GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING

GDAMS

2019

DEMILITARIZE!
INVEST IN PEOPLE'S NEEDS

IPB'S GLOBAL CAMPAIGN ON MILITARY SPENDING

FINAL REPORT
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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 Day(s) of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)**, which started earlier in 2011.

The overall goal of the GCOMS 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.

By convincing governments to invest money in the sectors of health, education, employment and climate emergencies rather than the military, this campaign aims at building **human security structures worldwide** and at the same time **put a stop to war and destruction**. GCOMS also intends to involve as many citizens and organizations as possible in an open and robust debate on the **counterproductive results of military expenditure**.
Introduction

Since it started in 2011, the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) have been a spring event that takes place in April-May every year. GDAMS are coordinated every year by the International Peace Bureau (IPB), being the annual highlight of the GCOMS. This campaign aims to raise public awareness on the huge amount of public money allocated to the military sector and on the necessity to redirect these funds to human needs.

It was decided that the GDAMS actions would take place (firstly during a day, afterwards during a short period) near the U.S. Tax Day and the yearly publication of SIPRI’s data on worldwide military expenditure. We consider this has a particularly good timing: during these days the biggest world military spender is collecting taxes, while SIPRI is publishing its report and drawing attention to the issue.

The objective of GDAMS is to alert the public about the fact that their money is being used to fund the military industry rather than social services such as education, health or culture. Moreover, with this campaign, IPB aims to promote a new culture of peace, where international tensions and conflicts could be transformed by diplomacy, dialogue and cooperation rather than with violence or the threat of it; a human security model that puts people and the planet in the center, where states could invest in civil oriented economy instead of a military one.

To do so, the GDAMS campaign organizes public awareness activities all around the world. As these activities are targeting mainly citizens, they often invite them to reflect on the impact military spending has on their daily lives and the alternatives they can think of.
This year’s Global Days of Action on Military Spending were held from **April 13 to May 9**. GDAMS 2019 started on Tax Day, a traditional date in the calendar of U.S. civil society for them to challenge the uses of public money. This period also included April 29, when the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) published their yearly report on global military expenditure with figures for 2018, together with an analysis of its trends.

On this occasion, four **press conferences** were organised that day in Sydney, Seoul, Berlin and Barcelona analysing this data and underlining the urgency to reduce military expenditure. GDAMS came to an end on May 9, Europe Day of Peace and Unity, which seem all the more relevant at a time the EU is taking steps to increase its militarization.

This year’s GDAMS motto was: **Demilitarize! Invest in people’s needs.**
Introduction

During 26 days, over **110 GDAMS events took place in 27 countries** all around the world.

Given that the political situation varies among countries, and the lack of intergovernmental agreements and treaties to limit Military Spending, national-level was once again the main context for GDAMS’ actions. Each organization or social movement defined its own targets and approach, while GCOMS and IPB’s role was to provide an overall framework, give assistance and coordinate/interconnect all partners and their efforts, giving international visibility and projection to the actions carried out.

As in previous years, these events varied in shape and size depending on countries and partners, generating a whole range of actions that included street protests/demonstrations, seminars, press conferences, joint statements, interviews, workshops, stalls, leafleting, petitions, letters, peace vigils, penny polls, school rallies, videos and photos. These diverse actions highlighted the unacceptable global military expenditure of **$1.82 trillion** in 2018 while linking it to different national and local realities.

This report includes all actions organized during GDAMS 2019 with a selection of pictures. Please visit our website to see the full collection of actions, photos and videos.

As in previous years, the preparatory work was undertaken by convening an International Steering Committee (ISC) in which over 20 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.
We want to express our most sincere gratitude to all partners, collaborators and friends. All of your actions are proof of the commitment to peace and disarmament of a worldwide social movement at a time it is most needed. This campaign wouldn't be possible without your tireless efforts to raise awareness and to persuade governments to move public money to urgent human and environmental needs.

Thank you, and see you next year!

Demilitarize! Invest in people's needs

APRIL 13TH TO MAY 9TH 2019
GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING
All GDAMS events for 2019 were incorporated in our website’s interactive map, which pinned the location of each event and displayed its details, including date, time, location, description and organisers.

110 actions in 27 different countries:
USA, Canada, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Colombia, Uruguay, Argentina, Norway, Finland, Germany, UK, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Cyprus, Cameroon, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, India, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand.

http://demilitarize.org/maps/fullscreen/layer/5/
Four press conferences took place on April 29 in Berlin, Seoul, Barcelona and Sydney on the occasion of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) and the releasing of new data on military spending for the year 2018 by the Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Military spending is estimated to have been $1,82 trillion in 2018, a 2.6 per cent higher than in 2017. All four press conferences presented a critical analysis to this exorbitant spending and claimed for the reallocation of these resources to cover the needs of people and the planet.
The International Peace Bureau hosted a press conference on Monday the 29th of April 2019 in Berlin as part of GDAMS. Lucas Wirl, member of the IPB’s Council and Director of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Weapons (IALANA), Alexander Neu from the Left Party, member of the Defense Committee of the German Parliament, substitute member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Michael Müller, former Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Ministry for the Environment and President of the Association “NaturFreunde” (NatureFriends) were the speakers of this press conference. Together they presented and analysed the newly released SIPRI Report on the Military Expenditure for 2018. Each speaker drew on their expertise and elaborated how the increased military expenditure is extremely counterproductive to genuine and sustainable security. Michael Müller commented on the interdependency between the environment and security, he explained that the budget for the military would bring more benefits to human kind if invested in environmental protection programmes.
Alexander Neu, explained that the increased military expenditure, in combination with the new idea of European leaders to create an European Army is a development that needs to be critically examined. The increased armament efforts especially of Germany and France are nowhere near their promises of fostering peace among and with neighbours of the EU. The “Peace Project Europe” is therefore not build on the concepts of common security and policy of détente, but on demarcation (e.g. Frontex) and the upholding of a hegemonic position on the region.
Lucas Wirl, from IALANA, elaborated on how the financial resources allocated to the military are much more needed to tackle social issues and improve schooling, health care and inclusion in the society. All three speakers agreed that the money spend on “defence” and the military is too high and more urgently needed for social development programmes.
Barcelona Press Conference

This press conference got together activists for peace, human rights and climate: Jordi Calvo, vice president of IPB – International Peace Bureau and coordinator of Centre Delàs d’Estudis per la Pau, Luca Gervasoni from Novact and Lafede.cat-Organitzacions per a la Justícia Global, Claudia Bosch, from Extinction Rebellion Barcelona, and Pepe Beúnza, first Spanish nonviolent objector to mandatory military service.

Jordi Calvo opened the conference commenting on how an aggressive and antiquated international policy, based on threat, mutual distrust and competitiveness is pushing up military expenditure worldwide.

