

The New Era of War and Occupation

The world today has entered a new stage of war and occupation. Modern imperialist nations facing economic crisis have launched this new era as a strategy to pray on the oppressed nations of the world. This new era of war and occupation began with the invasion of Afghanistan in October of 2001, and since the March 2003 war and occupation of Iraq, the level of destruction that imperialism is bringing, and will bring, to oppressed people all over the world is clear.

The prolonged occupation of Iraq is a clear example of the effects of this new era: people living in oppressed nations devastated by war, without their basic human needs met, suffering under the military control of a nation who seeks to plunder these occupied nations. This is the face of imperialism today. As new fronts open in the coming decades, the need for a strong international antiwar movement is more urgent than ever. We must respond by effectively organizing and building a movement that can resist and defeat imperialist war and occupation.

MAWO: A Dynamic Movement for Change!

Mobilization Against War and Occupation is a coalition of over 50 endorsing members, most of which are labor unions, student unions, indigenous groups, and groups from the third world. We are the people in struggle because we are people that suffer at the hands of imperialism, we have the energy and drive for change, and it is in our interest to make this change!



Since MAWO's formation we've organized on as many levels as possible holding frequent rallies and demonstrations, conferences and forums, film events and fundraisers showing our diversity for organizing effectively. Our movement is broad-based and dynamic, adapting to fight back against all attacks on oppressed people internationally regardless as to how imperialism shifts its strategies and tactics.

The extended occupation of Iraq has led us to echo a demand of the Iraqi people: **Self-Determination!** The call for self-determination comes from a people living under direct military occupation. In a country with high unemployment rates, lack of water, electricity and food, Iraqis unite with each other to call for an end to the US led occupation. As an international group MAWO echoes this demand, no one can decide how to govern Iraq but the people of Iraq.

The call for self-determination is a cry that is being repeated by oppressed nations around the world as imperialism expands its dominance. MAWO demands self-determination not only for Iraq, but for all oppressed nations who can unite around a common strategy to confront this era of war and occupation.

This demand includes MAWO's call of self-determination for Indigenous nations in Canada, a country founded on the brutal suppression of Indigenous people and the occupation of their territories. The colonialist, imperialist nature of the Canadian government must be confronted in order to build a movement to fight against imperialist war and occupation.

The Past, Present, and Future of MAWO

Fueled by the continued occupation of Iraq, MAWO formed in October 2003 as a result of the incredible amount of energy that surrounded the antiwar movement in Vancouver. Our first major action took place less than a month later on November 22nd, where we organized a demonstration against the continued occupations of Iraq, Palestine, and Afghanistan. On January 29th, 2004, MAWO launched our major petition campaign, "Operation: Canada Out!" in order to highlight Canada's role as an imperialist nation that is heavily involved in the occupation of Afghanistan. On March 7th 2004 MAWO proved its dynamism and ability to respond to new moves of imperialist countries by organizing an emergency demonstration to protest the invasion of Haiti. Our petition campaign was also expanded to include Haiti in our demands as the US, France, and Canada became partners in the occupation of Haiti.

On February 22nd MAWO organized our first all day antiwar conference with the aim of holding in depth discussion about the antiwar movement, and how we should continue our work within this movement.

Responding to an international call for action, MAWO organized a demonstration on March 20th 2004 alongside other antiwar coalitions across the globe. In June of 2004 the US made an attempt to legitimize the occupation of Iraq by creating a false handover of power to the Iraqi Interim Government, a body that does not, and cannot, represent the people of Iraq who still face the direct military occupation of US troops. In response, on June 30th 2004 MAWO organized a demonstration to protest the fake handover of power, and attack imperialism as it tried to shift strategy. Through education, organization, and mobilization, MAWO will continue to build an effective movement in the lower mainland that can work as part of an international antiwar movement to change the face of the world.

OPERATION CANADA OUT!

Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) launched Canada-wide petition campaigns against Canada's occupation of Afghanistan in late January and Haiti in late March of 2004. These campaigns highlight the illegal, immoral and devastating role that the Canadian government is playing in Afghanistan and Haiti. MAWO's petition campaign is an awareness and education campaign that will serve to put pressure on the Canadian government to completely cease its interventions in Afghanistan and Haiti.

Since launching these campaigns, MAWO has consistently taken to the streets in order to strengthen opposition to Canada's interventions in Afghanistan and Haiti. MAWO has organized forums, film nights, and petition drives in Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, Richmond, and Surrey in order to connect with as many people as possible who are opposed to the injustice being committed with Canada's interventions in Afghanistan and Haiti. To date we have collected over 6000 signatures for these campaigns.

Get Involved with MAWO!

As the destruction brought on the lives of people all around the world by this new era of war and occupation deepens, the feelings of anger towards this destruction and brutality are also deepening. The daily slaughter of Iraqis by the US-led occupation forces is awakening in working and oppressed people a sense that as humans we cannot afford to let this new era of war and occupation continue, and we must fight back.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation is providing an engine for change that can directly challenge this highway of death that imperialist



countries are forcing us along. We encourage people in the lower mainland who oppose war and occupation to channel their desires for basic human justice into action, to get involved in MAWO, and to unite in a movement that fights against war, against occupation, and for the basic human dignity that we all deserve.

Get Involved With MAWO!



Meetings - 1st and 3rd Wednesday
of the Month!
6:30 PM

Britannia Community Centre
1661 Napier St (@Commercial Dr)
CALL OR EMAIL US FOR EXACT DATES!

Contact MAWO

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MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION

