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# Newsletter

March 2015

## Global Day of Action on Military Spending



### GDAMS : Let us make it all happen !

On 13 April, we will be everywhere -- in physical venues and social media to link up with our colleagues from the peace and disarmament, environment, development, labour, youth, faith-based, anti-poverty organizations and individuals worldwide who share our perspective.

[Click here and see a few examples of events organized for GDAMS](#)

Through flashmobs, street protests, banner displays, seminars, penny polls, concerts and online campaigns, we will send out the loudest message to persuade governments to: cut the US\$1.75 trillion global military spending – #MoveTheMoney and fund human needs.

Join us and let us make it all happen!

**TAKE ACTION !**

# Making Peace photo exhibition

## Making Peace 2015 USA Debut

After a successful tour of major European cities (and Cape Town, South Africa), Making Peace is set to make its US debut!

The city that will host the Making Peace exhibition is Atlanta, Georgia, where a number of important organizations are situated, notably [The King Center](#) where Making Peace is set to open on the 21st September 2015: UN International Day of Peace.



*Martin Luther King Jr (1929 – 1968)*

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## Military Spending



**« *Military spending doesn't make us safer - but it does make us poorer* »**

Does this vast military spending make us any safer ? In the view of the CAAT UK, military strength disregards many of the greater security threats that face us, such as climate change or cyber-crime.

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**Barney Frank : The Pentagon budget is due for a trim**

According to Mr. Frank, retired U.S congressman and the author of Landmark Legislation, the need for the U.S. to scale back the extent to which it insists on projecting a worldwide military presence far beyond any reasonable security needs. The U.S. should reduce, rather than increase, the ongoing Pentagon budget.

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[More articles on Military spending...](#)

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## *Nuclear weapons*



### **International Peace & Planet Conference, April 24-25, 2015**

The International Peace & Planet Conference - taking place on the eve of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference - will be held at Cooper Union. Through plenaries and workshops, the Conference will serve to share information and analyses, build and further integrate our movements for the longer term, and increase impact on the NPT Review Conference. The locations of the workshops to be announced soon.

[GET MORE INFORMATIONS](#)



### **Global Wave 2015, April 26-27**

Starting at a major peace rally in New York on April 26, and then proceeding westward through each time zone every hour, humanity will 'Wave Goodbye to Nuclear Weapons' through symbolic Wave events. As part of Peace & Planet mobilization, the action will engage parliamentarians, mayors, religious leaders, youth, environmentalists, human rights activists, sports clubs, celebrities and other representatives of civil society.

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[More articles on Nuclear weapons...](#)

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## *Impacts*



## Libya : Evidence of new cluster bomb use

There is credible evidence of the use of banned cluster bombs in at least two locations in Libya since December 2014, Human Rights Watch said on March 15. Libya should join the 2008 Convention on Cluster Bombs, and "*urgently secure and destroy any stocks of cluster munitions*".

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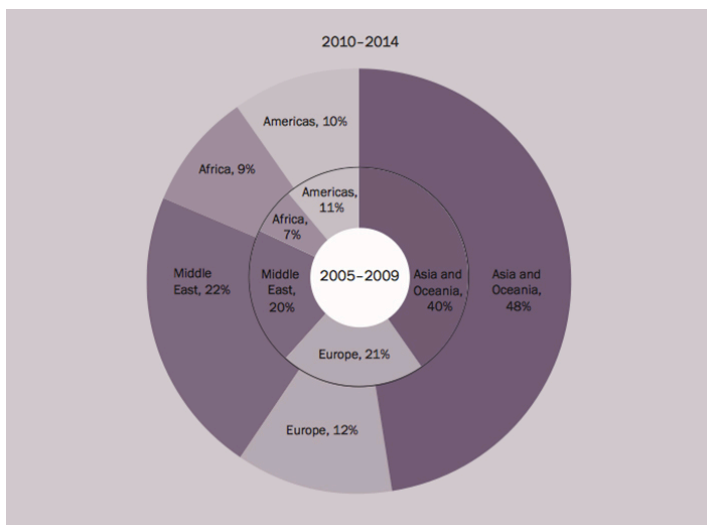
## Reducing illicit arms flows and the new Development agenda

A research note proposes several ways to measure illicit arms flows, as a significant reduction in the trafficking of illicit arms is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It represents a significant step towards recognizing how violence prevention and reduction are essential for development.

[READ RESEARCH NOTE](#)

[More articles on Impacts...](#)

## Arms trade



## New SIPRI data: the 2014 trends on Arms trade

According to this month study, the ongoing conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen have

helped spiral arms sales upwards to the Middle East. The primary beneficiaries were the United States and Russia.

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## Miscellaneous



### Narayan Desai (1924-2015), outstanding Gandhian activist

We mourn with sadness the passing of Narayanbhai - teacher, trainer, author, spinner. We celebrate a long life rich in history though never in funds. A devotee of Jayaprakash, Narayanbhai set up the Institute for Total Revolution. He was a founder of the World Peace Brigades and Peace Brigades International, a chairperson of the War Resisters International, and a leader of India's Shanti Sena (Peace Army) and many other organizations and movements.

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You can also listen to Narayan's favorite song: [Jai Jagat](#)

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### A win for the human rights defenders and feminists in Sweden

The human rights defenders and the feminists won this round : the Swedish government declared it will not continue its heavily criticized military cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabi.

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[More articles on Arms trade...](#)



### Pax Christi International Peace Award 2015

The Peace Award Ceremony will take place on Saturday, 16 May 2015 in Bethlehem, Palestine, during the Pax Christi International's 70th Anniversary celebrations in that city. Through this award, Pax Christi International acknowledges the *Women, Peace and Security Collective's* pivotal work in challenging women's traditionally limited assigned role in the building of peace in Colombia.



[More Miscellaneous articles...](#)

## NGOs introduce « 10 Lessons from Fukushima » booklet

A 70-page booklet focusing on challenges facing individuals affected by the nuclear disaster and advising communities on preparing for nuclear disasters was distributed here at a United Nations disaster conference that concluded on March 18. It was assembled by the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC), Peace Boat (IPB Member) and other NGOs.

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## FW report on the British Armed Forces Learning Resource

ForcesWatch report explains why this document, published by the Prime Minister's Office, is a poor quality educational resource, and a politically-driven attempt to promote recruitment into the armed forces in schools. It includes responses from a number of educationalists worried about the Government producing materials for schools inappropriate for use in education.

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