“"We are in a Cold War-like arms race, but with more blocs, a scenario of confrontation that leads to the growth of military spending in most countries”
Jordi Calvo

Spain remains in the 16th place, with an expenditure of 18,200 million euros in 2018. “According to the calculations of Centre Delàs based on the public data of the Defense Ministry, the amount almost reaches 20 billion euros” added Jordi Calvo. On the other hand, the coordinator of the Center Delàs highlighted the important boost that Spain’s public sector has given to the Spanish military industrial complex, making Spain the 7th exporter of weapons in the world, with preferential clients as controversial as Saudi Arabia and having contributed considerably to the warlike capabilities of a country that is involved in the Yemeni War.
In line with the demands of this campaign, Luca Gervasoni, president of LaFede.cat and co-director of Novact, questioned what should be the priorities of the Spanish state in matters of foreign policy, giving some examples as “climate change, world hunger, global inequalities and the violation of rights related to the growing authoritarianism in the world.” In this sense, Gervasoni added that “taking into account the data on military spending, the statement that there are no resources for international cooperation is highly debatable.”

Claudia Bosch, representative of Rebel·lió o Extinció – XR Barcelona, which is part of the global movement for climate Extinction Rebellion, warned that “the effects of climate change lead us to conflict scenarios, which combined with a raise on military spending, can lead us to an increase of conflicts.” She also highlighted the opportunity cost of allocating resources to the military sector instead of addressing the climate emergency, as well as the environmental impact of military activity.

“Justifying military spending on the creation of jobs is pure demagogy, since it is proved that the investment in social services and education always generates more employment”. Pepe Beúnza

Lastly, Pepe Beúnza, the first nonviolent conscientious objector to military service in Spain, put in context the fight for the reduction of military spending in Spain: “from the movement of conscientious objectors to the military service, we used already at that time the demand ‘military spending for social expenses’ and we still claim it”, explained Beunza.

Articles (in Spanish) on the press conference here, here and here.
Seoul Press Conference

Organised by People’s Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD), it took place at Gwanghwamun Square at 11:00 am and it was followed by a nonviolent demonstration, in which participants publicly questioned South Korean militarization, with a military spending that has reached $43.1 billion in 2018, an increase of 5.1 per cent compared to the previous year. Click here to see more photos or visit their website.

Sydney Press Conference

Dr. Hannah Middleton representing the Australian arm of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending and the Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition plus other peace groups, introduced SIPRI’s figures to then focus on the Australian case, being the 12th highest spender in the world and having the 4th highest per capita military spending. Australia spent about $35 billion last year being one of top 5 spenders in Asia and Oceania. The Federal Government is committed to spending $1 trillion over the next two decades. In total, the government will provide the military with S$150.6 billion over the next 4 years. The Australian military budget will grow to 2 % of GDP by 2020-21 and both Liberal and Labor are committed to the 2% target urged by Trump. The most obvious economic feature of military expenditure is its opportunity cost, that is, the opportunities which are foregone for alternative consumption and investment. “Change requires a commitment for Australia not to have either the weapon systems or military doctrine to be able to threaten the territory of other states. The peace dividend this would produce would release huge sums for health, education, housing, refugees, aboriginal communities, the disabled, the environment and other areas of our society which are currently denied the funding they so desperately need.”

You can watch the full conference here.
Cameroon

April 15 - Statement from NDH Cameroun and All Women Together, an women-lead organization that promotes women’s rights, to ask for a reduction of military spending and a rechanneling of funds which takes into account social needs of Cameroonianians, specifically women and girls, who are more vulnerable to poverty and violence. The statement also denounces the progressive militarization of the country, with an increase on military spending that frustrates the wellbeing of Cameroonianians. Full statement in English and French.

April 17 - GDAMS petition signing. NDH Cameroon called on the population to sign a petition against military spending. Human rights activists and NGO representatives also signed the petition after a seminar on access to justice organised together with All Women Together.

April 15 - onwards - Online campaigning. NDH Cameroon contributed to GDAMS with pictures of locals giving their proposals as to where to #MoveTheMoney to instead of military spending. You can see some of them here.
Australia

April 11 and May 9 - Sydney, Vigils

No Weapons for Saudis: 12 noon to 1pm at EOS Office, 75 Elisabeth St. Organised by Independent and Peaceful Australia and Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition as a protest for EOS contracts to sale weapons to Saudi Arabia and UAE, directly involved in the Yemen war.

During the vigil on May 9, EOS chairman accosted protesters to denied the company's involvement in the selling of weapons. More info on the events here.

April 14 - Sydney, peace rally + postcards-sending: HSBC stop funding the war in Yemen. Campaign to demand that the bank HSBC stops financing EOS, which sells weapons to Saudis.

Postcards were filled in by protesters at a street stall. Organised by Independent and Peaceful Australia and Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition as a protest for EOS contracts to sale weapons to Saudi Arabia and UAE, directly involved in the Yemen war.
Azerbaijan

May 8 - GDAMS Statement: The independent NGO International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF) published the GDAMS final statement in their international analytical information gateway Eurasia Diary. You can read it here.

India

April 24 - New Delhi, Conference ‘Creating Change in International Disarmament: Humanitarian Perspectives and the Role of Civil Society’: Lecture by Elizabeth Minor, member of the International Steering Group of the nobel prize winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and of the UK based NGO Article 36. Chairperson: Anuradha Chenoy, retired professor from the Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies. It took place at 11:30 at the Ho Chi Minh Conference Room of the Jamia Millia Islamia of New Delhi.
April 23 to 27 - Kota (Rajasthan): Two workshops, five village rallies and village meetings in connection of Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS), organised by Rural Development and Youth Training Institute.

These activities included discussions in detail about India's military spending in comparison to expenditure in poverty alleviation and programmes such as SDGs, which is very low. Taxes going to warfare preparation should instead go to clean water access, health, nutrition, literacy etc. It was highlighted the need to put pressure on the Indian Government (MPs, MLAs and elected leaders), so that they would reduce the military budget and redirect those resources to Community Development programmes. Three budget experts actively participated in a workshop and village rallies.

Japan

April 14 - Nagasaki: To kick off this campaign, a series of events were held onboard the Peace & Green Boat, a regional voyage throughout East Asia bringing together 500 Japanese and 500 Korean participants for a journey for mutual understanding, reconciliation, and regional collaboration for peace and sustainability. As the ship was docked in Nagasaki on April 14, Peace Boat's Kawasaki Akira, also a member of the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), gave a lecture on nuclear disarmament and GCOMS. Following this, hundreds of participants from both Korea and Japan gathered together on the ship's deck to display their commitment to reducing military spending and instead investing in people's needs. You can read more here.
April 27 - Statement by Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo)
Statement on the occasion of the GDAMS:
"The Global Days of Action on Military Spending, proposed by the International Peace Bureau and now carried out worldwide is a critically important campaign bearing on the lives and rights of 7 billion people and peace of the world. The wealth created by people’s labor is used for destruction and mass killing on the false pretext of peace or “guarantee of security”, of all things, while hundreds of millions of people are suffering from starvation, poverty and poor social welfare. In Japan, too, in breach of the provision of the war-renouncing Constitution, enormous amount of national budget is being spent on buying state of the art weapons from the U.S. or constructing a U.S. military base. This is not for security but for threatening and ruining security. The system of stockpile and deployment of 14,500 nuclear weapons across the world is the worst manifestation of it. We are joining with you in achieving a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world and carrying out a campaign for a total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons. Let us work together to go forward."
Mongolia

April 13 - Online Campaigning: Tur-Od Lkhagvajav, member of the steering committee of the Asia Democracy Network - Mongolia, endorsed the Global Campaign on Military Spending via video on the occasion of GDAMS.

