Final report
Highlights of the Global Days 2017

Compiled by the International Peace Bureau for the Global Campaign on Military Spending
The Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) is an international campaign founded in December 2014 and promoted by the International Peace Bureau. GCOMS also incorporates the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS). The overall goal of the GCOMS Campaign is to push governments to achieve major re-allocations of military expenditures (especially in high-spending countries) to 5 broad alternative areas:

**Peace**: disarmament, conflict prevention and resolution, human security;

**Sustainable development** and anti-poverty programs;

**Climate change** and biodiversity loss – for their mitigation and adaptation;

**Public services/social justice**, human rights, gender equality and green job-creation;

**Humanitarian programs** to support the most vulnerable groups.

All the above are parts of a wide global transformation towards a Culture of Peace.

Given that the political situation varies among countries, and given the lack of intergovernmental agreements and treaties to limit Military Spending, national-level action is vital. Each campaigning centre should define its own targets and approach. GCOMS and IPB’s role is to provide an overall framework and give assistance in a variety of ways.
Every year the International Peace Bureau coordinates the Global Day(s) of Action on Military Spending, the annual highlight of the Global Campaign. This year’s Global Day/GDAMS was a whole fortnight! It was held from April 18th to 28th. GDAMS 2017 started on April 18th, which is Tax Day in the U.S., a traditional moment in the calendar for civil society to challenge the uses of U.S. public money. On the 24th, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) published the global military expenditure figures for 2016, together with an analysis of its trends. Having a period of 11 ‘Global Days’ offers GDAMS campaigners a more flexible scope to choose a suitable moment to organize events that fit local or national contexts.

This year’s Global Day/GDAMS took place in a particular context. We are increasingly immersed in a World that is based on a divisive rhetoric, hate speeches, and xenophobic thinking. The consequence is a dominant Worldview insisting on a separation between good and evil and supporting on-going military campaigns – and the increased budgets to support them.

We are also facing a situation where the newly elected US president is signing amendments that increase the military budget and deny human rights; and Europe is planning to fund military research through the current proposal for a fully-fledged European Defence Research Program (EDRP), which amounts to 3,5 billion euros. Moreover, the deterioration in China-US ties, with a particular emphasis on maritime security, makes the World even more dangerous.

While this represents a considerable challenge, it also underlines the importance of putting forward alternative policies and approaches. The IPB issued, once again and for the 7th year running, its Call for a cut in military spending, so that the World can move towards a human security approach that would better serve humanity.
During 10 days, **116 GDAMS events took place in 30 countries**. These events varied in shape and size depending on countries and partners. As in previous years, a whole range of actions where organized, including: street protests/demonstrations, seminars, press conferences, media releases, videos, petitions, peace vigils, penny polls and photos. These various actions highlighted the unacceptable global military expenditure of $1.69 trillion in 2016, and linked it to regional, national and local issues like the Pentagon budget hearings in the U.S., the militarisation and drug wars in Latin America, the economic crisis in Europe, nuclear weapons modernisation, the tendency towards militarism in Japan, the growing tension between South and North Korea and other issues.

This report includes all actions organized during GDAMS 2017 with a selection of photos. Please visit our website or Flickr page to see the full collection of reports/photos/videos.

We wish to convey our sincere gratitude to the GDAMS 2017 organizers, participants and supporters. All of their actions express the global movement’s commitment to persuade governments to reallocate the global military spending and move the money to urgent human needs!

As in the previous years, the preparatory work was undertaken by convening an International Steering Committee (ISC) in which 19 people from different parts of the world participated. Most of the members of the ISC are local actors in the disarmament and peace movements and were organizers of previous GDAMS actions. The planning, political messaging, and outreach were discussed through online meetings. Constantly maintenance and updates of the GDAMS International website, Facebook and Twitter were performed to reach out old partners and to approach new ones. Planned actions were shared; background materials to support the actions were uploaded in the website and distributed through the various mailing lists and social media.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions

Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: AFRICA

Africa: 3 countries, 7 actions

Nigeria: 3 actions

April 18 to 28: The Trees on Earth Development Foundation engaged three schools developed different activities including Inter-House sport competitions; Interviews with students/Public letures on GCOMS/GDAMS activities: Advocacy visit to the Mayor/Deputy Mayors of Ogori/Magongo Local Government Council, Kogi State; Interview with the schools Principals; Advocacy visits the Traditional Rulers in Ogori/Magongo Local Government Council:

- April 18: Western Hall College GCOMS Nigeria.
- April 24: Magongo Community Secondary School.
- April 28: Peculiar Future Academy.

Cameroun: 2 actions

April 24: The international Statement on the occasion of the GDAMS 2017 was translated and adapted to the Cameroun’s political situation; it was shared through media and social network.

