

# 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](http://mawovancouver.org)

e. [info@mawovancouver.org](mailto:info@mawovancouver.org)

t. 604-322-1764

f. 604-322-1763

**\* Next Organizing Meeting \***

**TUESDAY June 17 at 7 pm**

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

MAWO Newsletter #46 Created by: Janine Solanki 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](http://www.mawovancouver.org)

Endorsed by MAWO:

**103rd Monthly Protest Action**

**FREE ALL THE CUBAN 5 NOW!**

**Thursday June 5 4PM**

**U.S. Consulate 1075 W. Pender St. Downtown, BC Vancouver, Canada**

**Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver WWW.FREETHE5VANCOUVER.CA**

**Solidarity Action with the 3rd Annual 5 Days for the Cuban 5 in Washington, DC from June 4th to 11th 2014**

**WHO ARE THE 5 CUBAN HEROES?**  
Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González, also known as the Cuban 5, are five men who were wrongly accused and convicted in a U.S. Federal Court of "conspiracy to commit espionage" and other fabricated charges, following their arrest and imprisonment in 1998. The 5 were actually unarmed men involved in monitoring Miami-based terrorist organizations, which since 1999 have been responsible for the deaths of over 3,400 people in Cuba, including one resident of Canada, Fabio di Celmo. In 1997, through their important work, these 5 men were able to prevent further deaths in Cuba. As of March, 2014 René González and Fernando González have both returned permanently to Cuba in a great victory for justice-loving people all over the world. Gerardo, Ramón, and Antonio remain unjustly in U.S. jails facing sentences up to double-life plus 15 years.

**¿QUIÉNES SON LOS 5 HÉROES CUBANOS?**  
Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González y René González, también conocidos como los Cinco (the Cuban Five), son cinco hombres que fueron injustamente acusados y condenados en una Corte Federal de Estados Unidos de "conspiración para cometer espionaje" y otros cargos fabricados, siguiendo su arresto y encarcelamiento en 1998. Los Cinco eran realmente hombres desarmados que monitoreaban las organizaciones terroristas con sede en Miami, las que desde 1999 han sido responsables de la muerte de 3400 personas en Cuba, incluyendo un residente en Canadá, Fabio di Celmo, en 1997. A través de su importante trabajo, estos cinco hombres pudieron evitar otras muertes en Cuba. A partir de marzo de 2014, René González y Fernando González han regresado a Cuba de manera permanente, en una gran victoria para las personas que aman la justicia en todo el mundo. Gerardo, Ramón, y Antonio permanecen injustamente en cárceles de Estados Unidos, enfrentando sentencias de hasta doble cadena perpetua más 15 años.

**3RD ANNUAL 5 DAYS FOR THE CUBAN 5 WASHINGTON DC, JUNE 4-11 2014**  
Find out more information about joining or supporting this years British Columbia Delegation by calling 604-719-6947 or e-mailing [FreeThe5vancouver@gmail.com](mailto:FreeThe5vancouver@gmail.com)  
To find out more about this international event visit: <http://5daysforthecuban5.com/>

stop the war! stop the occupations!

[www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org)

# MAWO 46

newsletter

1st Edition

May 2014

mobilization against war & occupation

## GUILTY: Washington, Kiev Responsible for Odessa Massacre

May 6, 2014

May 4 — Imagine a gathering of diverse activists in a medium-sized U.S. city, representing low-wage workers, communities mobilizing against police brutality and radical organizations. It might be an Occupy Wall Street encampment, a civil rights rally or anti-war conference. You may have attended such events yourself.

Now imagine this gathering was attacked by a thousand members of the Ku Klux Klan, dispatched with government approval. Consider that the Klan members, armed with gasoline bombs, baseball bats and firearms, chased the unarmed activists into a union hall and set fire to the building.

Suppose dozens of activists died in the fire, while others were shot dead or beaten to death while trying to escape the inferno. What if police then arrested survivors and the media blamed them for the blaze, while the bigots responsible were allowed to escape?

How would the workers' and progressive movements respond to such an atrocity?

This is the horrific scenario that played out in Odessa, Ukraine, on May 2.