Pakistan

April 13 - Online Campaigning: Doctor Ammar Ali Jan, doctorate degree in History from the University of Cambridge and currently teacher at Forman Christian College (Lahore, Pakistan), endorsed the Global Campaign on Military Spending via video.

Philippines

April 13 - Online Campaigning: Activist Amabella Carumba, from Mindanao People's Peace Movement, endorsed the Global Campaign on Military Spending via video.
South Korea

April 22-29 - Online Actions:
"Demilitarize: Invest in People's Needs!" and submitting articles to press by PSPD (People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy). A podcast was also published in April 27 regarding disarmament in the Korean Peninsula. You can listen to it here (in Korean): http://www.peoplepower21.org/PeopleTV/1626975

April 29 - Seoul Press Conference + Non-Violent Direct Action:
Organised by PSPD. Activists gathered at Gwanghwamun Square to protest Korea's military spending, which is ranked 10th in the world and has remained at the same rank for 6 years since 2013. In contrast, welfare spending in Korea is less than half of the OECD average. They consider an embarrassment that South Korea is investing more in limited military resources than in improving people’s quality of life.
For more information visit: https://www.peoplepower21.org/
Read more here (in Korean).
Finland

April 13 - onwards: Online campaigning. Peace Union Finland (Rauhanliitto) endorsed the Global Days of Action on Military Spending via online, with their own proposals for the #MoveTheMoney selfies campaign and by disseminating the campaign's materials.

April 13 - onwards: Online campaigning + infographic’s translation. The Committee of 100 (Sadankomitea) of Finland endorsed GDAMS via online, helping disseminate the materials and translating the infographic on global military spending (with SIPRI's data from the year 2018) to Finnish, in order to better disseminate the contents of the campaign in their country. You can download the Finnish infographic on military spending here.

Norway

May 1 - Online campaigning: Norges Fredslag (Norwegian Peace Council) endorsed Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS), sharing the campaign materials and analyzing the newly released data by SIPRI. Read more here.
Italy

April 11 - Rome, Press Conference for the relaunch of the No F-35 Campaign: At the Press Room of the Chamber in Rome (in via della Missione 4) initiatives of the Italian civil society for a mobilization campaign against fighter-bombers with nuclear capacity F-35 were introduced. The relaunch of the Campaign is promoted by the Italian Network for Disarmament (Rete Italiana per il Disarmo), the Peace Network (Rete Della Pace) and the Sbilanciamoci! campaign. During the press conference the promoting organizations presented the objectives and initiatives for the coming months with the aim of pushing Italian Parliament and Government to stop Italian participation in the Joint Strike Fighter program; the alternative uses (more useful for the needs of Italian citizens) of substantial public funds were also illustrated. Speakers argued that despite the purchases already concluded in recent years by several governments, it is still possible to stop the contract for the acquisition of the final lot, saving billions of euros that could be used to defend the territory and the revival of labor and welfare policies.

May 9 - Translation of GDAMS infographic: the Italian Network for Disarmament (Rete Italiana per il Disarmo) translated the infographic on military spending (with SIPRI's data for the year 2018) to Italian, in order to better disseminate it in the Italian context. You can download here.
Greece

May 9 - Athens, Online campaigning: InterAlia, a greek non-profit organisation dedicated to improve social participation and collective action, endorsed the Global Campaign on Military Spending on the occasion of GDAMS by sending pictures for the #MoveTheMoney online campaign.

Cyprus

May 7 - Nicosia: Online campaigning. Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR) and Home for Cooperation (H4C) endorsed Global Days of Action on Military Spending GDAMS via online and took a picture for the #MoveTheMoney campaign.
Spain

April 13 - Andalusia, Campaign 'Demilitarize Schools, more social spending, less military spending': In support to GCOMS, the teachers' union USTEA launches a campaign to claim for de demilitarization of schools in Andalusia, which includes a survey for teachers, in order to map militarism in schools of the region, which at the same time are suffering from intense budgetary cuts. It also includes a "Resistance" manual to confront militarization of schools. More information (in Spanish) here.

April 13 to May 9 – Lleida (Catalonia) Statement + Online campaigning:

The NGOs Coordination Platform of Lleida (Coordinadora de ONGD i de aMS de Lleida) endorsed GDAMS one more year with a statement and several posts on social media, creating their own dissemination materials. You can read the statement here (in Spanish) and see their posts here and here.

April 13 - Bilbao, Street stall: In Plaza Unamuno (downtown) an information point on military spending’s tax objection was displayed. Organised by Alternativa Antimilitarista.
April 15 - Barcelona, Extinction Rebellion International Demonstration: At 18:30 in Plaça Catalunya, ending in Plaça Sant Jaume, members of the GCOMS campaign marched along with young climate protesters and had the chance to talk about climate emergencies from the criticism to military spending. The GCOMS representative introduced the campaigned and remarked the connections between the climate emergency and militarism, which share many causes and consequences. More information on the event here. Here Extinction Rebellion’s web and manifest.


April 29 - GCOMS at the Radio program 'Peace News for a nonviolent revolution': A representative of GCOMS was interviewed to introduce the campaign on military spending on the occasion of GDAMS and comment on the new data on military spending published that day by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). You can listen to the interview (after 17’, in Spanish) here.
April 30 onwards - Online Campaigning in Castellón: the UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace of the Jaume I University (UJI) in Castellón prepared an online campaign to support the Global Days of Action on Military Spending, raising awareness on the issue at the university.

May 4 - Gijón (Asturias), Conference Tax objection to military spending. "Leave us in Peace: Less military spending and more social investment". At noon in Conseyu de la Mocedá (Av. Manuel Llaneza 38). With Tica Font and Pere Ortega (Centre Delàs of Peace Studies) analysing military spending in Spain, the EU and globally. Prior to the conference, tax resistance strategies and examples were presented. Organised by ‘Campaña asturiana pola oxeción fiscal al gastu militar’ (Asturian campaign for tax objection).

May 9 and 10 - Cádiz and Puerto de Santa María, School Rallies: Two school rallies and a protest took place in Cádiz and Puerto de Santa María (IES Cornelio Balbo and La Arboleda) as part of the campaign 'Demilitarize Schools: more social spending, less military spending' with students representing Picasso's Guernica, symbol of the horrors of war.
April 29 - Granada, Conference 'Reducing military spending to build peace': at 16h in the “Francisco A. Muñoz” conference room, Centro de Documentación Científica C/ Rector López Argüeta s/n, University of Granada. Organised by Centro Delàs de Estudios por la Paz and Instituto Universitario de la Paz y los Conflictos. With José Ángel Ruiz, Chloé Meulewaeter (Centre Delàs) and Stellan Vinthagen (War Resister's International).

Speakers presented civil resistance and nonviolence as tools for peacebuilding and tackling militarization.