Members of Nouveaux Droits de l’Homme Cameroun took part in the selfie campaign 2017 in which they expressed their idea to reallocate military expenditure.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: AFRICA

Africa: 3 countries, 7 actions

Kenya: 2 actions

April 11: The Coalition for Constitution Implementation Kenya (CCI Kenya), member of the International Peace Bureau and host of the Global Campaign on Military Spending Africa (GCOMS Africa), in conjunction with Bunge la Mwananchi, the Coalition for Grassroots Human Rights Defenders Kenya, and the Kenyan Peasants League, held a meeting on April 11th at Ufungamano House in Nairobi. During the meeting a Military Spending document for selected African countries was released.

Among various themes, the meeting discussions were on: the Security Interactions and Power Relations in the East and Horn of Africa; the Human Cost of uncontrolled proliferation of Small Arms in the same area; the African Regional Security Complex; Economics of Security Regimens in Africa and the Impact of Regional Conflicts on Women, Children, Disabled and the aged. The event was attended by Refugee representatives from Burundi, Ethiopia and South Sudan. A statement was prepared, based on the discussions, and presented during the Disarmament Congress. Remote Skype participation from the Netherlands, Kampala Uganda and Dar-es-Salaam Tanzania was welcomed.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: AFRICA

Africa: 3 countries, 7 actions

Kenya: 2 actions

April 19: The Disarmament Congress 2017 was graced by Prof Manas Chatterji from School of Management, Binghamton University, USA. Prof Manas made presentations on Conflict Management, Peace Economics, Peace Science and Military Expenditure, Development, and Concomitant Issues. Presentations of the discussions from previous GDAMS, and further discussions on the same were made. Participants included delegates from Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi and remote participation from the Netherlands and East Africa, as well as representatives of Refugees from Burundi, Ethiopia and South Sudan. The final conclusions of GDAMS 2017 and the Disarmament Congress will be published into a bulletin that will be circulated.
Asia and Pacific: 11 countries, 25 actions

Australia: 5 actions

Brisbane
March 25: Almost 200 people marched through Brisbane as part of the March in March mobilization. During the march, Ross Gwyther from Just Peace spoke about injustices of military spending in context of welfare cuts. For more information visit: http://marchinmarch.com.au/event/brisbane/

Canberra
April 19: Working for an independent Australian foreign policy, a cessation of our current disastrous wars, and diverting greater resources from war and its preparation to much needed social services like health, housing, climate change, education, NDIS, domestic violence mitigation, childcare, indigenous wellbeing and other urgent social needs.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: ASIA and PACIFIC

Asia and Pacific: 11 countries, 25 actions

Australia: 5 actions

Perth
April 20: People for Nuclear Disarmament – part of the Independent Peaceful Australia Network – held a street presence during the busy lunch hour with all banners on display. The street presence was preceded by a coffee house briefing on foreign affair issues, from the Greens Senator, Scott Ludlam. Activists asked people how they would prefer to spend the $67billion which is currently in the Australia Defence Budget for having a new F35 jet fighter and submarines.

Sidney
April 22: in Sydney, Australia, IPAN NSW held a demonstration in Town Hill Square to ask the Australian government to reduce military spending.

Melbourne
April 23: The congregation of the Melbourne Unitarian Church and guests came together at the invitation of the Campaign for International Co-operation and Disarmament (CICD) to hold aloft signs saying “Move the Money: If I had $67 billion, I would spend it on housing, refugees, education and health”.

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Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: ASIA and PACIFIC

Asia and Pacific: 11 countries, 25 actions

India: 7 actions

April 18, 19, 20: the Rural Development & Youth Training Institute organized two Workshops, four village Rallies, and village meetings in Kota on the occasion of the Global Days of action on Military Spending. During the activities three budget experts actively participated in the workshop and village rallies.

Detailed discussions took place about India Military Spending on Huge Forces, Missiles, Aircraft, Guns and others. On the other hand, it was noted that India budget on poverty alleviation activities (Millennium Development Goals for instance) is very small. And therefore, there is no need to have this heavy expenditure on Military activities in India.
Asia and Pacific: 11 countries, 25 actions

Israel: 1 action

Haifa

April 17: Letters to the Technion: Stop Teaching Arms Trading, organized by Hamushim, Coalition of Women for Peace. Hamushim activists delivered hundreds letters to the Technion Institute petitioning against their arms trading course “Defence Strategy for International Markets”. The Technion, Israel's leading academic institution, offers this course for arms exporters and defence industry executives, designed to teach them how to form a strategy for defence exports for international markets, to upgrade their knowledge and expertise specifically regarding the international arms trade. After demonstrating at the Tel Aviv campus where the course takes place, on April 17 the activists delivered to the Technion a creative act of resistance against the course, on behalf of the hundreds who signed the letter.
April 24: A unique action involving a governmental institution calling the other countries for a reduction in military expenditure. Kazakhstan believes that by eliminating nuclear weapons and transferring even a small part of military budgets of all countries, the world could find significant additional resources to support sustainable development. This would, according to the statement published by the country’s Foreign Ministry, improve the prospects for security and peace around the world and reduce the need for military spending.
April 18: A street play production in an urban community was organized, with youth and students culminating the event with jamming with alternative artists. A VTR was produced, and it will be used by other groups during focus group discussions in other communities and schools during GDAMS days.