Neo-Nazi gangs based in from western Ukraine marched through the city, posing as sports fans going to a soccer match. They attacked local anti-fascist activists who tried to block them outside a shopping center.

The fascists set fire to the protest encampment set up by opponents of the U.S.-backed coup, forcing their unarmed opponents to retreat. Workers at the nearby House of Trade Unions opened their doors to shelter the activists.

Then the neo-Nazis attacked the trade union building, setting it ablaze. Paramilitary goons

fired guns into windows, killing and wounding those attempting to escape. Some activists leaped from high windows and survived, only to be beaten to death on the ground.

In all, 46 anti-fascists were killed, most during the murderous attack on the trade union building. They included men and women, youths and seniors, activists and workers.

Photographs taken the following morning inside the trade union building show bodies charred beyond recognition, some having been shot, others suffocated or burned to death while half-hanging out of windows.

Some of the survivors were arrested. The killers were allowed to leave, to be used again another day.

On May 4, more than 1,000 courageous Odessans protested outside police headquarters and forced the authorities to release arrested anti-fascist protesters, including survivors of the attack on the trade union building. As they were released, the people chanted, "Heroes!"

**Washington's guilty silence**

From the government of Russia to the European Left parliamentary group, angry messages of protest against the massacre and condolences for the people of Odessa poured in. But in Washington, there was silence — though President Obama did find time to praise Kiev's attack on cities in the rebellious Donetsk region to "restore order." So far, 13 unarmed activists and civilians in Slavyansk and 10 more in Kramatorsk have been killed in this latest offensive, falsely labeled "anti-terrorist."

The corporate media have tied themselves in knots to avoid reporting the truth about Odessa. For example, a May 2 Reuters news agency

*Continued on page 2*



multimedia · speakers · discussion

# How Imperialists Divided Ukraine Which Way Forward?

**PUBLIC FORUM TUESDAY MAY 27 7pm**

**Joe's Cafe 1150 Commercial Dr., Vancouver**

**Speaker: Ali Yerevani, political editor**

@mawovan Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)

[www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org)

## WHAT THE MEDIA AREN'T TELLING YOU ABOUT THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE & CRIMEA

Corporate media have always lied about the reasons for war, from Vietnam and Iraq to Libya and Syria. If you turn on CNN or FOX News, read the New York Times or listen to NPR, you aren't getting the real story. Here are 10 things the U.S. corporate media won't tell you about what's happening in Ukraine.

### 1. Washington planned the coup in Ukraine.

U.S. State Department official Victoria Nuland was caught on tape plotting who would be the next head of Ukraine. She bragged that the U.S. had spent \$5 billion funding the so-called democracy movement there. Senator John McCain went to Kiev, spoke at rallies and was photographed with the leader of the fascist Svoboda party. Neo-Nazi forces took over buildings and threw out the elected government in a coup d'état, then passed new laws with no quorum in the parliament.

### 2. There has been no Russian invasion.

Washington officials have threatened Russia for "invading" Ukraine. It's a Big Lie meant to cover up U.S. involvement in the coup. Russia has a military base in Crimea, a predominately Russian ethnic area, and is legally allowed to station up to 25,000 troops in the country. On March 16, nearly 97 percent of Crimean voters who participated in a referendum chose to leave Ukraine and affiliate with the Russian Federation. Russia has said it may act to protect civilians if they are threatened by the neo-Nazis in Kiev. That is all.

### 3. The U.S. war buildup.

The Navy has deployed the USS Truxton, a warship armed with guided missiles, to the Black Sea. Six F-15 fighter jets and 60 military personnel have been sent to Lithuania, in addition to those already stationed there. The U.S. and EU are imposing sanctions and travel bans on Russian officials. Politicians from Hillary Clinton to John McCain have compared Russian President Vladimir Putin to Hitler. When preparing for war, the U.S. always uses this bogus comparison to demonize leaders of opponent countries.