"The proposal of GCOMS is to leave a vicious cycle and enter into a virtuous one: reducing military spending and turn military R+D into a civil industry, destroying armament and contracting the demand of arms, and then investing the ‘peace dividends’ in social and peaceful policies that can contribute to the wellbeing of people“ Chloé Meulewaeter

“People power is effective, necessary and the only real defence of the values of our societies” Stellan Vinthagen
Switzerland

April 12-13 - Basel, International Conference Move the Nuclear Weapons Money: This conference brought together legislators (mayors, city councilors and parliamentarians), financial managers, and experts in disarmament and climate change to examine successful divestment policies and support their expansion and replication. The conference also addressed impact investment and built cooperation to advance related nuclear disarmament policies. The organiser, Basel Peace Office, has joined with other partners in launching Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, a global initiative to cut nuclear weapons budgets and investments, and reinvest these in climate protection, peace and key areas of a sustainable economy, such as education, renewable energy, health, job creation and sustainable development.

The conference was hosted by the Basel City Kanton/government and brought together speakers from very different fields in order to tackle the corporate and financial interests which are maintaining a fossil fuel-based economy and a nuclear arms race. It advanced two key tools:
1. Divestment from nuclear weapons and fossil fuel industries:
2. Investment in peace and sustainability, with a focus on investments by governments, pension funds, cities, universities, religious organizations and banks.
Conference participants gave numerous examples of fossil fuel and nuclear weapons divestment. Although the amount of money divested globally so far is moderate, the range of examples indicate the potential to move considerably more money from fossil fuels and nuclear weapons to better things, and so make a real contribution to climate protection and disarmament.

Quique Sánchez, a representative of IPB’s Global Campaign On Military Spending (GCOMS), participated in the conference introducing the campaign as an example of activists’ networking and cooperative work. His presentation took place on the second day of the conference, which was coincidentally the kick-off of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS), during the panel *Building the campaign – shifting economics towards peace*. For more information please visit: [http://www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org/basel-conference-2019/](http://www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org/basel-conference-2019/)
United Kingdom

April 13 - Bradford: GDAMS/People's Budget stall at the Yorkshire CND Day of Dance at Victoria Hall, Saltaire, Bradford.

April 16 - London: Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Pax Christi, Quaker Peace and Social Witness and Movement for the Abolition of War, in representation of the GDAMS UK Coalition, did a protest and a letter hand-in to the Secretary of State for Defence Gavin Williamson at the Ministry of Defence in London.

April 18 and 24 - York: GDAMS stall 2-5pm. Both on Parliament Street in York. Contact: <rachel@yorkshirecnd.org.uk>
April 17, April 24 and May 1 – London: Vigils by Women in Black London at the Edith Cavell statue in St. Martin’s square, Charing Cross, at 6pm. WiB encouraged passersby to reflect on military spending and to think of alternatives to rechannel the $ 1’82 trillion allocated to global military spending last year with the help of banners and infographics. Besides informing people, participants were invited to wrote their own alternatives to allocate funds to instead of the military sector and to take a picture with it.
Canada

April 12 - Halifax, Nova Scotia: Members of Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace (NSVOW) joined the Global Day of Action on Military Spending by holding a small rally outside the Halifax Central Library on Thursday. Protesters conducted a penny poll, and participants also took pictures with banners offering alternatives to military spending. NSVOW member Kathrin Winkler spoke with the Chronicle Herald about the significance of the day (you can read the news and see a video here). The protest also aired in Global News that evening. The public was invited answer the question, "If I had 1.75 trillion dollars (approximate worldwide annual spending on the military), I would #move the money to __." They were then invited to take selfies with their answer.

People voted with quarters provided by the organisers what they considered the national priorities should be, the results being:

- Health and Education: 73
- Women and Children: 52
- Peace: 36
- Environment: 64
- Arts and Culture: 36
- Military: 2
April 25 - Toronto, Ontario, Day of Action Against Military Spending and NATO: the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) held a peace vigil outside the NATO Association of Canada headquarters in downtown Toronto corner of Harbour Street and Bay Street. This action was in solidarity with the International Peace Bureau's Global Day of Action Against Military Spending. This year is the 70th anniversary of NATO, this male-dominated nuclear-armed military alliance and Cold War relic that threatens our security. NATO members are the world's largest weapons manufacturers and arms companies like Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics fund the NATO Association of Canada. NATO puts intense pressure on Canada every year to increase military spending, which diverts public funding away from urgent social and environmental needs. VOW called for the Canadian government to withdraw from NATO and work through the United Nations on disarmament and the Sustainable Development Goals that will bring genuine human security. No to NATO; yes to peace, nonviolence and sustainability! Organized by the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW)
May 3 - Hamilton, Ontario: Call on Government of Canada to "Reduce military spending and re-allocate to urgent social and environmental needs". In opposition to NATO's 2% GDP target. Organised by Hamilton Coalition and Canadian Voice of Women.

May 11 - Toronto, Ontario, Voice of Women Gala: intergenerational evening of eating, drinking, dancing, and celebrating the unstoppable women who are working tirelessly to build a more peaceful world. VOW Peace Gala in Toronto, called on Government of Canada to reduce military spending & re-allocate to urgent environmental and social needs, to build affordable housing instead of warships, and to say no to NATO and its 2% GDP target.
United States of America

California
April 14 - Berkeley: 3:00pm. Northern California People’s Life Fund gathered at the BFUU Fellowship Hall (1924 Cedar St., Berkeley—Near North Berkeley BART) and distributed $15,000 in redirected taxes to peace and justice organizations. The program included a potluck dinner and the Granting Ceremony. For more information see, www.nowartax.org or contact nowartax@riseup.net.

April 13 - San Diego Area: 9:30am-2pm. Public Hearing by the People on the Immoral Budget & March to the Border. Event began at Casa Familiar Civic Center (212 W Park, San Ysidro, CA). This event was the last stop on the Emergency Truth & Poverty Tour. Sponsored by the California Poor People’s Campaign. For more information, see their Facebook event page.

Colorado
April 12 - Colorado Springs: 11:45am-1pm. A penny-poll was hosted downtown at the southwest corner of Pikes Peak and Tejon Street. For more information, contact Mary Sprunger-Froese at firststriketheatre@hotmail.com.

Columbia
May 3-5 - Washington, DC, Conference: The National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee had their National Conference under the theme “Divest the Pentagon – Invest in People”. The program included a report back from a recent Code Pink delegation to Iran, a workshop on Building a Peace Economy, an Introductory War Tax Resistance Workshop, and more. It took place at St. Stephen & the Incarnation Episcopal Church, 1525 Newton Street NW, Washington, DC. For more information, here's a summary of the weekend.
Delaware
April 15 - Wilmington: Annual Tax Day Military Budget Demonstration at Rodney Square, Central Downtown Wilmington (1000 N Market Street). Met at the civic center piece from noon to 1pm. Sponsored by Pacem in Terris Delaware.

Illinois

Indiana
April 15 - South Bend: Vigil at Corner of Jefferson and Main – 204 S Main Street, from 4:30 to 5:30pm. Sponsored by Michiana Peace and Justice Coalition (http://www.michianapeacejustice.net/). For more information, contact Peter Smith at psmith@saintmarys.edu or (574) 532-3720.