Two public actions were also organized in the Mindanao area: in a farming community of women and with urban youth and students group. Photo, streaming and selfies by young people with their own version of messages on military spending were taken. A media blast emerged during the GDAMS days.
April 12 to July 25: Peace Boat’s 94th Global Voyage for Peace departed from Yokohama, Japan on April 12 and will return on July 25, 2017, taking a northern route around the globe. Participants learn about the history of modern Europe and the diverse cultures that constitute it. The voyage visits the ports of Porto, Rouen and St. Georges for the first time and returns to favourite destinations in the Americas, such as Corinto, Nicaragua and Acajutla, El Salvador. On April 26, while the ship was at sea, a session was held with participants of Peace Boat’s 94th Global Voyage, during which SIPRI’s newly released 2016 data on global military spending were presented and discussed, in the context of the level of spending for education and social welfare, as well as current needs for responses to famine, conflict resolution, environment preservation and other global concerns.

To express their surprise and outrage at the current level of global military expenditures, participants held creative activities, including turning paper bombs into what they believed money should be allocated to. They also took selfies expressing their own ideas on "If I had $1.67 trillion, I would move the money to..." A group photo with the GDAMS banner was taken, in solidarity with the events taking place around the world.
Asia and Pacific: 11 countries, 25 actions

New Zealand: 3 actions

Lower Hutt
April 17: The first Lower Hutt Peace Group meeting was held on the first day of the 2017 Global Day of Action on Military Spending fortnight of activities, with a presentation by Edwina Hughes, Coordinator of Peace Movement Aotearoa (which coordinates the Aotearoa New Zealand Campaign on Military Spending). The Forum entitled “Costs and consequences of militarization peace meeting” was well attended.

Wellington
April 24: a Declaration on the occasion of the new SIPRI’s data release was published by Aotearoa New Zealand Campaign on Military Spending.
April 28: A lunchtime forum on government spending priorities was held on the last day of GDAMS. The forum entitled “Wellfare not warfare” was hosted by Paul Barber, Policy Advisor of the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services, who spoke about social spending, and by Edwina Hughes, Coordinator of Peace Movement Aotearoa, who spoke about military spending.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: ASIA and PACIFIC

Asia and Pacific: 11 countries, 25 actions

Iraq: 1 action in Bagdad
May 1: Iraqi Social Forum and Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative-ICSSI asked to move the military spending to employment policies based on human rights and not on profits.

South Korea: 1 action
April 18: The GDAMS preparatory committee of Korea (PSPD & World Without War) is issuing a Joint Statement and will also translate IPB’s material into Korean.


Bangladesh: 1 action
April 7: An international seminar on “Nuclear Weapon-Free World” was held at Dhaka University by Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions

Finland: 3 actions

April 18-28: Sadankomitea and Rauhanliitto joined the selfie campaign “If I had $1.68trillion, I would move the money to...” and expressed their ideas to move the money from warfare to welfare.

April 24: Peace Union of Finland and Committee of 100 organized a Press Seminar on Military Expenditure. Speakers: Tarja Cronberg and Timo Mielonen (Cronberg is the chairperson of Peace Union of Finland and a Distinguished Associate Fellow with SIPRI, and Mielonen is the chairperson of Committee of 100).

April 29: Bikes not bombs Fest. The bike race and the Aseistakieltätyliylititto association jointly arranged a spring support event on the eve of the war. Stop wasting resources on militarism and weapons, start focusing on solving the real threats to human and living beings.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions

Germany: 2 actions

April 24: Press conference held as a contribution to GDAMS by IPB office in Berlin on the occasion of the new data on World Military Spending released by SIPRI. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNKhZU5HpUI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNKhZU5HpUI)

April 28: Article by IPB Co-President Reiner Braun on Frankfurter Rundschau on the occasion of the SIPRI released information.
Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions

Greece: 3 actions

Athens
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions

Greece: 3 actions

Athens
April 23rd: PADOP organized a press conference to talk about the huge amount of military spending and its possible use in the social and human needs. PADOP expressed its concern about Greek people who are experiencing painful deprivations due to the crisis and the state debt, and who are fully aware that their country’s enormous public debt is largely due to its massive military spending in recent decades.