### 4. Neo-Nazis dominate the new government.

The openly racist, anti-Semitic and pro-Hitler Svoboda party is one of three major parties in the government. Svoboda led the street actions that forced elected President Yanukovich to flee. The Right Sector, armed fascists who have beaten opponents and vandalized public property, are now in charge of the military. Immediately after the coup, Ukraine's chief rabbi, Moshe Reuven Azman, urged Jews to flee Kiev. The government's first act was to ban the use of Russian and other minority languages. Opponents of the coup have been beaten, disappeared, or had their offices and homes vandalized and burned. On March 14 in the city of Kharkov, two anti-fascists were shot dead and three people were taken hostage by neo-Nazis sent from Kiev.

### 5. Coup leaders hired snipers to justify takeover.

A leaked call between Estonian and European Union officials reveals that people behind the new government hired snipers to kill protesters and police in Kiev. President Yanukovich was blamed for the killings and this was used to justify the coup.

### 6. Wall Street and Big Oil want to control Ukraine – and Russia.

Oil and gas pipelines in Ukraine bring fuel from Russia to Europe. Big Oil wants to cut the flow from Russia and hike their own profits. The U.S. has even offered the new government gas from dangerous fracking drilling here! Russia is the world's largest producer of gas, oil and industrial minerals. They want to break up Russia too. Wall Street would love to get its claws deeper into Ukraine and Russia – to drive up profits and push down wages for workers here and there.

### 7. NATO's drive to expand.

As part of the Western drive to dismantle Russia, the Pentagon wants to establish military bases on the Ukraine/Russia border. The U.S.-dominated NATO alliance has expanded aggressively into eastern Europe in the past 20 years, adding 12 countries to its roster so far. Since their criminal bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999, the U.S./NATO forces continue to occupy Kosovo, a province of Serbia, and are still present in Afghanistan to the south.

### 8. Billions for coup in Ukraine, cuts for food stamps in U.S.

In early February, Congress and the Obama administration agreed to cut SNAP food assistance benefits for hungry families by \$8.7 billion, claiming there's no money. Yet just weeks later, they announced \$10 billion in assistance to the neo-Nazis in Kiev. Secretary of State John Kerry personally delivered the first billion on March 4.

### 9. Power for the 1%, misery for workers.

The new regime has appointed wealthy oligarchs as governors of rebellious regions of Eastern Ukraine. It's also agreed in principle to accept an IMF austerity plan drafted by Washington to cut workers' pensions, unemployment insurance and social programs – just like the cut-backs workers from Detroit to Greece face.

### 10. People across Ukraine are fighting back.

People in Eastern Ukraine and throughout the country are organizing against the coup. Some have taken over regional and city buildings and refused to hand them over to the new authorities. Others are marching on military bases and demanding that the troops not obey the commands of the neo-Nazis in Kiev. Some are calling on the Russian government to protect and assist them. The people of Ukraine remember well what Nazi rule was like during World War II, and they will not stand for it again.

International Action Center  
[www.iacenter.org](http://www.iacenter.org)

## OPEN WAR VS. SYRIA IN THE OFFING?

### Statement by the Syria Solidarity Movement on the 3rd Anniversary of the War in Syria

Since the collapse of the Geneva 2 talks, US President Obama has asked his Secretary of Defence, Chuck Hegel, to come up with "further options" on Syria. The results of Obama's request are now becoming clearer. They include the establishment of a 25-mile-deep, no-fly zone along Syrian borders (probably based on the Patriot missile batteries stationed two years ago inside Turkey and manned by US troops); the deployment of unmanned drones for pinpoint strikes on targets farther into the Syrian interior; and the equipping of the US-supported, foreign mercenaries, linked to Al-Qaeda, with the latest anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons just in time for a spring offensive – and partly to upset plans for a Syrian presidential election in April 2014.

The talks collapsed because, from his very first

for violations of international law in regards to the treatment of civilians and demands, among other things, "that all parties allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance."

March 15, 2014, marks the third anniversary of the covert war of aggression against Syria launched by western and regional powers through the so-called "Friends of Syria" Group. The result of three years of war against Syria is over 100,000 deaths (of which about half are accounted for among Syrian police and soldiers), over two million external Syrian refugees, and at least four million internally displaced persons. No figures are available for numbers of wounded or children psychologically traumatized. Nearly half of the Syrian civilian infrastructure has been destroyed, including hospitals, schools, power facilities, and housing. Due to the war and economic sanctions, nearly 70% of Syrians are now unemployed. With friends such as the "Friends of Syria" Group, the Syrian people don't need enemies.