Iowa
April 15 - Des Moines: Rally at the Des Moines Federal Building – 210 Walnut at 1:30pm. A petition against taxes for war was delivered to Senators Ernst and Grassley. Petition to sign can be found here. Sponsored by Catholic Peace Ministry, Iowa Citizen Action Network, Iowa Peace Network, Methodist Federation of Social Action, Progress Iowa, STAR*PAC and Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom.
April 15 - Des Moines: “Tax Justice, Where Should our Taxes Go? Presidential Candidate Forum” at Northwest Community Center (5110 Franklin Ave). Catholic Peace Ministry, Iowa Citizens Action Network, Progress Iowa, Methodist Federation of Social Action, STAR*PAC, and WILPF Des Moines invited all presidential candidates to answer three questions, one focused on reducing military spending, one on climate crisis priorities and one on shifting the tax burden to the wealthy.

Maine
April 17 - Belfast: Free Screening of “An Act of Conscience” at the Belfast Free Library (106 High St.) at 6:00pm. A post-film discussion was led by former NWTRCC Administrative Committee member Jason Rawn. Sponsored by Waldo County Peace & Justice (https://www.facebook.com/WaldoPeaceandJustice/). For more information, contact Cathy Mink at (207) 323-5160.

April 15 - Brunswick: Leafleting outside the Brunswick Post Office from 11am to 1:00pm. Sponsored by PeaceWorks of Greater Brunswick (www.peaceworksbrunswickme.org/index.html)

April 16 - Portland: Let’s talk taxes! Over Pizza: Presentation, Conversation & Action at Abromson Community Education Center, Room 216 at 4:00pm. Free and open to the public, to reflect on federal budget and values. Sponsored by Peace Action Maine, with Devon Grayson-Wallace, former FCNL lobbyist and board member of Peace Action Maine. Flyer here. For more information call 207-772-0680 or visit the Facebook event here.
Massachusetts
April 17 - Boston: Tax Day March & Rally at Uphams Corner in Dorchester at 4:30-8pm. Sponsored by Massachusetts Peace Action. Speakers included Rep. Ayanna Pressley; State Senator Jamie Eldridge; Rev. Vernon Walker; Kevin Peterson (New Democracy Coalition); Maryellen Kurkulos (Massachusetts Peace Action); Father Edwin Johnson f(St. Mary’s Episcopal Church); Michael Kane, Executive Director of National Alliance of HUD Tenants; Joseph Gerson from Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security.

‘A time to protest this war budget and stand up for a federal budget that reflects our true values. Already our Pentagon budget is 9 times larger than the Russian military budget. It makes up 60% of the entire discretionary budget. We are funding a trillion dollars nuclear weapons upgrade. But now the Republicans and some Democrats want to take away even more money from the rest of us to fund their wars and stuff the pockets of the military companies who fund their campaigns and give them big jobs when they retire. Such a budget guarantees that more Iraqs, Afghanistans, Libyas, Syrias and Yemens are on the way. On this day we pay our taxes, we say No Way! It’s time to put our tax money into projects that make our country the kind of society we can be proud of.’

You can watch a video of the event here. For more information visit http://masspeaceaction.org/event/tax-day-2019-dorchester/
April 25 - Walpole: from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, the Walpole Peace and Justice Group held a tax day rally as part of the GDAMS, calling for a reduction in military spending and a redirection of those funds to human services. A 40 feet budget banner was displayed, showing where the Federal discretionary budget is spent today. The banner was comprised of colored cloth segments, each proportional in length to the budget category. The 2020 federal budget as proposed by the President transfers tens of billions of dollars from education, affordable housing, climate protection, medical care, hunger assistance, and social security directly to the military budget. The People’s Budget in Congress as a positive alternative. The vigil took place at the Walpole Common on the corner of Main and West Streets. For more info contact info@walpolepeace.org. Read an article on this action here.

Missouri
April 17 - St. Louis: Penny Poll and Distribution of WRL Piechart Budget 2020 at 4 South Central Clayton from noon to 1pm. Sponsored by Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom & Peace Economy Project. For more information, contact Chrissy Kirchhoefer at 314.660.2300 or outreach@nwtrcc.org.
New Hampshire
April 15 - Concord and Manchester: Members of New Hampshire's office of American Friends Service Committee met with staffers from U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan in Manchester, and with Congresswoman Anne McLane Kuster's District Director in Concord.

New York
April 15 - Manhattan: Protest Tax Dollars for War! Vigil and leafleting in front of the Internal Revenue Service at 290 Duane Street (at Broadway) in lower Manhattan. Protesting tax dollars being spent on U.S. wars and the military and supporting those who openly refuse payment for these wars but, instead, reroute their tax dollars from the IRS to groups promoting peace and supporting human needs. About 40 people showed up (despite ample wind and rain) to demand Congress slash the Pentagon budget.

Initiated by: NYC War Resisters League; Co-sponsors: Brooklyn For Peace; Bronx Peace Action; Code Pink NYC; Granny Peace Brigade and others;
April 15 - Brooklyn: Peace Action Bay Ridge Tax Day Action: MOVE THE MONEY! Every hour, taxpayers in the United States are paying $8.36 million for Total Cost of Wars Since 2001. Every hour, taxpayers in the United States are paying $2.19 million for nuclear weapons. This is unacceptable! Distribution of flyers to the neighbors at Fort Hamilton Post Office, 89th St and 5th Avenue, Bay Ridge, from 9:30 to 11:00 am. For more info: bayridgepeaceaction@yahoo.com; (917) 579-6860 or follow this link.

April 18 - Brooklyn: How the Pentagon Robs Our City! 7 to 9 pm. With Bill Hartung, Jan R. Weinberg and Christine Lewis. Discussion on how the war economy drains NYC resources, and ways we can get active to turn it around, as well as two active campaigns: "Move the Money" & "Divest from the War Machine." Then, working groups formed to plan actions. Location: Brooklyn Friends Meeting Hose, 110 Schermerhorn St, corner of Boerum Place.

Co-sponsors: Brooklyn For Peace, Peace & Social Action Committee of Brooklyn Friends (Quakers), Fort Greene Peace; Granny Peace Brigade; Park Slope United Methodist Church Social Action Committee; Pax Christie Metro New York (list in formation). A summary of the event and pictures on this link. For more info, please email bfp@brooklynpeace.org
GDAMS 2019 Actions NORTH AMERICA

May 4 - Manhattan: International Conference *Growing Nuclear Risks in a Changing World: New Thinking and Movement Building*. Initiated by American Friends Service Committee; Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security; International Peace Bureau; Peace Action (New York and New Jersey); Western States Legal foundation; Peace and Planet; Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung; International Trade Union Confederation. At Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square. Download the flyer [here](#).

May 6 - Albany: Women Against War’s “Pathways to Peace Committee” met on the outside steps of the LOB in Albany at noon, standing in conjunction with fellow citizens around the world during the Global Days of Action on Military Spending to draw attention to the pressing need “to push governments to invest money in the sectors of health, education, employment and climate change rather than military.”
A press conference was held at 12:30 at the LOB, to denounce how the billions spent annually in the guise of defense rob government, including NYS, of the capacity to adequately support human needs. Following the press conference, where Assemblyman Phil Steck was a speaker, protesters moved inside the Capitol to vigil and leaflet on the issue of our militarized budget outside the Assembly Chamber as members arrived.

