

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING A SUCCESS

On April 12, 2011, the Institute for Policy Studies and the International Peace Bureau hosted the first ever Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS).



It coincided with the annual release of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)'s figures on global military spending that revealed that in 2010, world military expenditures reached a record high of over \$1.6 trillion - an increase of 1.3% in real terms over 2009, and of 50% since 2001.

GDAMS aims to promote global awareness of the skyrocketing budgets spent on the military rather than on promoting peace and human development and to expose the global failure to fulfill governments' pledges of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG). With five years to go, the international community will not be able to meet the deadline for the MDGs without a substantial reordering of economic priorities.

Events were organized by some 100 organizations in 35 countries around the world. Actions included a protests in front of the White House in Washington D.C. (US), the Treasury in London (UK), the Ministry of Defense in Bangkok (Thailand) and in the forecourt of the Department of Defence buildings in Canberra (Australia); actions at the United Nations in New York and Geneva; a march in Kampala (Uganda); a peace rally in Dhaka (Bangladesh); workshops and village rallies in Dobari Khota (India); leaflets distribution in Medellin (Colombia) and Manchester (UK); fora in Seoul (Korea), Puerto Rico, Oslo (Norway) and Nagpur (India); a sit-in to stop the construction of a new US military base in Okinawa (Japan); a visit by Japanese survivors of the A-bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the Office of the Presidential Advisor to the Peace

Process in Manila (Philippines); and many more grassroots and policy actions around the world.

On the occasion of the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, UN High Representative on Disarmament Ambassador Sergio Duarte called "on governments to consider the full possibilities of creating security through non-military means. Decent health care and a good education for all, providing confidence in one's future."

"The Global Day of Action on Military Spending should serve as a catalyst for shifting global and national priorities from massive military spending to creating human security and safety for all."

From letters to members of Parliaments to vigils and artistic performances, GDAMS events significantly contributed to building an international network around this issue and encouraged many to get involved.

Find reports and pictures about GDAMS events and get involved in the campaign [here](#). Stay tuned for a soon to be released GDAMS detailed report!

Read UN High Representative on Disarmament, Ambassador Sergio Duarte's statement [here](#).

Visit SIPRI's website for more information on military expenditure data for 2010 [here](#).