

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 on Tuesdays - 7:00PM

For location, please visit our website:

mawovancouver.org

e. info@mawovancouver.org

t. 604-322-1764

f. 604-322-1763

*** Next Organizing Meeting ***

TUESDAY December 10 at 7 pm

**Britannia Community Center - Learning Resource Centre
1661 Napier Street**

MAWO Newsletter #45 Created by: Janine Solanki, Noah Fine and Ali Yerevani

Who is Private Manning "Soldier of Humanity"?

To find out more about the case of whistleblower Private Manning, pick up a brochure and petition from a MAWO info table or download one from our website www.mawovancouver.org

Endorsed by MAWO:

FREE ALL THE CUBAN 5 NOW!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Report Back from Vancouver Delegation to 9th Annual Colloquium to Free the Cuban 5 in Holguin, Cuba

7PM @ JOE'S CAFE
1150 COMMERCIAL DR. @ WILLIAM ST.

97TH MONTHLY PROTEST ACTION

4-5PM @ U.S. CONSULATE
1075 WEST PENDER ST. @ THURLLOW ST.

FREE THE CUBAN 5 COMMITTEE - VANCOUVER

@freethes5van

WWW.FREETHE5VANCOUVER.CA

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!
DECEMBER 31st TUESDAY 8PM

55 YEARS OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

VICTORIA DRIVE COMMUNITY HALL
2026 East 43rd AVE (at Victoria Dr.)

TICKETS: \$20 PRE-SALE \$25 AT THE DOOR

Short Film, Food, Drinks, Live Music, DJ & Lots of Dancing!

778-882-5223

VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA - VSCS
WWW.VANCOUBASOLIDARITY.COM

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 45

newsletter

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mobilization against war & occupation

U.S.-IRAN DEAL: IMPERIALIST POLICY SHIFT & REBUFF OF ISRAEL LOBBY

IRAN MAKES CONCESSIONS FOR SANCTIONS RELIEF

By Mazda Majidi

November 27, 2013

Reprinted from LiberationNews.org

In the early morning hours of Nov. 24, the world powers reached a deal with Iran on its nuclear program. The interim agreement is for a duration of six months, during which the signatories hope to reach a more comprehensive and long-term agreement.

Details of the deal are sketchy.

Broadly, however, it is known that the agreement imposes significant limitations on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for minor relief in the sanctions imposed on it. It is reported that the deal allows Iran to continue enriching uranium to 5 percent purity, used as fuel for its power generating nuclear reactor. But Iran will no longer be able to enrich uranium to 20 percent purity, used for medical isotopes, and will be required to relinquish its stockpile within six months. Washington and its allies accuse Iran of pursuing a nuclear weapons program and view the 20 percent enriched uranium as dangerously close to nuclear bomb material—even though that requires enrichment levels of 97 percent. Additionally, Iran will permit unrestricted access by UN inspectors to its nuclear sites.

In exchange, while the U.S.-imposed sanctions will remain in place, there will be \$7 billion in sanctions relief and a promise of no new sanctions for six months. The \$7 billion in relief is essentially the unfreezing of

Iran's own assets in international financial institutions, part of an estimated \$100-\$120 billion that have been frozen and will continue to be "inaccessible and restricted."

Given the harsh conditions imposed on Iran, it is a testament to the capitalist class media monopoly that the main discussion in Western media is whether Iran has been given too much. Since the agreement, President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have

been making the case for the deal by

emphasizing the huge concessions

Iran was forced to make and

that the sanctions relief is

reversible.

Why did Iran make the deal?

The agreement should

not be confused with a

fair deal that observes

the interests of both sides.

Diplomacy in general, and

this agreement in particular,

occurs within the context of

power relations. How could it be

called justice when nuclear-armed nations

impose sanctions and harsh conditions on

a country that has no nuclear weapons, nor

any stated or documented plan to have such

weapons? This is not a negotiation between

two comparable adversaries working on the

terms of future relations and trade. Iran could

do nothing to the imperialist alliance that is

lined up against it. But the U.S. and its junior

partners have imposed extreme hardship on

the Iranian people, essentially locking Iran out

of international trade. So, in effect, Iran has to

negotiate with a gun to its head.

