain strategic advantage as it seeks to isolate and contain competitors like Russia and China. The U.S. has no interest in democracy or the humanitarian well-being of a country's peoples anywhere in the world, especially in areas where the U.S. has economic or strategic interests.

The U.S. has a long history of thwarting the emerging economies and progressive initiatives of the third world while supporting repressive regimes.

While activists may hold different views of Syria's internal political system, we must all agree that the U.S. government has no right to impose its will on other countries, especially those formerly colonized and exploited by the West. In all cases, we must support the right of nations to self-determination - that is to be able to decide on and resolve internal conflicts free from any foreign

The United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) demands:

No U.S. or NATO intervention in the internal affairs of Syria!

No War! No Sanctions! No Intervention! Self-determination for the Syrian people!

December 24, 2012 www.UNACpeace.org

UNAC STATEMENT ON THE RAPIDLY INCREASING U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFRICA

US sending 3500 troops to Africa

On Christmas Day, 2012 - a time when few people were paying attention to the news - the Associated Press reported that the Obama administration had decided to send some 3,500 U.S. troops early in 2013 into as many as 35 of Africa's 54 countries, claiming it is part of an intensifying Pentagon effort to train countries to battle "extremists" and to "give the United States a ready and trained force to dispatch to Africa if crises requiring the U.S. military emerge."

History of U.S. forces in Africa

It was a significant escalation of what has been a steadily increasing introduction of U.S. forces into the formerly colonized continent. Over the past few decades, the U.S. has devoted more and more attention to Africa, both because of its vast natural resources, consumer and government markets and historically cheap labor, and because of the U.S.' increasingly fierce competition with China both for these resources and for political influence with African countries.

On Dec. 30 the AP reported the president had sent 50 U.S. troops to Chad, "to help evacuate U.S. citizens and embassy personnel from the neighboring Central African Republic's capital of Bangui in the face of rebel advances toward the

In the fall of 2011, the U.S. sent about 100 U.S. troops "to help hunt down the leaders of the notoriously violent Lord's Resistance Army in and around Uganda." (CNN, Oct. 11, 2011)

That same CNN article reported the Pentagon also was "sending equipment to Central African armed forces and training a Democratic Republic of Congo light infantry battalion deployed in that country's northeast" and that the Pentagon's U.S. Africa Command, or AFRICOM, was "exploring ways to support the military of South Sudan."

By early October 2010, the report stated, "the U.S. military had more than 1,700 troops deployed in sub-Saharan Africa," mostly stationed in the small East African country of Djibouti, but with "at least a small presence in 33 different nations in sub-Saharan Africa."

Although AFRICOM now operates throughout Africa, its operational command center is still in Stuttgardt, Germany. That's because no African country has yet agreed to host it. The Command now may have found its de facto headquarters in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso, from which it has been sending drone surveillance flights over northern Mali.

In June 2005, AFRICOM launched its five-year Trans-Saharan Counter Terrorism Partnership. That was followed in 2006 with Flintlock, a now annual "regional exercise among African, Western, and U.S. counterterrorism forces."

In February 2012, there was Atlas Accord 12, an "annual-joint-aerial-delivery exercise, hosted by U.S. Army Africa," which "brings together Ú.S. Army personnel with militaries in Africa to enhance air drop capabilities and ensure effective delivery of military resupply materials and humanitarian aid." (Website of U.S. Army Africa, AFRICOM, Feb. 10, 2012.) This took place while the Tuareg rebellion was unfolding in the north.

The arguments supporting the deployments are always the same: the presence of "Islamists" or other extremists in countries suffering from a lack of financial resources, unstable governments and internal strife - all of which, where they exist, can be traced to the legacy of Western colonialism and neocolonialism.

U.S. intervention in Mali

One country has emerged as a particular focus of interest for the U.S. military: the West African Republic of Mali.

Early in 2012, long-simmering various ethnic groups in Northern Mali erupted in a resumption of an off-and-on-again armed struggle for independence that dates back to the French colonial period. On March 21 a group of mid-level officers and rank-and-file soldiers, angered by the government's inability to effectively combat the rebellion, staged a coup, ousting the democratically elected president, Amadou Toumani Toure. Prior to the coup, AFRICOM had established training programs and joint operations with the Malian army.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Tuaregs who had sought work in Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi's Libya, some as soldiers in the Libyan army, were returning home to escape the anti-Black pogroms being carried out by the Western-backed "rebel" forces. Many came back with their weapons and joined the rebellion. On April 6 the National Movement for the Liberation of the Azawad, or MNLA, a military-political force representing the impoverished Tuareg people in Northern Mali, declared the northern half of the country to be a new, independent nation.

Also coming into the country were what the U.S. described as large numbers of Arab fighters who identified with forces such as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), whose goal was to take control of all of Mali and impose a severe interpretation of Sharia law.

It was the presence of these outside forces that gave the U.S. and France an excuse to try and orchestrate a regional military intervention in Mali, supposedly to prevent the North from becoming a haven for terrorists. In addition, U.S. and France are both planning to send spy drones over the territory to assist in identifying targets for overt bombing missions.

