

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING: JUNE 2011



Washington DC/Geneva, 8th 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 12th 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,

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PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS: (INITIAL LISTING)

INTERNATIONAL

Global Action to Prevent War
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
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