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imperialists hands off iran!
nuclear talks, sanctions & war

free public forum
speaker, multimedia, discussion

tuesday, december 3, 2013
7PM

britannia community centre
learning resource centre
1661 napier street@commercial drive
vancouver, canada

speakers:

- > mahtab eskandari, iranian academic researcher, writer, radio broadcaster, phd.ubc
- > ali yerevani, iranian political analyst & social justice organizer
- > phil wilayto, speaks through video conference u.s. researcher, social justice organizer, editor of the virginia defender newspaper, author of "in defence iran"

fire this time movement for social justice
endorsed by: mobilization against war & occupation
www.firethistime.net | www.mawovancouver.org

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The fact that the Iranian leadership energetically pursued a deal does not indicate that the deal is just. Iran voluntarily agreed to the deal the same way that a robbery victim voluntarily agrees to give up valuable possessions. For over two years, Iran has been exposed to comprehensive sanctions that amount to an embargo. It is not just that the United States and the European Union refuse trade with Iran, but that the U.S. will impose penalties on other states for trading with Iran. Iran's oil sales, the main source of its currency, have dropped to below half of what they used to be. Iran has been severely hampered in its trade of petrochemicals, automobiles and practically all other products. Similarly, it has been extremely difficult for Iran to purchase many essential goods, including medicine. As with all other sanctions the imperialists have imposed on oppressed countries, sanctions against Iran have caused death and hardship.

Given the damage done to Iran's economy, it is no wonder that the Islamic Republic came into Geneva prepared to make major concessions. A modern economy cannot live indefinitely under sanctions that make trade exceedingly difficult, not to mention living under the constant "all options are on the table" threat of military attack.

Besides, as harsh as the conditions imposed on Iran are, the agreement is not a complete capitulation. Complete cessation of nuclear activities, including uranium enrichment for nuclear power generation, was not a demand made on Iran this time. Explicitly stated or not, the agreement recognizes Iran's right to continue enrichment, albeit under tight inspections. As unjust and unfair the agreement may be, one cannot demand of an oppressed nation to withstand economic strangulation indefinitely.

In the June elections in Iran, in which Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was ineligible to run for a third term, Hassan Rouhani won resoundingly in the first round. Rouhani's main promise was "constructive engagement" with the West and bringing an end to the sanctions. Having suffered two years of harsh sanctions that had caused the Rial, Iran's currency, to lose nearly 2/3 of its value, the Iranian people, particularly the working class, were suffering tremendously. Rouhani's promise of ending the sanctions resonated with the voters hoping for an end to extreme hardship.

But Rouhani's conciliatory tone towards the West and willingness to make concessions cannot be considered the deciding factor in what made the recent agreement possible.

U.S. policy shift

The major change that made the deal possible happened not in Tehran, but in Washington. Up to now, U.S. policy towards Iran has really been regime change since the 1979 revolution. Washington wants the return of a leadership like that of the Shah, installed by a CIA coup in 1953. Washington's promotion of the Iran-Iraq war was in hopes of weakening both independent states. But following the end of the war, Iran began a period of rapid development, resulting in the country emerging as a regional power. From Washington's perspective, a regional power that provides diplomatic and material support to the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance movements must be overthrown.

The right-wing, pro-West Green Movement that arose following the 2009 presidential elections gave rise to Washington's hopes of regime change from within. But by 2010, hopes for a Green overthrow faded. The crippling U.S. sanctions, implemented in 2011, were another attempt at bringing about regime change. Washington hoped that the sanctions would paralyze the economy and cause so much hardship that the Islamic Republic would be destabilized. But as devastating as the sanctions have been, they have not pushed the state to the verge of collapse. The June 2013 elections resulted in the election of the more conciliatory faction of the Islamic Republic, but regime change remained a distant dream for Washington.

The U.S. goal of overthrowing all independent states in the Middle East has suffered another blow in Syria. Facing domestic and international opposition, the Obama administration was forced to relinquish its plans for bombing Syria. While not stable, the Syrian state has gained strength and is far from collapsing. Not only has the strength of the armed opposition faded, the Syrian National Council/Free Syrian Army imperialist-supported alternative have lost relative strength among the Syrian opposition, with the Al-Qaeda allied forces emerging as the strongest opposition force.

With Iraq not having emerged from the eight

years of occupation as a dependable client state, Syria surviving and Iran still standing, Washington's goal of a Middle East comprised exclusively of client states is now no more than a fantasy.