Olympia
April 29th: Meeting in the municipality of the Ancient Olympia on April 29, with the presence of the vice-minister of Education and local authorities.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions

Italy: 4 actions

Rome
February 15: The Observatory on Italian military expenditures presented to the Parliament its first Report on Italian Military Expenditure. The Report also includes an article by Pere Ortega of the Centre of Peace Studies J. M. Delás on Spanish Military Expenditure.

The “Rete Italiana per il Disarmo” translated the material uploaded on the website to Italian and helped in promoting and sharing the Infographics released in the occasion of GDAMS2017.

Verona & Pisa
The Italian Nonviolent Movement and the NGO “Un Ponte Per” participated at the Selficampaign “If I had $1.68 Trillion, I would move the money to…” during GDAMS 2017.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions

Norway: 4 actions

Oslo
April 26: Grandmothers for Peace Action disseminating GDAMS flyers in front of the Parliament.

April 28: As all previous years (since 2011) the Norwegian Peace Association has produced a GDAMS report, also this year, based on the SIPRI data and IISS data, on the World Military Expenditure and the World arms flow in 2016:

Kongsberg
April 27: GDAMS Meeting at Town Hall. Fresh data on World Military Expenditure were presented by Alexander Harang, President of the Norwegian Peace Association. The Art Project Annex presented its work. An open debate was held on Norway’s military expenditure, and on the current political trends regarding new weapons.

Tromsø
April 28: GDAMS lecture at Tromsø University by Fredrik Heldal, Director of the Norwegian Peace Association (In cooperation with the Centre for Peace Studies at Tromsø University).
Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions

Spain: 8 actions

Bilbao
April 22: Barakaldo, Getxo: Bike March against military industry from the Palacio Foral Bizkaia “Diputacion” to the Arms Factory Precicast PCB in Barakaldo, ending at Getxo (at the entrance of Sener, a company involved in arms production). This is the 10th Bike March against Military Spending and Military Industry. The initiative is promoted and organized by several anti-militarist organizations together with ecologists and internationalist solidarity groups in Bizkaia.

Barcelona
April 25: Conference with Colin Archer entitled: “Militarized States. What can we do from a Global Justice perspective?”. Organized by LaFede.cat (Catalan Federation of Organizations for Global Justice) with the cooperation of Delàs Center for Peace Studies, Novact, Fundipau, Unipau, Justícia & Pau and Escola Cultura de Pau.
Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions

Spain: 8 actions

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
April 24: Peace News on the radio: Discussion on Military Spending during the “slow coffee” radio program. Giulia Campanile and Pere Ortega spoke about the Global Campaign on military spending and the Military Spending situation in the Spanish context.

Barcelona
April 18-28: Centre Delas of Peace Studies and La Fede.Cat participated in the Selfie Campaign “If I had $1.68 Trillion, I would move the money to...”.

Madrid
April 26: press release of the GCOMS 2017 Statement that claims for the right of World’s people to live in peace and for the necessary and immediate changes in immigration policies that now sentence to death millions of people who are simply trying to escape from war, persecution and hunger.
Navarra
April 4: intervention of the Kem-MOC and SETEM Antimilitarist Alternative in the Committee on Citizen's Petitions. Arguments were presented criticizing military spending and Bank investments in Military Industry. Five petitions have been filed to the Parliament. Members of the two groups promoting the initiative gave talks: Teodoro Llorens and Andoni Romeo from AA kem-MOC and José Luis Mariñelarena from SETEM. During the discussion, Military expenditure and investments of Spanish Banks were questioned and criticized. After that, there was a round of interventions by political groups. Finally, a vote was casted with a favorable result, so that all petitions were approved.

Vitoria - Gasteiz
April 26: Conference from Pere Ortega on Military Spending and the Business of War. Organized by SETEM

San Sebastian - Donosti
April 27: Conference from Pere Ortega on Military Spending and the Business of War. Organized by SETEM
Edinburg:

**April 19:** Calling for an End to Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia in front of the Scottish Parliament. The UK has been supplying the Saudi-led coalition with Paveway IV missiles produced by arms manufacturer Raytheon at its factory in Glenrothes. Moreover, these Scottish-made “smart-bombs” are being used in coalition attacks against Yemeni civilians that violate international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes. The same Raytheon bombs were also used previously by Israel during assaults on Gaza (The action was coordinated by Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre and Campaign Against Arms Trade Scotland).

**April 22:** The Scrap Trident Coalition and Scottish WILPF leafleted on GCOMS at two venues: The Meadows and March for Science.

