PRESS CLIPPINGS
DATE: 18/04/2012
“Global day of Action against Military Spending”


Buy rotis, not guns!

LAHORE - People are living under worse conditions in Pakistan due to the state’s negligence at one hand while at the other, expenditures of Pakistan Army and ruling elites are increasing day by day. Pakistan is also buying arms worth billions of dollars. It is the cry of the time that the government should curtail defence and non-development expenditures to provide and allocate enough funds for health, education and other basic necessities of life to the poor and deprived people of Pakistan. These views were expressed by speakers at a seminar arranged on ‘Global Day of Action against Military Spending’, organised by South Asia Partnership–Pakistan at Lahore Press Club here on Tuesday. The theme of the seminar was “From a defence State to a Welfare State: Analysis of Defence Expenditures of Pakistan”. People from different walks of life including economists, intellectuals and civil society organizations attended the seminar. They expressed their deep concerns over the pathetic situation of people who are starving due to poverty and deprivation of basic human rights and
necessities of life. People are committing suicide due to financial problems and frustrations. Speakers showed their grieved concern over the allocation of Rs 5 billion in addition to the defence budget allocated in the fiscal year 2011-12. They said that people were dying without bread while the army and rulers were burning candles at the both ends. The speakers demanded a state which could play the role as mother with the spirit of motherhood. “We do not want a state whose nurture is that of a Defence State,” they said. The economists, including Dr A H Nayyer and Parwaize Houdbhoy, spoke on the subject “Budget, Defence Expenditures and International commitments.” They told the audience that Pakistan Army was the world’s sixth biggest Army and is on 15th top level army regarding defence expenditures amongst 185 countries. They said that the army’s annual budget was Rs 5 billion, as shown in documents but in fact it is Rs 800 billion per year and in addition Pakistan imports arms, which cost US$ 1 billion. “It is the third biggest country of the world in this regard,” they said. They said that we have to raise our collective voices against such attitudes and try our level best for the formation of a pro-people State.

Working Women Organization Director, Ruobeena Jamil, said that women and girls are more sufferers of price hike and poverty. She said that women are not even taken into confidence while planning of development programs and budgeting therefore they and their issues are at the lowest priority and minimum funds are being allocated for their health, education and other facilities. Secretary General Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, I A Rehman, while talking on “Importance and Priorities of pro-people budget” said that Pakistan was on 145th number amongst 187 countries according to a Human Development Index and is the poorest as compared to many South African countries. Rehman emphasised that as a nation we have to eliminate our deprivations and this is our dire need. He said that we should demand to cut defence budget and to spend more budget on development sectors and to eradicate poverty and starvation from Pakistan. “This should be our slogan during the up coming elections,” he said adding we should set our national priorities as soon as possible otherwise it will be too late and our existence will be in danger. He said defence budget must be curtailed to less than one percent of the total GNP and funds should be spent on health, education and economic development of the people. Strengthening Participatory Organisation Regional Director Salman Abid,
delivering his speech on ‘Budget Making and People’s Expectations’, said that in view of economists the upper most limit of defence expenditures was three percent of total GNP, which has swallowed our country. He said this is one of the indicators showing our bad situation.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\04\18\story_18-4-2012_pg7_7

‘Pakistan needs to curtail defence budget’

* Seminar speakers react to government’s allocation of additional Rs 50 billion for defence in fiscal year 2012-13

Staff Report

LAHORE: People are living under worst conditions in Pakistan due to state’s negligence, but expenditures of the country’s ruling elite and army are increasing day by day.

These were views expressed by speakers at a seminar, organised by the South Asia Partnership, Pakistan, at the Lahore Press Club on Tuesday. The seminar was organised to observe ‘Global Day of Action Against Military Spending’.

