

# GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING: JUNE 2011



Washington DC/Geneva, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear colleagues,

## **Advance notice: GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING: APRIL 2011**

In 2009, global military spending surged to an all-time high of US \$1.53 trillion. Given the numerous crises facing the planet -- economic, environmental, health, diplomatic -- we must create a global movement to shift this money to human needs. Thousands of organizations and millions of individuals support this point of view. Because of the global economic crisis, governments are even beginning to talk about cutting military spending. But they won't make these cuts unless we pressure them to do so. We need to begin a serious mobilizing effort on a global scale to make visible our demands to feed people not the military-industrial complex.

As part of this campaign, we propose a **Global Day of Action on Military Spending for 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 (NOTE NEW DATE)** to coincide with the release of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's annual report, which will include new figures on military expenditures. On this day, people all over the world will join together in actions to focus public, political, and media attention on the costs of military spending and the need for new priorities. Such events will help us to build the international network around this issue.

While each location will craft its own approach, we hope there will be a common focus on calling attention to the overall size of global military spending. This would need in most cases to be linked to a related national (or local) issue, such as the Afghanistan war/arms trade deals/work against small arms/resources for nonviolent conflict resolution/Article 9 campaign etc. We very much hope that peace groups will use this as an opportunity to connect up with anti-poverty, environmental, pro-democracy organizations and others who share our perspective.

As for types of actions: a whole range is possible -- from street theatre/demonstrations and erecting banners to seminars, signature collection and much more. Many slogans come to mind: *What Would You Do With \$1.5 Trillion? \$1.5 Trillion Is Insane! Trillions for War or Trillions for Peace?* etc. We plan to issue a Toolkit before long to assist organizers. A key aspect is the visual side. By generating some captivating images, we plan to attract widespread media coverage and make available photos of our rallies and events. We will compile an album of

pictures from around the world and post them online to document the global movement and to use to accompany stories about the SIPRI report and our own actions.

We hope you agree that this is an exciting and important project. As a leader in peace activism, we would like you/your organization to join us by (co-)sponsoring an event in your city. We will work with you to identify other people in your area to collaborate with.

You will see below a list of organisations who have already committed to organising some kind of action. What we now need is to extend this list much further, in order to inspire us all to go forward with the planning. We are keen to show that this issue is indeed a worldwide one, requiring creativity and commitment.

**Please write to us if you are interested in participating.** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to hearing from you, please reply to both emails.

Sincerely,

John Feffer  
Institute for Policy Studies  
Washington, DC  
[johnfeffer@gmail.com](mailto:johnfeffer@gmail.com)  
<http://www.ips-dc.org/>

Colin Archer  
International Peace Bureau  
Geneva  
[secgen@ipb.org](mailto:secgen@ipb.org)  
<http://www.ipb.org>

### **PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS: (INITIAL LISTING)**

#### **INTERNATIONAL**

Global Action to Prevent War  
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space  
International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility  
International Peace Bureau  
Pax Christi International  
Peace Boat/Global Article 9 Campaign  
Religions for Peace  
War Resisters International

#### **GREECE**

European Bureau for Conscientious Objection

#### **INDIA**

All India Peace & Solidarity Organisation, Maharashtra State Committee, Nagpur

#### **IRELAND**

Peace and Neutrality Alliance PANA

**PHILIPPINES**

Stop the War Coalition

**SOUTH KOREA**

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy

Peace Network

**SPAIN**

Fundacio per la Pau

**USA****Bay Area:**

Fellowship of Reconciliation

Code Pink

**Boston:**

Resist Africom

**Honolulu:**

American Friends Service Committee

**Maine:**

Bring Our War \$\$ Home campaign

**New York**

Arms and Security Initiative, New America Foundation

**Washington DC:**

Institute for Policy Studies

**Western Mass.:**

National Priorities Project