**April 22:** A vigil to support the Global Campaign on Military Spending was organized by Women in Black.

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**Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions**

**United Kingdom: 12 actions**

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**Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: EUROPE**

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Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions

United Kingdom: 12 actions

Hendon
April 20: Taxes for Peace: At St Joseph’s School and site of Pax Christi office in Hendon London, staff and pupils of the school came along to cast their vote for a safer world. As well as showing curiosity about what was going on, 94 people took part in the vote.
April 20: Stall at Wimbledon station: There was a stall outside Wimbledon Station where GCOMS postcards were handed out with other information.

Hereford
April 22: Hereford Peace Council organised an event in High Town. One of the Peace Council members made some excellent placards, saying that £2,500,000,000 is spent globally every minute on the military. People stood out across the big pedestrian area, so that a large number of people could not help but got that message. Some long conversations rose up, including one with a young man who was in the navy. 48 votes were cast.
Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions

United Kingdom: 12 actions

London
February 27: Conscience had a public meeting at Friends House in which there was a panel discussion where some of the UK's leading peacemakers spoke about why this tax for peace bill should be supported.

April 19: Women in Black GDAMs vigil at Edith Cavell Statue. Women in Black is a World-wide network against militarism, war and all types of violence from a feminist perspective. This was a women only vigil.

April 21: Disarm Quaker organized lots of activities in the Quaker Friends House to ask how would citizens spend the £46 billion UK defence budget.

Shipley
April 21: Shipley CND organized a meeting in Shipley Market to talk about security and military spending.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions
United Kingdom: 12 actions

London

April 26: Women in Black vigil next to Edith Cavell statue to ask citizens where they would move the military money.

Yorkshire
April 18: CAAB Demonstration at Menwith Hill Main Gates (Yorkshire) on Tuesday 18th April 2017 at 6pm. Focus on the true costs of military spending. The UK’s military spending is in excess of £46 billion each year.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 40 actions

Denmark: 1 action

April 21: Esbjerg Peace Movement had a public arrangement at the central square in Esbjerg. Flyers were distributed, and people was asked to choose between using taxpayers money to: 1) Upgrade the Danish military defence or 2) Upgrade the Danish welfare, by placing a vote into different measure containers representing the two different options. Peace flags with peace written in different languages were shown.

France: 2 actions

April 24: The GCOMS Statement was translated into French by the Mouvement de la Paix
The French Movement de la Paix published the White Book on Peace (in French)

Switzerland: 1 action

Basel
April 18: Three organizations, Basel Peace Office, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, and UNFOLD ZERO, sent a letter to the UN representatives of governments participating in the United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (ban treaty), asking them to support the proposal that the ban treaty should include a prohibition on financing Nuclear Weapons. This would include a ban on investing in corporations that manufacture Nuclear Weapons and their delivery systems.
North America: 2 countries, 40 actions

Canada: 5 actions

Victoria
March 3: the members of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) wrote a letter to the minister of the defense department Harjit Sajjan, to protest against the dangerous and destabilizing Canadian Armed Forces’ (CAF) overseas operations and to call for a reduction of military spending and a re-allocation to urgent social and environmental needs.

April 18: there was a demonstration of supporters outside the Department of National Defence Recruiting Centre who held banners and passed out leaflets for GDAMS. Letters to the editor were also sent to the local newspaper. The action was organized by the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and endorsed by the Vancouver Island Peace and Disarmament Network. Photos of the action and information about GDAMs were circulated on email and Facebook.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: NORTH AMERICA

North America: 2 countries, 40 actions

Canada: 5 actions

Halifax
April 28: Action at Halifax Central Library, organized by Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace (NSVOW), Science for Peace, and. At the event, people was given the opportunity to identify their priorities for taxpayer spending, by placing 25 cent quarters (supplied by NSVOW) in jars labeled: Arts & Culture, Environment, Health and Education, Military, Peace, and Women & Children. Gretchen Roedde was a guest speaker at this event.

![Image of people at Halifax event with banners]

Toronto:
April 28: Women, children and war: Conference organized by Science for Peace and Voice of Women. Gretchen Roedde was a guest speaker at this event.

![Image of people at Toronto event]

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Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: NORTH AMERICA

North America: 2 countries, 40 actions

Canada: 5 actions

Nanaimo
April 10: Demonstration of women with the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace outside of the Public Library downtown. Participants held GDAMS banners. Letters to the editor were also sent to local newspapers.

United States: 35 actions

Buffalo, New York
April 4: Talking Peace event with the WNY Peace Center. Special edition devoted to Reverend Dr. King.