However, President Obama is impatient. His advisors had predicted in March 2011 that the government of Syria would fall within weeks. Instead, virtually every sector of Syrian society as well as minority

& majority nationalities and religious communities within Syria have rallied to save the country from being balkanized into hostile statelets à la Libya, Iraq, Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. Russia, China, and Iran have remained firm allies.

But the US empire is on the warpath. Fresh from a disastrous regime-change operation, utilizing extreme right wing and fascist forces, against the elected government in Ukraine, and an on-going destabilization campaign against the elected government in Venezuela, Washington policy makers are demanding some results against the elected government in Syria.

It behooves the peace/anti-war movement to deny Washington a victory in Syria in the spring of 2014, just as we helped mobilize world public opinion against the U.S. threat of immediate war in August 2013. At that time, Obama failed to secure congressional approval for an attack on Syria. Public opinion polls in the USA were running overwhelmingly against an overt US military intervention. At that time as well, massive popular opposition prevented UK PM Cameron from getting parliamentary approval for war, something that hadn't happened in Britain since 1784. And a number of European and Middle Eastern states also made it clear that they wouldn't be part of a "coalition of the willing" to bomb Syria. Instead, Russian President Putin defused the situation by correctly referring the matter of Syria's chemical weapons to international diplomacy for a peaceful solution.

What the peace movement needs to do now is to mobilize its base to contact elected officials and tell them, just as we did in August 2013, that the people of the world will not accept a ratcheting up of the war on Syria. Instead, what we demand now of our governments are the following:

- 1) Quit the Friends of Syria Group now – end the illegal aggression against the sovereign state of Syria;
- 2) Drop the economic sanctions against Syria – they are outside the mandate of the UN Security Council and are, therefore illegal and unjust;
- 3) Re-establish full diplomatic relations with Syria – open the door for a political, not military, settlement of the Syrian crisis;
- 4) Cease and desist from providing any direct financial, material, and political support to foreign mercenaries in Syria, whether linked formally to Al Qaeda or not;
- 5) Stop the campaign of disinformation, demonization, and delegitimation against the government of Syria.

In short, the peace movement in every country needs to tell its own domestic political leaders to keep their **HANDS OFF SYRIA!**

[www.syriasolidaritymovement.org](http://www.syriasolidaritymovement.org)



speech there, US Secretary of State John Kerry called for the removal of Syrian President Assad before negotiations on a transitional government for Syria take place. Kerry went so far as to lie: he said he was just repeating the conclusions of the Geneva Communiqué of June 30, 2012 (from the Geneva Conference #1). Nothing could have been further from the truth. The Communiqué calls for negotiations without pre-conditions concerning a transitional government for Syria. In other words, President Assad, whom various studies have shown commands about 70% of support among Syrians, might very well stand for office and be part of a Syrian transitional government.

The political cover for the likely acts of aggression (mentioned above), orchestrated by the USA against the sovereign state of Syria, will be the latest form of "humanitarian interventionism", known as Responsibility to Protect, or R2P. R2P is defined as a doctrine "which maintains that when sovereign states are unable or unwilling to fulfill their responsibility to protect their own populations from genocide and other mass atrocities, the international community has the responsibility to do so." Even before R2P was formally adopted in 2005 by the United Nations World Summit, similar wording was used in 2004 to launch what was described as a "humanitarian" intervention by Canada, France, and the USA to overthrow the government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the first democratically-elected president of Haiti. Between 2004 and 2013, R2P, which some describe as the modern version of "the white man's burden", was invoked to justify western military interventions in Darfur (2006), Côte d'Ivoire (2011), Yemen (2011), Mali (2012, 2013), Central African Republic (2013, 2014), and Sudan and South Sudan (2011, 2013).

