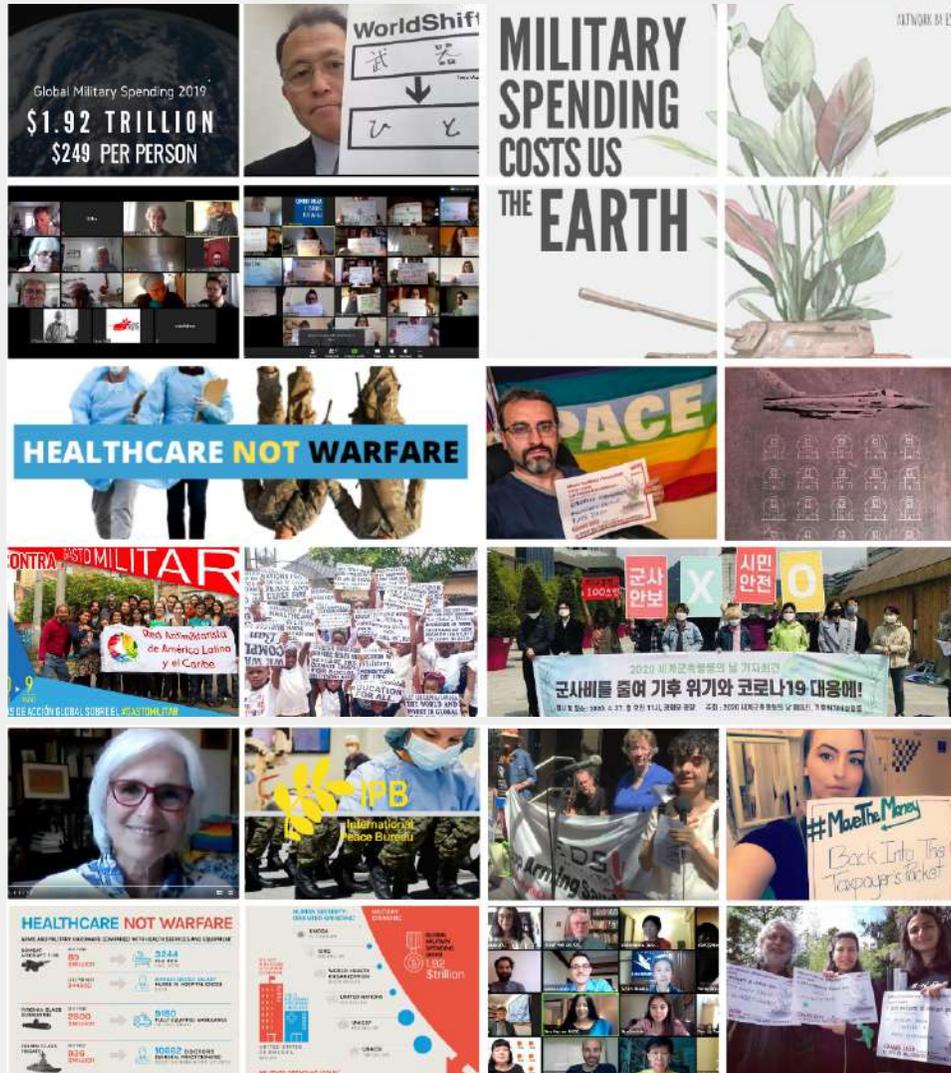


FINAL REPORT

GDAMS 2020

Global Days of Action on Military Spending
April 13 - May 9



INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

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Introduction

The **Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS)** is an international campaign founded in December 2014 and promoted by the International Peace Bureau. GCOMS 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, common and 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**.

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 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 of time) near the U.S. Tax Day and the yearly publication of SIPRI's data on worldwide military expenditure. This is 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, in accordance with a **common security** paradigm;

To do so, the 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.

Overview

This year's Global Days of Action on Military Spending were tremendously conditioned by the **health emergency provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic**. These difficult circumstances demanded a change in course for this special period of the campaign, in order to address the dramatic crisis concerning everyone across the world. In view of the necessary measures for the containment of the pandemic, there were almost no public events during GDAMS and most actions were carried out online. But these limitations didn't keep us from campaigning to express our criticism and demands, which we considered more relevant than ever. This health emergency had (yet again) revealed the flaws and inconsistencies of the current "defense and security" model, the incapacity of states to provide true security to their citizens despite the billions spent on the military sector for the sake of it, so we decided to adapt this year's GDAMS to the new context, prepare a new strategy, statement and materials and adopt a new motto: **Healthcare Not Warfare!**