Duluth, Minnesota
April 15: Rally and March at the Federal Building, under the title “Local Needs Matter”. Sponsored by Veterans for Peace, Chapter 80, and Grandmothers for Peace Twin Ports.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: NORTH AMERICA

North America: 2 countries, 40 actions

United States: 35 actions

Bellingham, Washington

Cambridge, MA
April 15: About 3,000 people attended the demo and Tax Rally in Cambridge Common, emceed by State Representative Mike Connollly. It included a talk by Joseph Gerson.
April 22: Friends Meeting with Noam Chomsky who spoke about “Prospects for Democracy and Survival”.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: NORTH AMERICA

North America: 2 countries, 40 actions

United States: 35 actions

Cleveland, Ohio
April 15: Tax March for People Peace and Planet. Soaked marchers dealt with rain and wind as the walk went South on East 9th Street during the tax-day protest in downtown Cleveland.

Chicago, Illinois
April 18: The annual tax day rally with street speaking, a penny poll, and leafleting was held on Tax Day, Tuesday, on the downtown Federal Plaza. Participating groups included War Resisters League/Chicago and the Chicago Area War Resisters Support Group.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: NORTH AMERICA

North America: 2 countries, 40 actions

United States: 35 actions

Fort Wayne, Indiana
April 15: Global Day of Action on Military Spending rally and protest: “Stop Pentagon Orrhea: War is a disease, peace is the cure”

New York, New York
April 25: Selfie campaign at Albany University
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: NORTH AMERICA

North America: 2 countries, 40 actions

United States: 35 actions

Maine
War tax resisters and their supporters organized sessions to empower and educate people about the opportunities for resisting violence. During the meetings the Maine WTR Resource Center encouraged taxpayers to educate themselves by discussing with war tax Counsellors to fully understand the investments they are making when they pay their taxes. Below there is a list of all meetings during GDAMS 2017.

Northampton, Massachusetts
April 17: Pat-RIOT’s day march at Bridge St School. The event started at 11:00am. Campaigners spoke up and sanged out in front of First Churches. At 12:00pm, the Anti-war Peace “Riot” started. The action was organized by the American Friends Service Committee and by the Western Massachusetts Program.
North America: 2 countries, 40 actions

United States: 35 actions

Oakland, California
April 18: Public Participatory Readings of Martin Luther King’s “Beyond Vietnam” Speech at the Federal Building. April 2017 was the 50th anniversary of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr’s speech “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence”. In it, Dr. King confronted the deeply rooted racism, militarism and materialism in the U.S., describing our government as the greatest purveyor of violence in the world. Fifty years later his analysis and call to action is as relevant now as it was then.

Sponsored by the National Council of Elders and Western States Legal Foundation, and Co-sponsored by Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC, Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, Nafsi Ya Jamii, Physicians for Social Responsibility (SF-Bay Area Chapter), Tri-Valley CAREs, Women for Genuine Security, West County Toxics Coalition, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, East Bay Branch and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, San Francisco Branch.
Santa Monica, California
April 16: Site of the Veterans for Peace Project - a cemetery on the sand in "Arlington West". A sea of white crosses just to the right (north) of the pier was established with several tables and exhibits set up by Veterans for Peace detailing the costs of war. The Southern California War Tax Resistance set a table with full support of VFP. At 3pm, a public event of war tax redistribution was held to give out checks of resisted war taxes to local groups supporting peace and justice. They shared information on where taxes are going now, and ideas on where might rather spend them.

San Francisco, California
April 17: Members and friends of the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center distributed flyers at all of the Contra Costa County BART stations. 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek.

Seattle, Washington
April 18: Tax Day Action at Federal Building. Sponsored by Veterans for Peace

Wilmington, Delaware
April 18: Tax Day vigil/demonstration at the Wilmington Post Office. Promoted by MoveOn.org
Walpole, Massachusetts
April 15: Common Tax Day Rally – Redirect Military Spending to Fund Human Needs. Walpole peace group organized a peace vigil standing in solidarity with the Global Campaign on Military Spending and the Tax Day 2017 Mobilization, calling for a reduction in military spending and a redirection of those funds to human services. Over 30 people participated. A 40 feet banner was shown, explaining where the Federal discretionary budget is spent today based on the 2017 budget. The banner showed that the U.S. military spending is more than 50% of the Federal discretionary budget. The vigil was also calling President Trump to release his tax returns, and opposed to 2018 budget cuts to human services.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: NORTH AMERICA

North America: 2 countries, 40 actions

United States: 35 actions

Other Actions in Maine
(see http://demilitarize.org/gdams-2017/)

Bar Harbor, Maine
March 31: College of the Atlantic Cafeteria, at breakfast and lunch.