However, those reports of large numbers of Islamists entering the area have been denied by the rival MNLA.

"The arrival of convoys of jihadists from Sudan and the Western Sahara are totally false," said MNLA spokesperson Ibrahim Ag Mohamed Assaleh. "We categorically deny it." (AFP, Oct.

Even a Malian security source told the French Press Agency that there is "the arrival of new terrorists in the north of Mali," but that claims of several hundred are "exaggerated." (Sapa-AFP, Oct. 22, 2012)

Ignoring these objections, the U.S. and France are now making political, diplomatic and military plans to force through a U.N.-backed plan to essentially invade Mali and take control of its weak political and military infrastructure. The mechanism for the invasion would be the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS, a 15-nation regional political and military alliance in which the U.S. has strong influence.

Why Mali?

Why Mali? Two reasons: oil, and the country's critical geo-political importance.

It has long been suspected that the northeastern region of Mali that borders Algeria potentially holds vast oil and gas reserves. The recent confirmation of oil reserves near Tessalit, a small Malian oasis town about 40 miles from the Algerian border, has fed Western hunger for control of that area.

The second reason for the intensifying U.S. interest is that Mali borders no less than seven West and North African countries, including Algeria, Niger, Senegal and Mauritania. Controlling Mali would give the U.S. an important hub from which to influence regional developments. This has been Washington's strategy for the Continent as a whole: to use economic aid and military training to develop close relationships with key governments and their militaries - such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda – so the U.S. can use them as a network of regional proxies to control all of Africa. This was the strategy that England and France used to control the Middle East after World War I, as well as the one England used with such success in India during that country's colonial period.

Meanwhile, there is not one significant force in or out of the Malian government that has called for outside intervention, whether led by the Western powers or ECOWAS.

Without a doubt, Africa has many problems poverty, insufficient infrastructure, AIDS, high infant mortality rates and short life expectancies. Such is the legacy of the forced removal of tens of millions of its most productive people, as well as the many years of brutal and exploitative colonization.

$Responsibility \, of \, antiwar \, movement \,$

But Africa still is a continent of vast natural resources: gold, diamonds, uranium, oil, natural gas, fishing and agriculture. There is no reason why Africans cannot develop these resources to not only meet their own needs but to be in a position to help other impoverished peoples. But first they must have something they lost hundreds of years ago: control over their continent's riches.

The U.S. anti-war movement, which has fought so hard to oppose U.S. intervention in the Middle East and other regions of the world, must take up the long-overdue struggle to oppose U.S. intervention in Africa. We must demand the dismantling of AFRICOM. We must oppose any U.S. or European-led intervention in Mali. We must call for the withdrawal of all Western troops from the Continent. We must demand Western reparations for the unimaginable damage wrought on Africa and Africans by centuries of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, colonialism and neocolonialism

To do any less would be to abandon our international responsibilities and our commitment to help win a just and peaceful world for all.

U.S. Out of Africa! Shut Down AFRICOM!

No Intervention in Mali!

Reparations for Centuries of Exploitation!

Money for Jobs and Education, Not for War and Occupation!

January 11th, 2013

www.UNACpeace.org

Hands Off Iran!

IRAN statement responding to the upcoming 5+1 talks on Iran's nuclear development - supported by the International Action **Center and Ramsey Clark www.iacenter.org**

There are two sides in this dispute, one composed of the U.S. and its allies in the European Union who accuse Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons - without presenting even an iota of credible facts or supporting documents – and the other, Iran, which is striving to protect its right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes based on provisions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Using an unfounded accusation as a pretext for acts of aggressions, one side of the dispute headed by the US empire is currently punishing the other side, Iran, with the genocidal sanctions, an inhuman act that has endangered the life of 10s of millions of innocent Iranian citizens for their "crime" of deciding to live independent and free from the yoke of hegemonic powers. The excuse for these aggressions is an allegation that has strongly been denied by Iranian officials and international organizations such as the Non-aligned Movement representing 120 countries. Furthermore, the charge against Iran on intending to develop nuclear weapons has even been refuted by the intelligence agencies of the U.S. government itself.

One side to this dispute has continuously shown its imperial arrogance through war crimes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria and by fully backing the repeated Israeli mass killings of the Palestinian people, and the other, Iran, has not initiated any war against any nation since its people overthrow the US pupper regime of Shah back in 1979. That record matched with the current position of Iran on opposing wars elsewhere in the world indicates the fact that Iran wishes to live in peace with other

Knowing the facts and the real stands of each party to this dispute, all those who love freedom and truth cannot remain silent or impartial in the "negotiations" between these two opposing camps?

In these negotiations one side is the oppressor and the other side is oppressed. One side is after domination, exploitation and plunder and the other side is looking to preserve its right to self-determination and sovereignty. One side represents the privileged interests of the big capitalist forces, which constitute less than 1% of the world's population, and the other is struggling for peace, independence and justice, causes in common with the interests of the 99ers. For these reasons we side with Iran and we urge all activists in the international peace movement to join us in signing this statement and raising the demands:

- Lift immediately all sanctions and stop threats of war against Iran.
- Recognize the right of the Iranian people to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.
- Hands off Iran