

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING: 12 APRIL 2011



Washington DC/Geneva, 8th December 2010

Dear colleagues,

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING

<http://www.demilitarize.org>

In 2009, global military spending surged to an all-time high of US \$1.53 trillion. Given the numerous crises facing the planet -- economic, environmental, health, diplomatic -- we must create a global movement to shift this money to human needs. Thousands of organizations and millions of individuals support this point of view. Because of the global economic crisis, governments are even beginning to talk about cutting military spending. But they won't make these cuts unless we pressure them to do so. We need to begin a serious mobilizing effort on a global scale to make visible our demands to feed people not the military-industrial complex.

As part of this campaign, we propose a **Global Day of Action on Military Spending** for **12th April 2011** to coincide with the release of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's annual report, which will include new figures on military expenditures. On this day, people all over the world will join together in actions to focus public, political, and media attention on the costs of military spending and the need for new priorities. Such events will help us to build the international network around this issue.

While each location will craft its own approach, we hope there will be a common focus on calling attention to the overall size of global military spending. This would need in most cases to be linked to a related national (or local) issue, such as the Afghanistan war/arms trade deals/work against small arms/resources for nonviolent conflict resolution/Article 9 campaign etc. We very much hope that peace groups will use this as an opportunity to connect up with anti-poverty, environmental, pro-democracy organizations and others who share our perspective.

As for types of actions: a whole range is possible -- from street theatre/demonstrations and erecting banners to seminars, signature collection and much more. Many slogans come to mind: *What Would You Do With \$1.5 Trillion? \$1.5 Trillion Is Insane! Trillions for War or Trillions for Peace?* etc. We plan to issue a Toolkit before long to assist organizers. A key aspect is the visual side. By generating some captivating images, we plan to attract widespread media coverage and make available photos of our rallies and events. We will compile an album of pictures from around the world and post them online to document the global movement and to

use to accompany stories about the SIPRI report and our own actions.

We hope you agree that this is an exciting and important project. As a leader in peace activism, we would like you/your organization to join us by (co-)sponsoring an event in your city. We will work with you to identify other people in your area to collaborate with.

You will see below a list of organisations who have already committed to organising some kind of action. What we now need is to extend this list much further, in order to inspire us all to go forward with the planning. We are keen to show that this issue is indeed a worldwide one, requiring creativity and commitment.

Please write to us if you are interested in participating. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to hearing from you, please reply to both emails.

Sincerely,

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PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS: (INITIAL LISTING)

INTERNATIONAL

Conscience and Peace Tax International
European Bureau of Conscientious Objection
Food Not Bombs
Global Action to Prevent War
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility
International Peace Bureau
Pax Christi International
Peace Boat/Global Article 9 Campaign
Religions for Peace
War Resisters International
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

BANGLADESH

Changemaker

BELGIUM

CANADA

Science for Peace

GERMANY

DFG-VK

GREECE

European Bureau for Conscientious Objection

HUNGARY

African Hungarian Union

INDIA

All India Peace & Solidarity Organisation, Maharashtra State Committee, Nagpur
Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament & Environmental Protection

IRELAND

Peace and Neutrality Alliance PANA

KENYA

Fahamu

Mt. Elgon Peace Initiative

Pambazuka

LEBANON

American University Peace and Human Rights Club

MALAYSIA

Malaysian Physicians for Social Responsibility

NEW ZEALAND

Peace Movement Aotearoa

NORWAY

Fellesrådet for Afrika = Norwegian Council for Africa

Fredslaget = Norwegian Peace Association

LAG = The Norwegian Solidarity Committee for Latin America

Slett Ulandsgjelda = The Norwegian Coalition for Debt Cancellation

PHILIPPINES

Stop the War Coalition

SOUTH AFRICA

Gun-Free S. Africa

SOUTH KOREA

Peace Network

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy

SPAIN

Centre d'estudis per a la Pau JM Delàs

Comisión General de Justicia y Paz de España

Fundacio per la Pau

Gernika Gogoratuz – Peace Research Centre

Justicia i Pau

Justicia i Paz, Madrid

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya Campus per la Pau

SWITZERLAND

Group for a Switzerland without an Army
Swiss-Burma Association

UGANDA

New Idea for Citizenship

UK

Campaign Against Arms Trade Universities Group
Scientists for Global Responsibility

USA**Bay Area:**

Code Pink/Global Exchange
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Women for Genuine Security

California:

Tri-Valley CAREs

Chicago:

Voices for Creative Nonviolence

Honolulu:

American Friends Service Committee

Maine:

Bring Our War \$\$ Home campaign

Massachusetts:

National Priorities Project
Resist Africom
Taprock Center for Peace and Justice

New York City:

Arms and Security Initiative, New America Foundation
Global Action to Prevent War
Granny Peace Brigade

New York State:

Upper Hudson Peace Action

Washington DC:

Budget Priorities Working Group
Institute for Policy Studies
Peace Action
School of Americas Watch