So, as many foreign policy "realists" had long advocated, the Obama administration had to part ways with the immediate goals of regime change in Iran and embark upon a path of dealing with Iran as an adversary. Taking this diplomatic path should not be confused with a humane foreign policy. In the absence of a realistic military alternative for the U.S., diplomacy, not military invasion and hostility, is now a more effective tool for promoting imperialist interests.

Does Israel call the shots?

Despite the fact that all major imperialist powers have signed on to the deal, some factions of the U.S. ruling class are opposed to the agreement, having not given up on the goal of regime change. The most vocal opposition has come from the state of Israel. After weeks of going all out in a campaign against the negotiations, Israel's lobbying campaign failed. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called the agreement a "historic mistake" and stated that Israel will not abide by it.

For years, there has existed this false notion that Israel controls U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. Using the extraordinary influence of the pro-Israel lobby such as AIPAC, and the special relationship between the U.S. and Israeli governments, proponents of this view conclude that Tel Aviv controls Washington. Whether consciously or not, this false notion absolves the U.S. from responsibility for U.S./Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people and the rest of the Arab world.

On the face it, the notion that Israel controls U.S. policy is based on a failure to recognize that the foreign and domestic policies of any country are based on the interests of that country's ruling class. The U.S. economy is approximately 60 times the size that of Israel's. Why would the U.S. capitalist class subjugate its own interests to that of Israel's? AIPAC, and any lobbying campaign, can only be successful to the extent that they can convince capitalist politicians that their agenda serves the interests of the U.S. ruling class.

Iran provides a crystal clear example of the falsity of the "Israel controls the U.S." assumption. Even during the years of the Bush administration, Israel feverishly lobbied the U.S. to bomb Iran. On more than one occasion, both the Bush and Obama administrations have told Israel that it would not be permitted to bomb Iran, dashing Israel's hopes of starting a provocation that would drag the U.S. into a war. Israel's vociferous opposition to the nuclear agreement is common knowledge. This setback comes on the heels of another major setback when the U.S. pulled back from plans to bomb Syria and signed on to the Russia-brokered agreement. On both counts, Washington went directly against the well-known, and heavily lobbied, wishes of Israel and its powerful U.S. lobbyists.

But Israel's position on the Iran nuclear agreement is no surprise. Israel's rise as a powerful, highly militarized state has only been possible thanks to decades of U.S. aid, and military and diplomatic support. Israel earns this support by providing services to U.S. imperialism, by attacking and weakening states and national liberation movements in the region. It is in an atmosphere of war and instability, not one of agreements and understandings, that Israel can maximize its worth to its U.S. sponsors. The U.S., on the other hand, while more than willing to engage in criminal wars and occupations, does not have an intrinsic interest in maintaining a war-like relationship with its adversaries at all times.

The fact that the U.S. and its imperialist partners have been willing to reach any agreement at all with Iran is recognition of the limits of imperialist power and the power of independent development. Over the following months, we will witness the extent to which Western powers will attempt to impose ever harsher conditions on Iran; and the extent to which the Iranian leadership is willing to make concessions. But amid the give and take of the negotiations, the conflicts and agreements, we must not lose sight of the fact that this diplomacy is not taking place in the context of an "equality of nations." Instead, the imperialists use diplomacy the same way they do war: to entrench their domination of the region, incapacitate potential sources of resistance, and subjugate the world's historically oppressed nations.

PVT CHELSEA MANNING TELLS TIME MAGAZINE WHAT SHE'S THANKFUL FOR THIS THANKSGIVING

TIME Magazine asked WikiLeaks whistleblower PVT Chelsea Manning what she's thankful for this year. Her answer was published alongside those from Michelle Obama, Joe Biden, and 14 other well-known public figures. Her response, while demonstrating wisdom beyond her years, is one that many people who work for the betterment of society will appreciate:

"I'm usually hesitant to celebrate Thanksgiving Day. After all, the Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony systematically terrorized and slaughtered the very same Pequot tribe that assisted the first English refugees to arrive at Plymouth Rock. So, perhaps ironically, I'm thankful that I know that, and I'm also thankful that there are people who seek out, and usually find, such truths. I'm thankful for people who, even surrounded by millions of Americans eating turkey during regularly scheduled commercial breaks in the Green Bay and Detroit football game; who, despite having been taught, often as early as five and six years old, that the "helpful natives" selflessly assisted the "poor helpless Pilgrims" and lived happily ever after, dare to ask probing, even dangerous, questions.

Such people are often nameless and humble, yet no less courageous. Whether carpenters of welders; retail clerks or bank managers; artists or lawyers, they dare to ask tough questions, and seek out the truth, even when the answers they find might not be easy to live with.

I'm also grateful for having social and human justice pioneers who lead through action, and by example, as opposed to directing or commanding other people to take action. Often, the achievements of such people transcend political, cultural, and generational boundaries. Unfortunately, such remarkable people often risk their reputations, their livelihood, and, all too often, even their lives.

For instance, the man commonly known as Malcolm X began to openly embrace the idea, after an awakening during his travels to the Middle East and Africa, of an international and unifying effort to achieve equality, and was murdered after a tough, yearlong defection from the Nation of Islam. Martin Luther King Jr., after choosing to embrace

the struggles of striking sanitation workers in Memphis over lobbying in Washington, D.C., was murdered by an escaped convict seeking fame and respect from white Southerners. Harvey Milk, the first openly gay politician in the U.S., was murdered by a jealous former colleague. These are only examples; I wouldn't dare to make a claim that they represent an exhaustive list of remarkable pioneers of social justice and equality—certainly many if not the vast majority are unsung and, sadly, forgotten.

So, this year, and every year, I'm thankful for such people, and I'm thankful that one day—perhaps not tomorrow—because of the accomplishments of such truth-seekers and human rights pioneers, we can live together on this tiny "pale blue dot" of a planet and stop looking inward, at each other, but rather outward, into the space beyond this planet and the future of all of humanity."

For those who don't already know, PVT Chelsea Manning grew up in a conservative community in the Midwest. She suffered a dysfunctional home life, and she was bullied at school for being gay. She was even homeless for a period, working two part-time jobs to get by. She dreamed of one day going to college, and for this reason joined the Army at the age of 19. A few years later she realized she was not gay, but transgender; since she was in the Army, her only option was to hide her identity while working 14 hour days in a war zone. Through all these obstacles, she has remained committed to educating herself, asking the hard questions, and taking risks in the name of helping other people.

This year, we give thanks for PVT Manning's humanist idealism, her bravery, and her unyielding belief that through the work of dedicated individuals our society can and will be made more just. It is not only her actions, but also her unique individualism, that has inspired thousands of people around the world to action. We hope you'll join us in showing thanks for Chelsea by making a gift to ensure her legal appeals process is fully funded. 35 years is far too harsh a punishment for showing the public the truth.



IAC CONDEMNS ISRAELI AIR STRIKE AGAINST SYRIA

STATEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ACTION CENTER

<http://www.iacenter.org>

November 3, 2013

The International Action Center condemns the strike by Israeli planes or missiles of Syrian territory near the coastal city of Latakia on Oct. 31. This is at least the third time this year that Israeli forces have bombed or hit targets inside Syria, according to media and U.S. government sources.

Officials in the Barack Obama administration announced the attack, according to CNN, AFP and RT of Nov. 1. Like the earlier attacks, the Israeli government has not admitted this attack. This is its usual response. However, all Israeli media have been reporting the assault. The media reports the "reason" for the attack -- really the pretext -- that it was to prevent transfer of sophisticated anti-aircraft weapons to the Hezbollah Lebanese liberation organization.

That Washington announced the attack and the U.S. is still the main -- and often the only -- foreign power to line up alongside Israel on every serious issue, there is little doubt the the Israeli aggression had

first gotten a go-ahead from the Obama administration. This implies that the U.S. considers the Geneva negotiations between the Syrian government and "rebel" forces expendable. The war's continuation is thus the responsibility of Washington and Tel Aviv.

Since 2011 the war within Syria has been promoted, armed and provoked by the U.S., NATO, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Monarchies has claimed 120,000 lives, nearly half from government forces and civilians who supported the government of Bashar al-Assad.

The U.S. and the UN are overseeing a campaign disarming Syria of its chemical weapons. While the U.S. State Department has praised the Syrian government for its cooperation, this new attack from Israel -- with obvious U.S. support -- shows that Washington has not abandoned its goal of removing the Assad government.

The IAC reiterates its condemnation of this new Israeli aggression and of the whole U.S.-NATO-Israeli-Saudi plans to remove the Syrian government from power and destroy the Syrian state.