Dr AH Nayyer, Prof Pervez Amir Ali Hoodbhoy, Working Women Organisation Director Rubeena Jamil, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan Secretary-General IA Rehman and Strengthening Participatory Organisation Regional Director Salman Abid spoke on the occasion. Theme of the seminar was ‘From a Defence State to a Welfare State: Analysis of Defence Expenditures of Pakistan’. People from all walks of life, including economists, intellectuals and members of civil society organisations took part in the seminar.

Speakers demanded that the government curtail defence and non-development expenditures to provide health, education and other basic necessities to Pakistanis. They expressed their deep concern over the pathetic situation of people who were starving due to poverty and deprivation of basic human rights.
Speakers reacted to the government’s allocation of additional Rs 50 billion for the defence budget in fiscal year 2012-13.

“We do not want a defence state,” they expressed.

Dr Nayyer and Prof Hoodbhoy spoke on ‘Budget, Defence Expenditures and International Commitments’. They told the audience that the Pakistan Army was the world’s sixth biggest army and was among top 15 armies regarding defence expenditures. They also said that the annual defence budget was Rs 500 billion as shown in documents, but it was Rs 800 billion per year. They said further Pakistan also imported arms, which cost $1 billion and was the third biggest country of the world in this regard. They regretted that the people were starving, but the government was turning a deaf ear to their sufferings.

Speaking on ‘Implications of Budget on Women and other Marginalised People’, Rubeena said that skyrocketing prices and poverty affected women the most, because their needs and issues were not being addressed at domestic, social and state levels.

Rehman shared his views on ‘Importance and Priorities of Pro-people Budget’. He said Pakistan was 145th amongst the 187 countries according to the Human Development Index, and was poorest of the poor, as compared to many South African countries.

He said, “As a nation we have to eliminate our deprivations. Our demand is to cut defence budget and to spend more on development sectors and to eradicate poverty and starvation from Pakistan. And this should be our slogan during the upcoming elections. We should set our national priorities as soon as possible, otherwise it will be very late and our existence will be in danger. We can’t avoid it anymore that our defence budget must be curtailed to less than 1 percent of total GNP and funds should be spent on health, education and economic development of the people.” Abid delivered his speech on ‘Budget Making and People’s Expectations’. He said, “In view of economists the upper most limit of defence expenditures is 3 percent of total GNP and it has swallowed our country. We have been spending less than 1 percent of our budget on health and education and people are deprived of all basic needs of life.”

Dr Akmal Hussain, Awami Jamhori Forum President Professor Jamil Omer,
Executive Director Muhammad Tahseen and South Asia Partnership Pakistan Deputy Director Irfan Mufti also spoke on the occasion.


**Cut in defence budget to bring relief**

By: *Our Staff Reporter*

LAHORE – The ruling elite should curtail defence and non development expenditures to allocate funds for health, education and other basic necessities for providing relief to the poverty stricken masses, stressed speakers at a seminar organised by the South Asia Partnership–Pakistan at the Lahore Press Club on Tuesday.

Economists, intellectuals and civil society representatives attended the seminar on “From a defence State to a welfare State: Analysis of Defence Expenditures of Pakistan” organised to mark the ‘Global Day of Action against Military Spending.’

Speakers expressed deep concerns over the pathetic situation of people starving due to poverty and lack of necessities of life. They lambasted the government over allocation of Rs5 billion in addition to the defence expenditures this fiscal year 2012-13, saying people were dying without bread while the army and ruling elite was burning candles at both ends.

Economists Dr A H Nayyer spoke on the subject “Budget, Defence Expenditures and International commitments”. He said that Pakistan Army was world’s sixth biggest Army, and was among top 15 regarding expenditures.

He added that annual army budget was Rs 5 Billion as shown in documents but in fact it was Rs 800 billion.
Day of action against military spending: ‘Prioritise development over military budget’

By Aroosa Shaukat

Pakistan Air Force cadets take part in a ceremony at the mausoleum of the country's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah in Karachi on September 6, 2011 to mark the country's Defence Day. PHOTO : AFP

LAHORE:

Pakistanis should not consider discussions on lowering defence spending to have “anti-state” motivations, as military spending comes at the cost of much needed development spending in the country.

This was the dominant view of speakers at a discussion forum organised by the South Asia Partnership Pakistan (SAP-Pak) titled ‘From a security state to a welfare state: analysing the defence budget’ here on Tuesday, which was the Global Day of Action Against Military Spending.
Dr Abdul Hameed Nayyar, a visiting professor at the LUMS School of Science and Engineering, asked how Pakistan could convince the world that its nuclear weapons were safe when militants had attacked ‘secure’ areas like the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, the Mehran Naval Base in Karachi and, most recently, a jail in Bannu.

“In the midst of growing terrorism in the country where no place is safe, how do we respond to the world’s concern over the security of our nuclear arsenal?” he asked.

Dr Nayyar said that discussions about lowering defence spending were often labelled as “anti-state”. Referring to Ayesha Siddiqa’s book Military Inc: Inside Pakistan’s Military Economy, he said that a military industrial complex had been established in the country that prioritised defence expenditure over development expenditure.

He said that the weapons industry constituted the largest business in the world, one dependant on the sale of arms and ammunition. “Once this happens [an arms industry is established] within a state, it requires enemies,” he said. “If it does not have enemies it goes on to create enemies. Unfortunately this narrative has been built into our mindsets.”

Dr Nayyar said this narrative was supported by textbooks which identified “certain states” as enemies. “This goes on to reinforce the concept of [other states as] enemies and hatred in the young,” he said.

He called for a transparent defence budget, saying it was unclear exactly where and how that budget was spent. The nuclear budget, he said, was completely hidden.

“We are told that these are strategic state assets for which the budget cannot be disclosed,” he said. He added that citizens should demand to know how and where the state was spending the budget.

Irfan Mufti, the deputy director of SAP-Pakistan, said the discussion aimed to elucidate the consequences of military spending for the economy and its eventual impact on citizens. He said the state was investing heavily in defence while depriving people of basic amenities.

Advocating global disarmament, Mufti said that the entire world’s defence spending amounted to $1.62 trillion (Rs146.945 trillion), out of which 43 per cent was spent by the United States. Pakistan spent about 2.8 per cent of its GDP on defence. He said that the day was being celebrated with events in more than 30 cities in Pakistan, which was “a positive indicator of the public’s interest in such affairs”. Salman Abid, the regional head of the Strengthening Participatory
Organisation (SPO), said there was a disconnect between the needs of the people and the budget allocated by the state. He said taxation was “very unfair” and accommodated the interests of the rich few. He urged the government to reconsider its priorities, as “security expenditure is made by cuts from the development budget”.

“We do not need nuclear bombs, we need food and shelter,” said Rubina Jameel, a women’s rights and trade union activist. She said successive army takeovers of government had led to an increase in military spending.

She said there was a dire need to work towards better ties with neighbouring countries. “If we ensure peaceful co-existence, there will be no need for such high military spending,” she said.

Awami Party Pakistan General Secretary Professor Jameel Umar said that if Pakistan wanted to become a welfare state, it had to give up the idea of becoming a security state. He said that fighting over natural resources had caused an escalating arms race in the world.

“The world’s natural resources, if collectively distributed, are enough to address the needs of the entire world’s people,” he said. “But then the more pressing question is how to address the urge of certain countries to take over the natural resources of others.”
سیاستیں میں جگل کی بجا ے سیاحت کی فروع غ

دیا جا ے، ماکردہ مقررین کا خطابت

لاہور، ہوائی اڈے پر ایک کنی میں سے کرنوی لازمی نما جگل کے سمت اور سیاحتی نما جگل کے میوزیک کا کمرہک ج ہوائی اڈے پر دیا جا رہا ہے۔ ان مقررین کے خطاب کے موقع پر بھی اس کا اہم کردار ہے۔