You can read the full speech that was read by clicking here. An article was also published on Times Union (here) and a radio interview to Maureen Aumand aired on The Focus on Albany Show (here). For further information you can contact: aumandmaureen@gmail.com

Oregon

April 15 - Eugene: Taxes for Peace Not War, along with Community Alliance of Lane County, 350 Eugene, Oregon Women’s Action for New Directions, & Extinction Rebellion rallied at the old Federal Building at 211 East 7th Ave (location of IRS office). At 4pm they delivered a signed letter to the IRS. Then they marched to the new Federal building at 405 East 8th Avenue to deliver copies of the letter to federal representative Peter DeFazio and federal Senators, Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden. The event included signs, chants, songs, and speeches. People interested in signing the letter or needing more information can call Sue Barnhart at 541-731-1189 or suebarnhart2@gmail.com.
April 15 - Portland: 7:30-9am. Sign-holding on Portland bridges (Burma Shave Style). Met at E. Burnside and MLK Jr. Blvd. Sponsored by War Resisters League - Portland. For more information, email: jgrueschow@comcast.net.

Vermont

April 15 - Brattleboro: WTR Information Tabling outside of the Brattleboro Food Co-op, 2 Main Street, from 10am to 3pm. Sponsored by Pioneer Valley War Tax Resistance. For more info, contact Daniel Sicken at 802-387-2798 or dhsicken@yahoo.com.

Washington

April 15 - Seattle: Leafleting in front of the Federal Building in Downtown Seattle, 915 2nd Ave, from 11:30am to 1pm. Sponsored by the Seattle Anti-War Coalition.

Wesentlelink.net
https://www.facebook.com/SeattleAntiWarCoalition/

Wisconsin

April 15 - Madison: Peace Vigil in front of the Dane County courthouse in Madison (215 S Hamilton St.) from noon to 1pm. This was a collaboration with Madison’s Monday Peace Vigil, which has been hosting a weekly Monday Vigil for Peace for the last 38 years.

April 13 - Milwaukee: Vigil to protest federal tax dollars for war and environmental harm, U.S. Army Reserve, 5130 W. Silver Spring Dr. Sponsored by Milwaukee War Tax Resistance, Casa Maria Catholic Worker, & Peace Action of Wisconsin from noon to 1pm. For more info, contact Lincoln or Mikel, Casa Maria at usury_sucks@hotmail.com or (414) 344-5745.
GDAMS 2019 Actions SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

April 15 – Buenos aires, Online campaigning: Instituto Latinoamericano por la Paz y la Ciudadanía -ILAPyC (Latinoamerican Institute for Peace and Citizenship) endorsed the GDAMS campaign and shared its materials via Facebook and Twitter.

Colombia

April 24 - Online campaigning: Acción Colectiva de Objetores y Objetoras de Conciencia Colombia ACOOC (Conscientious Objectors Action Colective of Colombia) endorsed the Global Campaign on Military Spending and shared its materials, putting an emphasis on Colombia being part of the top 30 spenders. Read more here.

May 9 - Medellín, Statement: Corporación Con-Vivamos, an organisation that works for community development and human rights in Colombia, adhered to the GDAMS declaration (here).

Nicaragua

May 9 - Managua, Statement: Instituto de Investigaciones y Acción Social Martin Luther King of the Universidad Politécnica (UPOLI) of Managua (Nicaragua), adheres to the GDAMS manifest (here). The IMLK appeals to human conscience in front of the promotion of war and armamentism with accumulation purposes from military industrial complex and big transnational capital. The institute calls on national and international mobilization, both physical and virtual, with a clear denouncing and agitating message.

In the particular case of Nicaragua and other Central American countries, the IMLK denounces the nonsense of their arms race, with Nicaragua buying weapons from Russia, seemingly getting ready for a conventional war.
Uruguay

May 1 - Montevideo: Movimiento de Educadores por la Paz, together with Federación Uruguaya de Magisterio joined the demonstration of the Workers Day in the capital, giving a speech on peacebuilding and military spending, as well as handing leaflets to demonstrators.

April 13 - onwards: In the context of the GDAMS, Movimiento de Educadores por la Paz (Movement of Educators for Peace) promoted a campaign for global peace in Uruguay, together with the National Convention of Workers and the Uruguayan Federation of Teachers & Workers of Primary Education. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the issue of military expenditure, calling instead for a culture of peace and human rights. The Movement published an article in the magazine Quehacer Educativo (you can read it here - in Spanish), dedicated to educators of the primary and initial levels, addressing the GCOMS’s message and mission. In addition, the Uruguayan organization was also involved in promoting the short film “Alto El Juego”, from the film-maker Walter Tournier, which speaks against weapons and
Once again, GDAMS included an online campaign to spread the word on pacifism and social justice and raise awareness on the crucial issue of military spending. With the purpose of creating public awareness about the outrageous amount of money dedicated to military spending each year, we encouraged people to send their alternatives to the military sector they think should receive these public funding instead.
For this year’s re-launch of the #MoveTheMoney Selfie Campaign, we prepared a banner (below) with the line ‘#MoveTheMoney to...’ and a blank space underneath to be filled in with people’s proposals to redirect to the $1.74 trillion spent globally in the military in 2017 (later updated to $1.82 trillion for the year 2018).

In the pictures we received, despite the diversity of proposals, some issues outstood from the rest, namely tackling climate change and poverty and funding basic social services (as though health care, education and housing), showing how people’s priorities normally lean towards the common good, social and climate justice and a culture of peace, instead of wasting public resources in warmongering and arms racing.

You can see this year’s photo album in this link.

Participants published their pictures in their own social media, tagging the campaign on Twitter, Facebook (@DemilitarizeDay), and Instagram (@gcoms), using some of the campaign’s hashtags: #MoveTheMoney #Demilitarize #GDAMS #GCOMS #Disarmament #DivestFromWar #PeaceNotWar #FundPeaceNotWar #WeWantPeace #NoMoney4ArmsDealers #WelfareNotWarfare #BuildPeaceNotWalls
On the occasion of GDAMS we prepared two infographics using data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), one about global military spending and another one about arms transfers. The first of them (below) draws data from SIPRI’s Military Expenditure Database and shows through bubbles on a world map the 30 states with the highest military expenditure. It also displays military expenditure by regions, adding also NATO and the EU. On the upper side, a bar graphic shows the world total (1,74 trillion USD for 2017), and the proportion of this represented by the U.S. (610$b –more than a third), the 7 next biggest spenders (another third) and everyone else (the last third).

This infographic was later updated with figures for the year 2018, after SIPRI released the new data on April 29.

You can download this infographic for the year 2017 [here](#) and for 2018 [here](#). Also translated versions: Spanish, French, Català, Italian and Finnish.
The second infographic uses data from SIPRI’s Arms Transfers Database, updated in March 2019. It also displays bubbles on a world map representing in proportion the 15 largest importers and exporters of major arms. It seemed relevant to us how the biggest exporters (in turquoise) are mostly in Northern countries and how importers (in red) are mainly in the South, so with this infographic we intended to show that flow of weapons going North to South, in order to denounce the responsibility of Northern exporters in tensions and conflicts around the world, that ultimately generate enormous suffering and instability.

The infographic also displays in a bar below each country’s name its 3 main clients/suppliers, in relation to the total. This also intended to show connections among countries and to point fingers at those countries selling weapons to countries involved in conflicts, tensions and/or systematically violating human rights.