Oromo, Maine
April 8: Hope Fest Included a workshop on WTR.
April 18, Memorial Union

Waterville, Maine
April 8: Castonguay Square.

Machias, Maine
April 4, April 11, and April 18: Halfway between library and Torrey Hall

Bangor, Maine
April 15: Resist War Action at the Federal Building.
April 22: Earth Day Celebration.

Belfast Food Coop, Maine: April 15.

Bethel Post Office, Maine: April 15.

Blue Hill Food Coop, Maine: April 15.

Rome – Youth Activism Gathering, Maine: April 15, Weekend.

Brunswick Post Office, Maine: April 17: organized by PeaceWorks.

Damariscotta Post Office, Maine: April 17 and April 18.

Portland – Monument Square, Maine: April 18: Gathering with numerous organizations begins at noon.

Farmington, Student Center, Maine: April 18.
South America: 4 countries, 4 actions

Uruguay: 1 action

April 21: The Peace Educators Movement organized, together with the Cultural institution Space Mixtura, a Fair in the framework of the Days of Action against Military Spending. The Fair included an exchange of war toys by books, for the children. Five thousand information leaflets were published for distribution throughout the country through the institutions of Teachers, and in a massive Action on May 1st at the PIT/CNT Workers' Site. The PIT/CNT Secretariat was asked to publicise a Statement linked to the Actions against Military Spending, which also referred to recent and serious World events.

Argentina: 1 action

April 22: “Mujeres de Negro” from Rosario asked to move military budget to ensure public education, and complete health care for women who are victims of violence, and to invest in public works to ensure the access to basic services.
Main GDAMS 2017 Actions: SOUTH AMERICA

South America: 4 countries, 4 actions

Chile: 1 action

April 25: Serpaj Chile advocated a reduction of the military spending of the Chile government.

Paraguay: 1 action

April 21: Serpaj Paraguay recorded a video (in Spanish) https://www.facebook.com/259294687442041/videos/1387450177959814/ in which a student asked for a reduction in military spending by moving this money to education.
Among other actions of the GDAMS campaign, a selfie campaign was also organized in 2017 under the theme “If I had $1.67 trillion, I would move the money to…” The selfie campaign was aimed at creating public awareness about what the money currently invested in the military sector could be used for, instead.

You can watch the GDAMS 2017 and the Selfie Campaign Albums at https://www.flickr.com/photos/149584362@N05/sets/72157680688861482 and https://www.flickr.com/photos/149584362@N05/sets/72157683849243805.

This year, apart from Flickr, a GCOMS account on Instagram was also launched
The Instagram account can reach young people who are not specifically interested in our sector, but who share our messages or like our posted pictures: https://www.instagram.com/gcoms/. More than 170 fotos were posted in Instagram, collecting more than 700 likes and 70 followers. Among these followers there are NGOs such as Sandakomitea, Unponteper, Non Violent Peace Force, the American Friends Service Committee, Resist War, ICAN Germany, UN Youth Helsinki, Peace Foundation New Zealand and many more.
As part of the coordination of the GCOMS campaign, the main GCOMS website [http://demilitarize.org/](http://demilitarize.org/) has been updated and new sections have been included. The “About us” menu explains who we are, presents the GCOMS coordination team and lists all partners worldwide.

It includes specific sections detailing the material and actions from several partners: U.K., U.S. and New Zealand. The U.S. webpages contain articles and campaigns, several articles and some very interesting infographics. Just have a look into [http://demilitarize.org/graphics-gdams-u-s-2017/](http://demilitarize.org/graphics-gdams-u-s-2017/)
Web sections on “The Facts” and “Get Involved” show the main facts that make necessary to immediately act in this global campaign for the reduction of Military Expenditure, and offer resources and material to activists and organizations. Apart from other sections including “Resources” and “Media” information, the “Events” menu lists all events and actions that have been organized during the GDAMS days, from April 18 to April 28 2017. These events are also displayed on an interactive World map that gives information on all GCOMS/GDAMS actions, also showing many of the photos from the events and GDAMS selfies.

The GCOMS website also contains many other posts and news like interviews with Colin Archer, Joseph Gerson and Noam Chomsky, information on the SIPRI data on global military spending during 2016 (presented in a very visual way), data and images from specific GDAMS actions worldwide, and other information.
There are plenty of new reasons to renew our call for a cut on military spending and to get close to the human security approach that many would prefer to see. We need to involve even more citizens and organisations in an open and robust debate on the counter-productive results of military expenditure. More than ever, we need new partners to work on the ongoing Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS), with the objective of making the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) a great success. With this in mind, the International GCOMS Steering Committee held two Skype meetings in January and March 2017 to coordinate the actions and to define the text of the two GCOMS Statements. The final GCOMS Statement is available here http://demilitarize.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/GCOMS_2017_Statement.pdf. It is also available at http://demilitarize.org/gcoms-statement-2017/ in other languages.