سیاحت کی فروع غ اور حکومت عالم سے ایک دوسرے کو ایک اور دوسرے سے گزارے سیاحت کی فروع غ اور حکومت عالم سے ایک دوسرے کو ایک اور دوسرے سے گزارے سیاحت کی فروع غ اور حکومت عالم سے ایک دوسرے کو ایک اور دوسرے سے گزارے سیاحت کی فروع غ اور حکومت عالم سے ایک دوسرے کو ایک اور دوسرے سے گزارے
دوامی بچے برہنے جا رہے ہوں گے، کوئی بھی کوئی بھی، نے جوان تین تین عمران مفتي

پوری اور ان کیتے جا رہے ہوں گے، 33 روز بھی کیتے گئے تے پہلے کا انٹریم سے خطاب

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لاہور میں ہماری تاریخی برہنہ جا رہے ہوں گے کہ کھیتی مافیا کے درمیان جنگ ہے۔ ان کے کاؤنٹر

وہ کہ جماعت کی تاریخی برہنہ جا رہے ہوں گے۔ کے درمیان جنگ ہے۔ ان کے کاؤنٹر

ملیارڈ میں ہمیشہ مافیا کے درمیان جنگ ہے۔ ان کے کاؤنٹر

سماجات کی تاریخی برہنہ جا رہے ہوں گے۔ کے درمیان جنگ ہے۔ ان کے کاؤنٹر

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LAHORE April 17: Speakers at a seminar at the Lahore Press Club on Tuesday have said that at the one hand the masses are living under worst economic conditions due to state’s negligence while on the other hand, expenditures of Pakistan Army and the ruling elite are increasing day by day.

The seminar was organised by the South Asia Partnership-Pakistan to mark the Global Day of Action against Military Spending.

The speakers said that it was high time that our government should curtail defence and non-development expenditures to allocate enough funds to health, education and other basic necessities of life.

Highlighting the importance and priorities of pro-people budget, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan secretary-general I.A. Rehman said that Pakistan was ranked 145th among 187 countries in terms of Human Development Index and stood as poorest of the poor as compared to many South Asian countries.

"As a nation, we have to eliminate our deprivations; it is dire need of the hour to cut defence budget and to spend more on development sector by eradicating poverty and hunger from Pakistan and this should be our slogan during the upcoming elections," he added. He said the government should set its national priorities as soon as possible in order to get rid of prevailing crises.

He said as the nation couldn’t tolerate any more, the defence budget must be curtailed to less than one cent of the total gross national product (GNP) and funds should be spent on health, education and economic development.

Dr. A.H. Nayer said that Pakistan Army was world’s sixth biggest army and was ranked 15th top army in terms of defence expenditures amongst 185 countries.

He said though the annual army budget was Rs500 billion in documents, as a matter of fact it was Rs600 billion. Additionally, Pakistan imported arms worth $1 billion annually that placed it as the third biggest country of the world in this category.

Dr. Pervaiz Hoodbhoy said that people of Pakistan were poverty-stricken but state and the government had turned deaf ear to public grievances and a callous heart to their sufferings. "We have to raise collective voice against such attitude and try our level best to get a pro-people state formed," he added.

Rubina Jani gave a social perspective to the issue and said that women and girls were suffering more dearness and poverty at domestic, social and state level.

"Their needs and issues are not being addressed on priority by the government," she added. She said that women’s issues were not even considered while planning of development programmes and budgeting.

Salman Abid said that upper limit of defence expenditures was three per cent of the total GNP which had swelled the country’s wealth.

"This is one of the indicators that shows how worst our economic condition is. We are spending only less than one per cent of our budget on health and education," he lamented.

Dr. Akmal Hussain, Prof. Jamil Omar, Mohammad Tahseen, Irfan Mufti and others also spoke. — Staff Reporter
Cut in defence budget to bring relief

OUR STAFF REPORTER

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