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PETITION PRESENTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING (GDAMS) ON APRIL 15TH 2013

We the people of Kenya under the banner of Coalition for Constitution Implementation (CCI) gather here today on 15th April 2013 to mark the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS). Today there are other events held worldwide with the main event being held outside the United Nations Security Council Offices.

CCI is an open, voluntary and vibrant National Lobby Movement that brings together Bunge La Mwananchi (BLM), La Vie Foundation (LVF), the Nubian Human Rights Forum (NHRF), the Unga Revolution and the Super Ethnic Minority Rights Forum (SEMRF) and whose vision is to ensure full implementation of the Constitution of Kenya.

In 2012, GDAMS was marked on 17th April ([www.demilitarize.org/2012-reports-africa](http://www.demilitarize.org/2012-reports-africa)) and here in Kenya we presented a petition asking the government to:

1. Immediately withdraw Kenyan forces in Somalia and embark on policing our borders as attacks have continued despite the KDF's presence in Somalia pointing to a failed policy.
2. Drastically reduce the amount spent on military ware and related expenses and channel the funds to provision of basic needs.
3. Beef security to ordinary Kenyans who have constantly suffered should there be any attack.
4. Come out clean on how the tenders to supply material were awarded to allay our fears that the Somalia incursion is used to benefit some unscrupulous businesspeople.

CCI take note that there are plans to withdraw about 1000 Kenyan troops currently serving in Somalia under the banner of AMISOM and that there is a modest reduction on Kenyan military spending in the year 2012 in comparison to 2011. We however wish to remind you that the state of internal security in Kenya is still wanting as many Kenyans still fall victims to cases of insecurity ranging from cattle rustling, murders, robberies and Terrorist attacks.

In 2012/2013 Budget estimates, the government allocated a total of KShs. 83.5 billion to the security sector out of which KShs. 69.5 billion went to internal security, KShs. 1.4 billion went to purchasing police cars, KShs. 2.5 billion to recruitment of 3500 police officers while KShs. 300 million went to National Police Commission.

This is still way too high compared to allocation to other sectors like irrigation that was allocated a paltry KShs. 8 billion, Welfare of orphans, which was allocated KShs. 4.4 billion and KShs. 1.1 billion to the elderly persons of the society. Youth Development Fund and Women Development Fund were allocated KShs. 550 million and 450 million respectively.

Kindly take note that the increasing rate of insecurity in the country is related to access of social and economic rights hence apart from your government's investment in security, your government need to increase allocations to food production, healthcare services, housing, water, education, employment and social security sectors.

Therefore as we mark GDAMS 2013 we ask your government to:

1. Follow up on the allocation to the security sector in 2012/2013 budget to find out if the allocations have been used prudently.
2. Reduce Kenyan military spending and reallocate the resources to the social welfare sector.
3. Speed up the withdrawal of Kenyan forces from Somalia
4. Increase security surveillance along Kenyan borders to prevent proliferation of arms and other contraband goods, which are likely to aggravate insecurity.
5. Increase allocations on the food production, education, healthcare, housing and water, employment and social security sectors to reduce the crimes related to access resources.

Lastly CCI take this opportunity to congratulate you for being declared validly elected by the Supreme Court and promise you that CCI will work with your government in areas where your government is within the law and that CCI shall not hesitate to criticize your government in instances where you have gone against the law.

We Remain

Cidi Otieno ----- President BLM

Kidaha Vincent ----- Co Convener Unga Revolution

Sheikh Ahmed Ramadhan ----- Coordinator NHRF

Lula Mohammed ----- Coordinator SEMRF

Tom Oketch ----- Executive Director LVF