According to the updated 2016 military spending data, published on April 24th by SIPRI, world military expenditure has increased in 2016 by 0.4% in real terms, and is now estimated at roughly $1686 billion. The top four spenders in 2016 have been the USA (with a small increase over 2015), China (showing a significant increase), Russia (a moderate increase), and Saudi Arabia. There are plenty of reasons to renew the call for a cut in Military Spending, so that the world can move a little closer to the human security approach that would better serve humanity. GCOMS issued a second Statement on these SIPRI data (which can be downloaded from http://demilitarize.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/GCOMS_Second_Statement.pdf) - It presented the interactive SIPRI World Map on Military Spending http://demilitarize.org/gcoms-second-statement-occasion-gdams-2017/
GDAMS 2017 extended over 10 days. GCOMS decided to be present and optimize its presence on social media to ensure the success of the 7th GDAMS. For that purpose, the following tools were used:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Thunderclap

The Table shows the number of followers and total social reach of GCOMS and GDAMS 2017.
The aim of the GCOMS campaign is to push the government to invest money in the sector of health, education, employment and climate change rather than military. Through GCOMS, the IPB calls for an annual, minimum reallocation of 10% from the military budgets of all states; and advocates the reduction of arms production and international weapons trade. The GCOMS also incorporates into its program the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) which has been now in its 7th year running.

Actions can be done in many ways and each activist or group may have a different focus. The GCOMS campaign aims to help its participants move step by step, each time into a higher gear. In the GCOMS webpage: http://demilitarize.org/organizers-packet/

You will find a rich treasure trove of campaign tools from 7 editions of the Global Day: reports, posters, banners, logos, flyers – even special masks! Remember to check out the GDAMS U.S and GDAMS-UK pages as well. All of these can be adapted to local circumstances and styles. In 2017, GCOMS material for action organizers has included a number of banners and logos (available here: http://demilitarize.org/organizers-packet/).
The two first GCOMS 2017 Infographics show the amount of the Global Military Expenditure, which was around 1,686 billion dollars in 2016, and some Key Sustainable Development Goals that could have been addressed with a 10% global reduction. Just as an exemple, the total official development assistance provided by OECD States in 2015 reached an amount of 146.5 billions dollars, which is less than this claimed 10% global reduction in military expenses.


The estimate amount to achieve the two first UN Sustainable Development Goals (no poverty, zero hunger) is 160 billion dollars per year, which is again less than the 10% of the World MilEx (Military Expenditure). A 3.2% yearly cut in global MilEx would be enough to achieve universal pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education, whereas a 6% yearly cut in World MilEx could be an effective tool to stop the effects of climate change.

A third Infographics was also prepared to present SIPRI 2016 data in a graphical and comprehensive way:

This Infographics shows the total amount of the 2016 Military Expenditure and the 20 largest military spenders this year. Other Infographics have been specifically devoted to SDGs 4 and 13, see: http://demilitarize.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/GDAMS_2017_SDG_4.png and http://demilitarize.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/GDAMS_2017_SDG_13.png. A cut of 100 billion dollars per year would allow addressing the needs of developing countries in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation by 2020.
International Steering Committee

- Abjata Khalif, **Kenya**, Kenya Pastoralist Journalist Network
- Alba Centeno, **Colombia**, International Alert
- Albert Caramés, **Spain**
- Alexander Harang, **Norway**, Norges Fredslag
- Celin Nahory, **Japan**, Peace Boat
- Corazon Fabros, **Philippines**, Stop the War! Coalition
- Cyrille Rolande, **Cameroun**
- Dave Webb, **UK**, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- David Calleb Otieno, **Kenya**, Coalition for Constitution Implementation (CCI)
- Denis Doherty, **Australia**, Independent and Peaceful Australia Network
- Edwina Hughes, **New Zealand**, Peace Movement Aotearoa
- Francesco Vignarca, **Italy**, Rete Italiana per il Disarmo
- Jerome Peraya, **Belgium**, Agir pour la Paix
- Jordi Calvo, **Spain**, Delàs Center for Peace Studies
- Joseph Gerson, **U.S.A.**, American Friends Service Committee
- Luke Addison, **UK**, Peace Activist
- Moses Adedeji, **Nigeria**, Trees on earth Nigeria
- Nathalie Gauchet, **France**, Mouvement de la Paix
- Panos Trigazis, **Greece**, Observatory of International Organizations and Globalization (PADOP)
- Reiner Braun, **Germany**, International Peace Bureau
Thanks to all partners and campaigners for participating and being active to reduce Military Spending!