

FIRE THIS TIME

Movement for Social Justice



Update on War

#5

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FREE

Liberating or Conquering?



Stop the Killing of the People of Iraq!
End the Occupation! Self-Determination!
US, UK, CANADA, OUT OF IRAQ!

West End Anti-war Forum and Vigil

Sunday April 13th at 7 PM
West End Community Centre
870 Denman

Forum starts at 7 PM
Walk from Community Centre to
English Bay for Vigil: 9 PM

*For more information contact Brian
Revel: brianrevel@telus.net.*

International Day of Action Against the War on Iraq!

At the Vancouver Public Library:

Saturday April 12th
12 Noon

For more information check out www.stopwar.ca



April 5th Anti-war March and Rally in Vancouver.

World-wide Anti-war Movement Gaining Momentum

“For three reasons I am against this war”, said Giselle, a 14 year-old high school student from Vancouver. “Because it is unjust, because it does not solve the problems of Iraqi people, and because it is killing Iraqi people”.

Giselle was addressing the crowd of over 700 people who demonstrated against the military invasion of Iraq in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery on April 5th. This march and rally, which was initiated by the Youth-Third World Alliance Against War, was one the hundreds of demonstrations held around the world on April 5th in opposition to the criminal US and UK war against the people of Iraq. Many of these demonstrations were organized and initiated by students and youth, the layer of the population that is getting more frustrated by this unjust war and has become the forefront and vanguard of the anti-war movement.

More than ten thousand people marched and rallied in San Francisco on the 5th. On April 7th, in Port of Oakland, police fired concussion grenades and wooden bullets at protesters and the dock workers who joined them to voice their opposition to this war, along with tens of thousands of people in cities and campuses around the United States since last Friday.

At the same time, people in other areas of the world have also intensified their opposition to war and destruction in Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of people

have marched in the streets of European cities, from Athens to Sofia and Heidelberg, Rome and London, Copenhagen and Moscow.

In the Middle East and Asia, millions of demonstrators in Turkey, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Syria, Jordan and Egypt condemned the war on the people of Iraq by the US and UK. In many cities such as Jakarta, Karachi and Alexandria, daily mass demonstrations are held.

The anti-war movement, while winning more people over to the movement, has at the same time moved to a new level of struggle and opposition. Thousands of protesters are using more and more Civil Disobedience tactics in opposition to war. Blocking military bases in the US and UK, chaining human bodies to US /UK embassies and consulates, blocking roads and ports; all of these tactics have become routine protest for anti-war demonstrators. Yesterday, 120 anti-war activists gathered for nonviolent direct action at the Naval Headquarters in Portsmouth, UK. They successfully shut down the base for one day.

Now that the US and UK have become not only the invader but occupier of Iraq, a sovereign nation, we need more and more people on the street against this brutal and inhuman war and the military occupation. A stronger movement than what we have built so far is essential to end this military occupation.

The Student Lockdown of the American Consulate

On the morning of Tuesday, April 1st, four students of SFU, Douglas and Langara College wound a length of heavy chain around their own necks and locked themselves to the double glass doors of the US consulate in Downtown Vancouver. Chained to these doors at 7:45am, Heather Jones lifted a megaphone to the Pakistani Muslims forming a line to register with the US Government and said, “This is both an act of self-defence and a moral stand in opposition to an empire that has shredded international law to initiate an unjust, unilateral war on Iraq.”

Heather Jones, Chris Jacob, Elise Thorburn and MacDonald Stainsby, called themselves MOAB (Mobilization Opposed to Aggression on Baghdad) in reference to the US Army threat of dropping the “Mother of All Bombs” on Baghdad. This reference is even more relevant that these four might have considered; as the US “shock and awe” bombing campaign continues and George Bush remains deaf to the cries and demands of the people of the world, of the people in Vancouver, civil disobedience, direct action and large scale disruption is becoming common and increasingly popular. Indeed, the students who shut down the US consulate for an

hour on April 1st would be best considered the Children of the Mother of All Bombs.

However, the full challenge of effective civil disobedience has not yet been answered. MOAB was broken off of the consulate door and taken off to jail. They were arrested, charged with mischief and released the same day with minor release conditions, but the full scope of what their arrest means can only be realized by the anti-war movement that stands beside them, watches them and supports them. We must take action as a united whole and we must take every sort of action that we need to in opposition to the war and in service of the construction of a truly broad, mass movement. The real challenge and the real acid test of this is to answer how to engage with those Pakistani Muslim registrars lining up outside the Consulate in a real mutual way. Not to carry out civil disobedience as actors and spectators, but to build mass disobedience, mass disruption that is able to include everyone in the Lower Mainland who is against the war. MOAB has set the example for civil disobedience action in Vancouver, and it is the responsibility of the anti-war movement as a whole to popularise and expand that disobedience into mass disruption to stop the war on the people of Iraq.

This Update on War was published by the

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Get involved with STOPWAR.CA!

**General Meetings
Every Wednesday
5:30 PM
Maritime Labour Centre
1880 Triumph St
(Triumph & Victoria)
Vancouver**