

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 September 2 at 7 pm

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

MAWO Newsletter #47 Created by: Tamara Hansen, Alison Bodine 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:

stop the war! stop the occupations!

www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO 49

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mobilization against war & occupation

End the Siege on Gaza! End the Massacre of Palestinians! Israel Out of Gaza Now! Self-determination for Palestine!

Statement from Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO

July 19, 2014

For more than two weeks, Israel has been pounding the people of Gaza, one of the most densely populated territories in the world, from the air, ground and sea. Thousands of air strikes and intense shelling have hit Palestinian homes, mosques, physical rehabilitation centres, roads and entire communities, killing more than 400 Palestinians, and injuring more than 2,000 people, most of them civilians.

Israel is once again blaming its current aggression on Hamas, as Hamas has been responding to the Israeli bombardment by launching homemade rockets into Israel. However, the origins go beyond the stories we hear in mainstream imperialist media and the real reason has nothing to do with rockets.

On April 23, 2014, Fatah, the political leadership of Palestinians in the West Bank formed a unity government with the more militant Hamas, which is the elected leadership of Palestinians in Gaza since 2006. Upset with a show of unity and strength among Palestinians, Israel needed to find a way to punish Palestinians and try to divide their leadership. While pushing Fatah to end their coalition with Hamas, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu immediately blamed Hamas for the disappearance of three

Israeli settler teenagers in June and used it as a pretext for collective punishment as Israel launched 'Operation Brother's Keeper', where more than 700 Palestinians in the West Bank were arrested, thousands of homes were raided, five Palestinians were killed, and the West Bank was locked down. When the three Israeli teenagers turned up dead, Netanyahu put the blame squarely on Hamas and the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) then bombed Gaza 34 times. While Hamas denies any responsibility, it resisted the Israeli bombings with its homemade rockets. At the same time, anti-Palestinian hysteria gripped Israeli society and a young Palestinian teenager was immediately kidnapped, tortured and killed by racist Israeli settlers.

The argument that Israel and imperialist countries use, that Israel is simply defending itself against terrorists, is ironic because Israel, itself, is a country built and maintained on terrorism. Its very foundation on Zionism and colonialism in 1948 is with Palestinian blood. The ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their homes, towns and cities allowed for the appropriation of more land by the Zionist state. And today, after more than six decades, Israel keeps Palestinians locked down in the West Bank and Gaza, which get smaller and smaller as Israeli forces and settlers continue to confiscate more



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Palestinian Holocaust in Gaza By Comandante Fidel Castro Ruz

I again request that Granma not use the front page for these relatively brief lines about the genocide of Palestinians being committed.

I am writing them rapidly, to state only that which requires deep reflection.

I think that a new, repugnant form of fascism is emerging with notable strength, at this time in human history when more than seven billion inhabitants are struggling for their survival.

None of these circumstances have anything to do with the creation of the Roman Empire, around 2,400 years ago, or with the U.S. empire which, in this region only 200 years ago, was described by Simón Bolívar who exclaimed, "the United States appears to be destined by providence to plague America with misery in the name of liberty."

England was the first true colonial power to



use its dominion over a large part of Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Australia, North America, and many Caribbean islands, in the first half of the 20th century.

On this occasion I will not talk about the wars and crimes committed by the United States empire over more than 100 years, but will only state what it wanted to do to Cuba, what

it has done to many other countries in the world, and only served to prove that "A just idea in the depth of a cave is stronger than an army."

History is much more complicated than everything I have said, but that is the way it is, in broad strokes, as the inhabitants of Palestine know, and it is likewise logical that the modern communications media reflect the news which arrives daily, as has occurred with the shameful, criminal war in the Gaza Strip, a piece of land

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Palestinian land.

Today, Gaza is described as the 'the largest open-air prison in the world' with 1.7 million Palestinians virtually locked within a 350km2 strip along the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. As a result of the Israeli blockade, unemployment in Gaza is soaring beyond 38.5%, which surpasses the rate of 25% in the Great Depression-era of the United States. 13.2% of children in Gaza suffer from acute malnutrition and another 18.9% suffer from anemia.

"The blame on all of this is those terrorists who are firing on civilian populations."- John Baird, Foreign Minister of Canada, July 10, 2014.

Canada's unwavering support for the Israeli Zionist racist state dictates its foreign policy, Baird is once again placing every death, every injury, and every leveled building squarely on the shoulders of Hamas and the Palestinians. Baird also criticized Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, when she suggested that Israel's air campaign on Gaza may violate international laws prohibiting the targeting of civilians and that there should be an immediate ceasefire. Baird's statement in response was clear: "Canada rejects UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay's uncalled-for criticism of Israel's response to rocket attacks from Gaza. Focusing her comments on Israel is neither helpful nor reflective of the reality of this crisis." The reality that Baird is referring to is painted with brush of lies and manipulations by imperialist media across the world, including Canada, depicting Israel's current siege on Gaza as a somehow equal war or a measured response to "Hamas terrorists."

Canada not only doesn't recognize the democratic decision of Palestinians in Gaza who overwhelmingly voted in the militant Hamas as their elected leadership, but Hamas remains on its list of terrorist organizations.

Palestine will never die! Long live Palestine!

As protests in solidarity with Palestine erupt across the world, it is encouraging to see some governments of the world call for an end to Israel's violence. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, who broke diplomatic ties with Israel after the 2009 siege on Gaza, is trying to have Israel face the International Court of Justice for its crimes against humanity. The Cuban Foreign Ministry, who also cut diplomatic relations with Israel, denounced "that Israel uses its military and technological superiority to execute a policy of collective punishment with out-of-proportion use of force, which causes the death of innocent civilians and huge material damage." Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro launched an "SOS Palestine" campaign to demand an end to Israel's war on Gaza. "The Palestinian people have the right to live in their ancestral lands in peace...our international position over the issue of Palestine is just and follows the policy of Comandante Hugo Chavez." Venezuela also hasn't had diplomatic ties with Israel since the 2009 siege on Gaza.

For more than six decades, Palestinians have endured the most brutal form of military occupation, displacement and genocide from the Zionist Israeli state. It is their resilience and determination to fight for what is rightly theirs--their land, their self-determination and dignity as a people--that is the reason they will once again be victorious against this new military onslaught by the criminal Israeli Defense Forces. It is their struggle that continues to inspire people in every corner of the world to fight for justice. It is why the Palestinian flag is such a strong symbol in our fight for a world free of injustice, wars and occupations.

In Canada, we need to hold the government of Canada accountable for its blind support for the illegal settler state of Israel. All working, poor and oppressed people need to stand together against the bloodshed Israel is committing against our Palestinian brothers and sisters.



Canada England



Yemen



Afghanistan

where the population lives in what remains of what was independent Palestine only 50 years ago.

The French agency AFP reported August 2, "The war between the Islamist Palestinian movement Hamas and Israel has caused the deaths of close to 1,800 Palestinians,... the destruction of thousands of homes, and ruined an economy which was already weakened," although it does not indicate, of course, who initiated the terrible war.

Added later, "... As of Saturday at midday the Israeli offensive had killed 1,712 Palestinians and injured 8,900. The United Nations was able to verify the identities of 1,117 dead, in their majority civilians ... UNICEF counted at least 296 dead minors."

☒The United Nations estimates some 58,900 persons homeless in the Gaza Strip.☒

"Ten of the 32 hospitals were closed and another 11 damaged."

☒This Palestinian enclave of 362 km² does not have the infrastructure needed for 1.8 million inhabitants, above all in terms of the provision of electricity and water.☒

"According to the IMF, the rate of unemployment surpasses 40% in the Gaza Strip, territory subjected to an Israeli blockade since 2006. In 2000, unemployment was 20%, and in 2011, 30%. More than 70% of the population depends on humanitarian aid during normal periods, according to Gisha.

The Israeli government declared a humanitarian truce in Gaza at 07:00 GMT on Monday, nevertheless within a few hours, it broke the truce attacking a house, injuring 30 persons, in their majority women and children, and an eight-year-old girl died.

In the dawn hours of this same day, 10 Palestinians died as a result of Israeli attacks in all of Gaza and the number of Palestinians murdered has already increased to 2,000.

The killing has reached the point that, "French Minister of Foreign Affairs Laurent Fabius stated this Monday that Israel's right to security does not justify the massacre of civilians taking place."

The Nazi genocide of Jews outraged all the earth's peoples. Why does this government believe that the world will be insensitive to the macabre genocide which today is being

perpetuated against the Palestinian people? Perhaps it is expected that the complicity of the U.S. empire in this shameful massacre will be ignored?

The human species is living in an unprecedented stage of history. A crash between military planes or warships which are closely watched, or other similar events could unleash a conflict with the use of sophisticated, modern weapons, which could become the last known adventure of Homo sapiens.

There are events which reflect the almost total inability of the United States to face the world's current problems. It can be stated that there is no government in this country, no Senate, no Congress, CIA or Pentagon which will determine the final outcome. It is truly sad that this should happen when the dangers are so great, but the opportunities to move forward are great as well.

When the great patriotic war took place, Russian citizens defended their country like Spartans, underestimating them was the worse error made by the United States and Europe. Their closest allies, the Chinese, who like the Russians achieved their victory on the basis of the same principles, constitute today the earth's most dynamic economic force. Countries want yuan and not dollars to acquire goods and technology, and increased trade.

New, indispensable forces have emerged. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - establishing links with Latin America and the majority of countries in the Caribbean and Africa struggling for development - constitute the forces which in our era are willing to collaborate with the rest of the world's countries, without excluding the United States, Europe or Japan.

Blaming the Russian Federation for the infighting destruction of the Malaysian airplane is a stunning oversimplification. Not Vladimir Putin, nor Serguéi Lavrov, Russia's minister of Foreign Relations, or any other leader of this government would ever come up with such nonsense.