You can download this infographic [here](#).
Communication

During the 26 days of GDAMS 2019 the campaign’s presence on social media was constant and intensive, disseminating actions and events, infographics, articles and news. For that purpose we made use of the campaign’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, besides the campaign’s website: [http://demilitarize.org/](http://demilitarize.org/)

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Communication

During the 26 days of GDAMS 2019 the campaign’s presence on social media was constant and intensive, disseminating actions and events, infographics, articles and news. For that purpose we made use of the campaign’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, besides the campaign’s website, where articles, statements and materials were always referenced: http://demilitarize.org/
On the occasion of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has published its new report on global military spending on Monday the 29th of April 2019 and once again we feel obliged to state our concern and outrage and call on every individual and group to take action and publicly denounce this nonsense. The world’s military expenditure for 2018 was $1822 billion, 83 billion more than in 2017, passing from a 1.1% to a 2.6% increase in real terms. Militarization is therefore accelerating at an alarming rate at a time when it should be drastically reduced in order to tackle the grave challenges humanity is facing.

This trend of preparing for war is led by the USA, a country which has increased its military spending to $649 billion, 4.6% more than in the previous year, remaining thus by far the largest spender in the world and accounting for 36% of global military budget in 2018. The US and its NATO allies account, once again, for more than half of all military spending in the world, having reached $963 billion, seemingly following suit of Trump’s demands to expand the budget for the military and defence.

In relation to this, the European Union is the second largest military spender accounting for 15% of the global military spending, even more than China, which has increased its expenditure by 5% to $250 billion. China is followed in SIPRI’s ranking by Saudi Arabia, India, France, Russia, the UK, Japan and South Korea.

Aggressive, old-fashioned international relations, based on distrust, deterrence and competition, fuelled and sustained by toxic masculinity, seems to spur military spending everywhere, deepening the polarization among global powers and their influence areas.

Despite Russia’s decreasing military expenditure, the threat perceptions towards Moscow appear to be a justification of the increases in many European countries. But at the same time it could be argued that NATO increases in military spending could explain growing militarization in Russia, China and other emerging powers. Rising expenditures in Asia and Oceania mean three decades of continuous growth, fuelled by tensions due to the choice of military power in order to gain influence in a key region in terms of geopolitics, trade and economics.

The global military spending accounts for 2.1% of global GDP, an amount which should instead be used to alleviate human suffering and realise comprehensive programmes such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, we cannot overstate that militarization is profoundly rooted in a predatory economic system, which is destroying life-support systems and generating increasingly obscene levels of inequality both locally and globally. It is therefore essential to incorporate an intersectional and all-encompassing analysis, which could connect the dots among different trends and emergencies, offering alternatives that are more peaceful, sustainable and just. Our coordinated actions are aimed to impact and influence the public opinion to create a powerful discourse, which is meant to result in a shift from the present homeland security approaches to a human security paradigm that prioritizes human and environmental needs.

We, as active members of global civil society, need to combine our voices and efforts with others in order to name, protest and change this injustice and win reductions of the world’s military budget through legal means and with high moral standards. Only in this way can we free up the financial and human resources essential to not only treating the symptoms of the global epidemic called “poverty”, but to address issues such as hunger, violence, homelessness, migration, racial and gender inequality and environmental destruction.

May 4, 2019
The current context of international relations shows an increase in militarism with an accompanying and significant rise in world military spending. According to data released by SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) in May 2018, annual military spending has continued to increase by 1.1% in real terms. This expenditure has also increased in regions with a high level of conflict, such as the Middle East. According to SIPRI, 7 out of the 10 countries in the world with the highest military burden are in the Middle East. The rise in militarism both fuels and is fuelled by the arms trade, which continues the upward trend that began in the early 2000s as shown by the volume of international arms transfers during 2013-2017, which was 10% higher than during 2008-2012.

Moreover, the Trump government has increased military spending by US $ 54,000 million; has launched attacks on Somalia, Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan, has renewed threats to North Korea and Venezuela, and has reinforced its military presence in the China Seas and elsewhere, while expanding US bases in the Pacific. In addition, it has withdrawn from the Iran nuclear deal and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. At the same time, the Australian government has announced its intention to become one of the world’s top 10 arms exporters, moving up from its current position at number 20 and has allocated $ 3.8 billion for subsidies to Australian arms manufacturers. This is a trend also visible in many other countries including Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, India, Israel and others.

In Europe, the draft European Defence Action Plan authorizes for the first time the allocation of EU funds to common defence programmes and has earmarked 90 million euros over three years (30 million in 2019) for research and development in the military and security field, with security becoming increasingly militarized. The proposal of the European Commission includes financing defence industries with 51,000 million euros between 2017-2027. We also observe the worrying trend of arms companies penetrating universities by providing research funding for military purposes.

We are, therefore, living in a time of military escalation and increasing political tension around the world. As evidence of this, the US and NATO are demanding its member countries to increase their military spending up to 2% of GDP, generating tensions with States outside NATO. This should be money for social spending and human needs, not for the military!

Global military spending already accounts for 2.3% of global GDP. Governments are allocating resources to the military that should be used to ensure that people can effectively enjoy their economic and social rights as enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as human rights in general.

Many peace and development organizations estimate that a 10% reduction per year and per country of the resources invested in the arms and defence sectors could enable the achievement of the main elements established by the United Nations in its 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Militarism has serious impacts on people’s lives, generating major risks to their safety and well-being. According to the latest UNHCR report, there are 65,6 million displaced persons, of which 40,3 million are displaced in their own country, 22,5 million are refugees in other states and 2,8 million are asylum seekers. These are persons displaced as a result of conflicts in countries like Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine as well as several African and Latin American countries.

Nowadays, climate change is the most pressing global threat. Even the World Economic Forum agrees with this, yet politicians continue to listen to the 1 percenters rather than the vast majority. Climate change is a direct consequence of global power and mass consumption. It is the main threat to people in the Global South, as well as to the planet itself and its diversity.

The Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) is an international campaign founded in December 2014 and promoted by the International Peace Bureau. The aim of the campaign is to convince governments to invest money in the sectors of health, education, employment and climate change rather than the military. We urgently need to build human security structures worldwide and at the same time put a stop to war and destruction. We need to involve an increasing number of citizens and organizations in an open and robust debate on the counterproductive results of military expenditure. More strongly than ever, we urge you to reach out to new partners to work on the on-going Global Campaign on Military Spending, and to make the Global Days of Action on Military Spending a great success!

Move the funds from the military to peace! Demilitarize: Invest in People’s Needs!

February 22nd 2019

The GCOMS Statement is available here in different languages:
Since 2017, the GCOMS campaign is coordinated by Centre Delàs for Peace Studies in Barcelona (Spain), which works as a decentralized office of the IPB. The coordination team is formed by officers, researchers and volunteers of Centre Delàs and works together with IPB’s Berlin and Geneva offices and with the International Steering Committee.

The International Steering Committee (ISC) is formed by IPB officers and active GCOMS partners. The GCOMS steering committee meets online many times along the year to coordinate global actions during GDAMS and to keep partners interconnected.