According to the Canadian governmental promoters of R2P, the most successful test of R2P took place at the United Nations in 2011 when the Security Council, under false pretenses, authorized a no-fly zone over Libya. The government of Libya was neither unwilling nor unable to protect its own population against attacks by the western-backed "rebels" based in Benghazi. It also didn't challenge the no-fly zone. Yet, the air forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) quickly transformed the no-fly zone into a 226-day bombing campaign (with 26,500 air sorties) for regime change in Libya, the results of which were an estimated 50,000 deaths, the wholesale destruction of Libya's military and civilian infrastructure, a pogrom by the "rebel" forces against black people in Libya, and the dismemberment of Libya into chaotic, warring, balkanized enclaves. In Syria, the pretext for the no-fly zone will likely be United Nations Security Council resolution 2139 (February 22, 2014). This resolution, among other points, condemns both the Syrian government and armed opposition

### Continued from page 1

report on the massacre never mentioned that those who died in the blaze were opponents of the Kiev regime, and only quoted pro-regime figures who blamed "Russian agents" for the violence.

Now, following lockstep with the latest fiction from Kiev, the media are trying to cast doubt on who set fire to the trade union building, or are even openly blaming the victims, despite ample video and photographic evidence of the fascist attack — much of it recorded and uploaded to the Internet by the fascists themselves!

Why are the media going to such lengths to cover up the truth?

Because the Kiev junta and its masters in Washington are responsible for the massacre.

The attack in Odessa was choreographed by Kiev. Police were deliberately withdrawn from the area of the fascist rampage to guard the Odessa headquarters of the Interior Ministry, headed by far rightist Arsen Avakov.

It also took place simultaneously with the fierce military assault on the city of Slavyansk.

Government leaders from both the Democratic and Republican parties were deeply involved in the planning and execution of the illegal February coup against the elected government. They have pushed their agents in the Ukrainian government to unleash neo-Nazi terror against the people of southeast Ukraine resisting the coup regime.

The U.S. has carried out a provocative military buildup in Eastern Europe and a propaganda war against Russia, blaming it for the anti-fascist rebellion sweeping southeast Ukraine.

Without even questioning its own support for the illegal Kiev junta, the U.S. has promised lavish loans, encouraged a multibillion-dollar IMF aid package and provided international political cover for Kiev.

Further, it was revealed by the German newspaper Bild am Sonntag on May 4 that U.S. FBI and CIA agents are stationed in Kiev to "advise" the coup regime on its fight against the anti-fascist movement in the southeast.

This fits a long pattern of U.S. imperialist

collaboration with fascist murderers to achieve its ends, from Indonesia to Chile to the former Yugoslavia.

### 'Remember and fight'

Alex Albu, local coordinator of the leftist Union Borotba (Struggle), an elected member of the Odessa Regional Council, and candidate for mayor, was badly beaten while escaping the fire. Another Borotba member was shot in the stomach but survived.

Among those killed was Andrew Brazhevsky, a young Borotba member. His comrades report that Brazhevsky tried to escape the inferno by jumping from a high floor of the trade union building. He survived the fall, but was beaten to death by neo-Nazis waiting below to attack survivors.

"Andrew was a staunch communist, who devoted a lot of time to self-education, read the Marxist classics and modern leftist authors," his comrades recalled. "The Odessa left remembers that this modest, intelligent guy tried not to miss a single political action, and has always been at the forefront.

"When the neo-Nazi forces came to power in Ukraine, Andrew enrolled in Odessa militias to defend their city from the Nazis. Unfortunately, that day the superiority of the forces was not on the side of the defenders of Odessa.

"Andrew, your death will not remain unavenged. Neo-Nazis are not masters in our cities, in our streets. We promise to remember you and fight."

The criminal attack on Odessa by the fascist gangs has the potential to galvanize the people of southeast Ukraine to fight back with even more determination to destroy the fascist junta and push back U.S. imperialism's drive to war against Russia.

It is the responsibility of workers and all progressive forces in the U.S. to tell the truth about what happened in Odessa, and to stop the imperialists from carrying out further war crimes against the people of Odessa, Ukraine and Russia.

By Greg Butterfield  
[www.iacenter.org](http://www.iacenter.org)