

GLOBAL DAY of ACTION on MILITARY SPENDING

<http://demilitarize.org/>

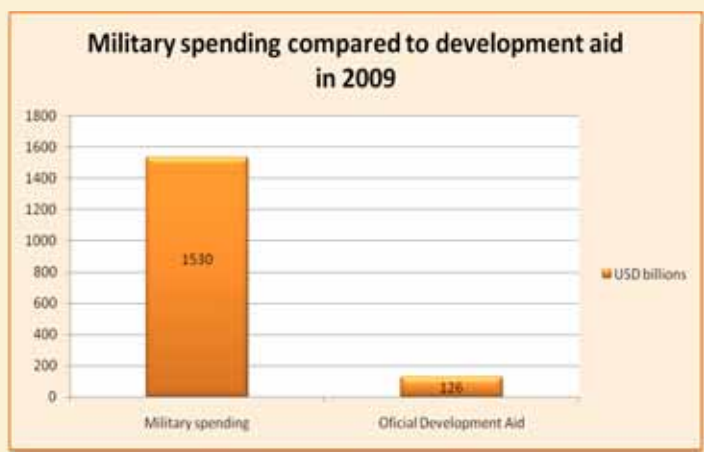
November 2010

Call for action

Last year, the world spent \$1.53 trillion dollars on the military. That is an almost inconceivable number. To put this number in perspective, the World Food Summit estimates that \$30 billion a year could eradicate world hunger. That's what the world spends on the military in a single week.

We can't afford this price tag. We have too many other priorities that require our money: poverty, climate change, job creation. *It's time for people all over the world to come together and say no to the generals and the military contractors.*

In **April 2011**, we will hold our **Global Day of Action on Military Spending**. We are timing our event to coincide with the release of the 2011 statistics on global military expenditures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (which has been moved from June to April for 2011). We want to make sure that the media and politicians pay attention to these outrageous numbers. So, we will make the figure of global military spending visible in as many parts of the world as possible.



Source: SIPRI Yearbook 2010 and OECD StatExtracts

Organizers:



The **International Peace Bureau (IPB)** is dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. We are a Nobel Peace Laureate (1910); over the years, 13 of our officers have been recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Our 320 member organisations in 70 countries, together with individual members from a global network, bring together expertise and campaigning experience in a common cause. Our current main programme centres on Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development.



Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) is a community of public scholars and organizers linking peace, justice, and the

environment in the U.S. and globally.

We work with social movements to promote true democracy and challenge concentrated wealth, corporate influence, and military power. As Washington's first progressive multi-issue think tank, the IPS has served as a policy and research resource for visionary social justice movements for over four decades.

And that's where you come in. We are working with people and organizations all over the world to plan highly visible events that highlight the estimated \$1.6 trillion we are now spending on the military.

So far, our partners plan events in a dozen countries, including China, Uganda, South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Switzerland, Greece, Ireland, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Belgium, and the United States.

In the United States, we have events in the planning for more than half a dozen locations. We've received endorsements from War Resisters International, Religions for Peace, PSPD, Peace Network, Peace Boat, Peace Action, Pax Christi International, PANA, National Priorities Project, Granny Peace Brigade, Global Article 9 Campaign, Global Action to Prevent War, Code Pink, Fellowship of Reconciliation, and many others.

This is a great beginning. We hope to sign up people to plan events in as many countries and cities and locations as possible. If you'd like to join us, please send an email to: gdams2011@gmail.com



The Penny Gizmo

In each of our newsletters, we will highlight a different example of an effective visual that people can use in April 2011. Here is an example from the [Granny Peace Brigade](#) called the Penny Gizmo that they've used very successfully in New York City.



Facebook



We'll send out a monthly newsletter updating you on the Global Day Against

Military Spending. Soon we'll have a website, an organizer's packet, and much more.

In the meantime, keep in touch with us through Facebook. You can join our Facebook group [here](#). This is a great way to spread the word about our organizing. Join up and let your friends know as well!

If I Had a Trillion Dollars...

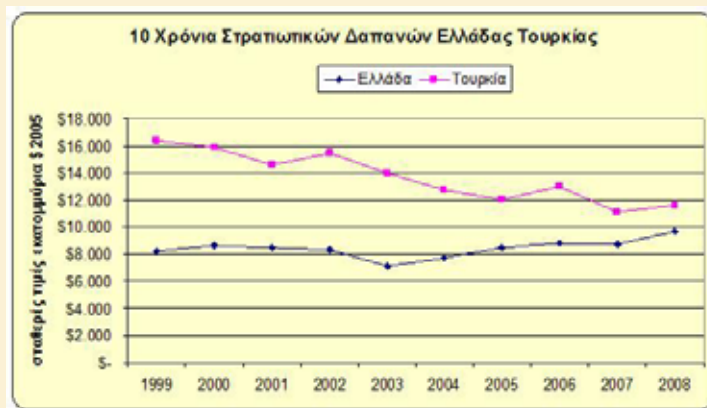
When our website for the Global Day Against Military Spending is ready, we'll have a photo share feature that will show pictures of what we would do with \$1.6 trillion.

Meanwhile, the American Friends Service Committee and National Priorities Project are sponsoring a video contest for young people called "If I Had a Trillion Dollars." That's the amount the United States has spent on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The deadline for the contest is November 30. You can find out [more information here](#).

The Granny Peace Brigade sets up a table in a public place like a park and provides people with 20 pennies. Each person can distribute the 20 pennies any way they like. And they can see, through the clear plastic tubes, what people's budget priorities are. Then they provide participants with information about how the U.S. government really distributes tax dollars.

Our Friends in Greece

The economic crisis hit Greece very hard, and the country moved to the edge of default on its loans because of high debt. The peace movement in Greece has pushed hard on the issue of military spending. The percentage of GDP that Greece devotes to the military is 3.5 percent, considerably higher than what other European NATO countries spend. The Green Ecologists Party released a graph that dramatically shows the military spending trends of Greece and Turkey. The pink line is Turkey, the blue is Greece. With relations between the two countries improving and the Greek economy in trouble, the peace movement has a golden opportunity to push for deeper military spending cuts.



Meanwhile in Britain

The government unveiled a new plan on October 19 to cut military spending by 8 percent over the next four years. Prime Minister David Cameron has no intention to change Britain's status as the world's fourth largest military, and the UK will maintain its presence in Afghanistan. But the spending cuts are at least the beginning of an important trend.

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