Its members are:

- Alicia Cabezudo, **Latin America**, International Peace Bureau
- Amela Skiljan, International Peace Bureau
- Alexander Harang, **Norway**, Norges Fredslag
- Annette Brownlie, **Australia**, Independent and Peaceful Australia Network
- Arielle Denis, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons / IPB Geneva
Coordination Team + ISC

• Celine Nahory, Japan, Peace Boat
• Corazon Fabros, Philippines, Stop the War! Coalition
• Cyrille Rolande, Cameroon, Nouveaux Droits de l’Homme 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
• Holly Spencer, France, Stop Fuelling War
• Jordi Calvo, Spain, Centre Delàs for Peace Studies / IPB Barcelona
• Joseph Gerson, U.S., American Friends Service Committee
• Lisa Clark, Italy, Beati I Construttori di Pace
• Luke Addison, UK, Peace Activist
• Moses Adedeji, Nigeria, Trees on earth Nigeria
• Panos Trigazis, Greece, Observatory of International Organizations and Globalization (PADOP)
• Pere Brunet, Spain, Centre Delàs for Peace Studies / IPB Barcelona
• Quique Sánchez, Spain, Centre Delàs for Peace Studies / IPB Barcelona
• Reiner Braun, Germany, International Peace Bureau
• Theresa Kreese, Germany, International Peace Bureau
Africa
• Cameroon, Nouveaux Droits de l’Homme
• Kenya, Coalition for Constitution Implementation (CCI)
• Nigeria, Trees On Earth

Asia & Pacific
• Australia, New Zealand, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
• Australia, Independent and Peaceful Australia Network
• Australia, PeaceBus
• India, Rural Development and Youth Training Institute (Jambu Kumar Jain)
• Japan, Peace Boat
• New Zealand, Peace Movement Aotearoa
• Philippines, Stop the War! Coalition
• South Korea, People’s Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD)
• Vietnam, Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation

Europe
• Belgium, Agir pour la Paix
• Belgium, Vrede
• France, Mouvement de la Paix
• France, Stop Fuelling War
• Finland, Peace Union of Finland, Rauhanliitto
• Finland, Sadankomitea
• Germany, Netzwerk Friedenssteuer
• Greece, Observatory of International Organizations and Globalization (PADOP)
• Italy, Beati I Construttori di Pace
• Italy, Rete Italiana per il Disarmo
• Norway, Grandmothers for Peace
• Norway, Norges Fredslag
• Norway, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
• Spain, Delàs Center for Peace Studies
• Spain, FundiPau
• Spain, LaFede.cat
• Spain, AAMOC Las Palmas
• **Spain**, Instituto Universitario de la Paz y los Conflictos (IPAZ)
• **Spain**, UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace of the Jaume I University (UJI), in Castellón.
• **Switzerland**, Reaching Critical Will
• **UK**, Better World Links
• **UK**, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)
• **UK**, West Yorkshire Campaign Against Arms Trade (Colin Archer)
• **UK**, Women in Black

**North America**
• **USA**, American Friends Service Committee
• **USA**, Code Pink
• **USA**, Granny Peace Brigade
• **USA**, Peace Action
• **USA**, People Life’s Fund
• **USA**, Taxes for Peace Not War
• **USA**, United for Peace and Justice, Military Families Speak Out
• **USA**, Veteran for Peace
• **USA**, Walpole Peace and Justice Group
• **USA**, War Resisters League
• **USA**, War Tax Resisters
• **USA**, Win Without War
• **USA**, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
• **USA**, World Beyond Wars

**South America**
• **Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay**, Youth Network America Latina
• **Paraguay**, SERPAJ
Africa
• Cameroon, All Women Together

Asia & Pacific
• Australia, Just Peace
• Australia, Marrickville Peace Group
• Lebanon, UPP Peace Civil Corps
• New Zealand, Auckland Peace Action
• New Zealand, Peace Action Wellington
• New Zealand, Quakers in Nelson
• New Zealand, Golden Bay Quackers
• New Zealand, Dunedin Community
• New Zealand, World War One Centenary Peace Project

Europe
• France, Pax Christi International
• Germany, Center of Feminist Foreign Policy
• Germany, German Bundestag and spokeswoman for Peace and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution (Kathrin Vogler)
• Greece, Interalia
• Spain, Desarma Madrid Platform
• Spain, Madrid Anti-Militarists Assembly
• Spain, Rebel·lió o Extinció Barcelona (Extinction Rebellion)
• Spain, Ongi Etorri Errefuxiatuak
• Spain, Red Canarias en defensa del Sistema público de Servicios Sociales (Koldobi Velasco)
• Spain, SETEM Catalonia
• Spain, Women in Black
• Spain, USTEA (Sindicato Educadores Andalucía)
• Spain, Coordinadora ONGD de Lleida
• Switzerland, Unfold Zero
• Switzerland, Basel Peace Office
• UK, Liverpool Pax
• UK, Merseyside CND
• UK, Tipping Point North South
Collaborators GDAMS 2019

North America

- Canada, Conscience Canada
- Canada, Voice of Women
- Canada, Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace
- USA, Austin Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation
- USA, Brandywine Peace Community
- USA, Casa Maria Catholic Worker
- USA, Citizens Action of NY
- USA, Community Alliance of Lane County
- USA, Eugene Taxes for Peace
- USA, Environmentalists Against War
- USA, Franklin County Continuing Political Revolution
- USA, Granny Peace Brigade Philadelphia
- USA, Groups of the Spring Action 2018
- USA, Ground Zero Center Ohio
- USA, Indivisible Eugene
- USA, Just Peace
- USA, Maine War Tax Resistance Resource Center
- USA, Milwaukee War Tax Resistance
- USA, Massachusetts Peace Action
- USA, Massachusetts People’s Budget Campaign
- USA, Massachusetts Poor People’s Campaign
- USA, Minnesota Peace Action Coalition
- USA, Minnesota War Tax Resisters
- USA, New England War Tax Resistance
- USA, Nuclear Resister
- USA, Oregon Community of War Tax Resisters
- USA, Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance
- USA, Pax Christi New Orleans
- USA, Peace Women WILPF
- USA, Pioneer Valley War Tax Resistance
- USA, Peace Resource Center of San Diego
- USA, Raytheon Peacemakers
- USA, Rise Up Hudson Valley
- USA, Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center
- USA, Tucson Raging Grannies
Collaborators GDAMS 2019

- **USA**, U.S. Labor Against War
- **USA**, War Resisters League of Portland
- **USA**, War Tax Resisters League NYC
- **USA**, Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
- **USA**, Women Against War

**South America**
- **Argentina**, Instituto Latinoamericano por la Paz y la Ciudadanía
- **Colombia**, Women in Black
- **Colombia**, Acción Colectiva de Objetores y Objetoras de Conciencia Colombia ACOOC (Conscientious Objectors Action Colective of Colombia)
- **Colombia**, Corporación Con-Vivamos
- **Nicaragua**, Instituto Martin Luther King
- **Uruguay**, Central de Trabajadores
- **Uruguay**, Movement of Peace Educators
- **Venezuela**, Laboratorio Ciudadano de Noviolencia Activa

**International**
- AEPF’s International Organizing Committee
- International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
- War Resisters International
- Peace and Security Cluster
- Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
- Ramalc (Red Antimilitarista de América Latina y Caribe)
Once again, we want to express our most sincere gratitude to all partners, collaborators and friends who made this campaign possible. Your efforts, full with commitment and creativity, send a message of hope to all those longing for a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

Thank you!
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