

U.S. LABOR AGAINST THE WAR



Global Day of Action on Military Spending

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Contact: Michael Eisenscher, National Coordinator (510) 693-7314
<nationalcoordinator@uslaboragainstwar.org>

The U.S. once again ranks first in the world in military spending. It spends nearly three and a half times more than China and more than seven times what Russia spends. The US with its allies among the top 15 military spenders in the world spends four times as much as Russia and China together.

Does anyone believe that this makes us four times more secure? Indeed, our effort to dominate the world militarily so that multinational corporations can dominate the world economically - is making us more unsafe not more secure.

At a time when millions of Americans are unemployed and millions more are working but remain trapped in poverty, it is unconscionable that the United States continues to spend 55% of its discretionary funds on the bloated, wasteful Pentagon, nuclear arms and war budgets.

Our military is the world's largest consumer of carbon fuels and also the world's biggest polluter. Aside from the misuse of resources and the conflicts that ensue from our aggressive posture in the world, our misguided military spending is a leading cause of pollution that is accelerating global warming, putting not only our nation but all of humanity at risk.

Our run-away military budget is a substantial contributor to our national debt. Yet the deficit hawks are also in most cases also the military hawks, calling for ever greater spending on boondoggle weapons like the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (the most expensive weapons system ever made), and demanding that this gross misallocation of our tax dollars be paid for by gutting social programs that are so desperately needed by so many.

We will never reach Prosperity Street by traveling the Austerity Highway. The course we are on is financially, politically and environmentally unsustainable. It is long past time for us to demilitarize our foreign policy - and to invest in diplomacy, economic development aid, education and humanitarian assistance so that we are revered and respected rather than reviled and feared by the global community.

We need a new definition of national security - one that includes health security, housing security, education security, food security and the other things that give meaning to the concept of a "good life". We need a new economy that does not depend on war and preparation for war to sustain our standard of living, because it is in fact eroding our standard of living, undermining our real security and putting our society and the planet at risk.