Twenty-six million Russians died in the defense of their homeland against the Nazis. Chinese combatants, men and women, inheritors of a millennial culture, are people of uncommon intelligence and an invincible spirit of struggle. Xi Jinping is one of the strongest and most capable revolutionary leaders I have met in my life.

Fidel Castro Ruz

August 4, 2014

10: 45 p.m.

MAWO IRAQ STATEMENT - July 7, 2014

NO TO ANOTHER U.S. WAR IN IRAQ!

SELF-DETERMINATION - NOT MORE TROOPS AND OCCUPATION!

Since the beginning of June, 2014, the open wounds of Iraq caused by sanctions, wars and occupations have grown deeper. This is when the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS, also known as ISIL) began an onslaught against Iraq, establishing control of important border crossings, cities and territory in Iraq through terrorist actions directed against Iraqi civilians. As of June 29, ISIS had taken control of Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, and declared a "Caliphate" state in the areas under their control in Northern Iraq in opposition to the Iraqi state. Fighting between ISIS and the Iraqi military forces continues, imposing more violence and destruction on the people of Iraq who are already facing the daily reality of a country devastated by over 11 years of U.S.-led war and occupation.

In response to the ISIS terrorist attacks, the U.S. government has sent 770 troops into Iraq. The majority of them, 470, are charged with security of the gigantic U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. The remaining have been assigned as so-called 'military advisers' to assess the training and condition of the Iraqi Army which the U.S. government built-up and trained as part of the ongoing occupation of Iraq. Increased U.S. troop presence in Iraq has been accompanied by F-18 jets, Apache helicopters and drones on surveillance missions and their influence has been expanded to also include the protection of Iraq's main airport in Baghdad.

The U.S. government has justified their increased troop presence by claiming that they are sending troops and military equipment to Iraq in order to help bolster the efforts of the Iraqi army in their fight against ISIS in Iraq and to help Iraq achieve stability. But how is this possible when, in fact, it is the U.S. government itself that is the biggest destabilization and terrorist force in Iraq? U.S.-led war, occupation, destruction in Iraq over more than 20 years has caused the deaths of at least 3 million people. 500,000 children alone were killed by 12 years of devastating U.S. sanctions that began in the 1990s. Sanctions were followed by 11 years of the occupation of that began with the March 2003 carpet bombing and invasion and continues on to today. This occupation has resulted in the complete destruction of medical, educational and sanitary infrastructure, with all

factors of quality of life in Iraq plummeting under the assault of the full force of the U.S. military.

These are the open wounds in Iraq created by the US government and their allies. But, really, the question must be asked: what are the roots of an organization like ISIS? First of all, ISIS is the product U.S.-led war and sanctions, that combined left Iraq broken and divided. Western occupying forces utilized the age-old strategy of "divide and conquer" as they fomented a bloody sectarian war in Iraq that turned brothers into enemies in order to defeat a powerful Iraqi resistance to U.S./U.K. occupation. ISIS has also benefited from Western military, financial and covert intervention in Syria. They are one of the many so-called rebel forces in Syria that operate with the support and backing of the U.S. government, and funding and support from U.S.-allies Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait. On top of this, it is also clear who is benefiting from the ISIS attacks on Iraq. The U.S. government and their allies need an unstable and divided Iraq in order to continue their occupation, resource theft and struggle for complete hegemony in the Middle East.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) is standing with antiwar coalitions and peace-loving people around the world in demanding "No to Another U.S. War in Iraq!" What the people of Iraq need is not more U.S. troops, drones and war-planes; the people of Iraq demand their self-determination. People in Iraq are completely capable of defending themselves against any foreign intervention including ISIS. The march of ISIS is not the result of a sectarian battle in Iraq, as Western media might have us all believe. It is the product of imperialist intervention in Iraq, Syria and across the Middle East. It is the result of the new era of war and occupation that began with the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

MAWO is committed to continuing to organize against any form of imperialist intervention in Iraq. We invite all peace-loving people to join with us and demand:

No to Another U.S. War on Iraq!
Hands Off Iraq Now!
U.S. Out of Iraq Now!

LATIN AMERICA STANDS WITH GAZA

Country has cut or limited relations with Israel
Country has recalled its Ambassador from Israel
Country has issued statement condemning Israeli assault on Gaza

Cuba was the first Latin American country to sever ties with Israel (1973) and has never re-established relations. Venezuela followed suit after the Israeli assault on Gaza in 2009. Bolivia also limited its relations with Israel due to the attacks on Gaza, and recently called Israel a terrorist state. Since the recent attacks on Gaza, 5 Latin American countries have recalled their Ambassadors from Tel Aviv - Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador and Peru. Argentina, Mexico, Nicaragua and Uruguay have also condemned the Israeli assault.

PUBLIC FORUM
* MULTIMEDIA * SPEAKERS * DISCUSSION *

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9
JOE'S CAFE 7PM
IN LARGE NORTH HALL
1150 COMMERCIAL DR. AT WILLIAM ST.
VANCOUVER, CANADA

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