GDAMS had always been about taking the streets, but this time we had to rely more than ever on social media and other non-contact forms of communication and protest. Despite the difficulties and the little time to react, this new approach to GDAMS gave us the opportunity to reach new audiences and to contribute with a critical perspective to the debate on security and spending priorities taking place globally. Our message resonated widely within this context and was referenced by dozens of international and national organizations and by thousands of individuals. For this year's GDAMS, we've listed over **100 online actions carried out by organizations** (partners and others) in at least 27 different countries. Thousands of individuals engaged with the campaign on social media all across the world and it was mentioned in dozens of media outlets. The GCOMS twitter account earned almost a **100 thousand impressions** over the GDAMS period.

At a **political advocacy** level, there were interesting developments in the US, Colombia, Italy and Spain. In the **U.S.**, pressure on congresspeople and candidates of the Democratic Party increased even more with key actions as the joint statement by 34 organizations and online tools to write to Congress representatives to demand cuts on the Pentagon budget. In **Colombia**, after a meeting with a GDAMS partner, congressman Iván Cepeda proposed a shift of the military budget to healthcare, which was accepted, although with a much smaller amount than originally suggested. In **Italy**, the Rete Disarmo and partner made an interesting proposal to the Italian government in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic: a 1 year moratoria on all military and arms acquisitions. Lastly, GDAMS actions carried out by Centre Delàs and IPB drew attention at the **Spanish** political scenario, with a motion and an official question to the Spanish

Government presented at the Senate by 2 different regional political groups to demand a redirection of military budget to health and social spending. At the European level, the joint letter and online actions organised together with ENAAT were addressed to MEPs and put the focus on the European Union's policies during these times of crisis

Our plans prior to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic were developing in a different direction, but somehow connected to what we're now living through. We had decided to focus GDAMS 2020 on the opportunity cost of ever-growing military spending at a crucial time, a historical crossroads, in which great global emergencies and growing tensions and polarization demand our attention and action, particularly in relation to climate. This is why at that moment we chose the slogan **"Military Spending Costs us the Earth"**, which we believe still prevails.

We want to thank the Steering Group and all partner organizations and sympathisers for contributing so much despite the very difficult circumstances everywhere. You've made our message resonate louder than ever at a time when it's most needed



GDAMS Statement

Healthcare Not Warfare

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has shown the world where humanity's priorities should lie. This major attack on people's security across the world shames and discredits global military expenditures and proves them an outrageous waste and loss of opportunities. What the world needs now is to focus all means on vital security threats: healthy living conditions for everyone, which necessarily entail more just, green, peaceful societies.

The **Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)** 2020 bring attention to the vast opportunity costs of the current levels of military spending, 1'82 trillion US\$¹ a year, almost \$5 billion per day, \$239 per person. When a minority of the global population decides to finance war preparations, we all lose the opportunity to fund policies that tackle our real security threats.

The military could not and will not stop this pandemic

Such a crisis can only be addressed by supporting healthcare and other life-sustaining activities, not with military equipment and personnel prepared for war. The fact that military assets are being deployed during this crisis can be profoundly misleading: it doesn't justify their bloated budgets, nor does it mean that they are solving this crisis. It shows quite the opposite: **we need fewer soldiers, jets, tanks and aircraft carriers and more doctors, ambulances and hospitals**. For decades we have been wrong about our priorities, it's time to (re)consider how military spending has taken a huge amount of public resources to provide a false notion of security that has nothing to do with people's needs and rights to healthcare, education and housing, among other essential public services.

It's time to move the military budget to human needs

Major reductions in military expenditure would free up resources not only to provide universal healthcare, but also to tackle climate and humanitarian emergencies, which also take thousands of lives every year, especially in countries of the Global South,



¹ This figure was later updated to 1.917 trillion, according to SIPRI's figures for 2019.

which are suffering the worst consequences of an economic model that has been imposed upon them.

Transferring resources to fund healthcare for all and climate and humanitarian relief would help prevent this from happening again and bail out the most affected communities. These resources could definitely come from the military budget, which has been given preference by decision-makers for decades.

We must ensure that such a major health crisis does not happen again. To do so, we must rethink international politics, reconsider the real threats to our security and provide public civil protection services with the funding they need to properly work. We also have to ensure that this crisis won't be paid for by the most vulnerable, as has happened many times before. **Reallocating defense budgets would help finance a much needed transition toward more peaceful, just and sustainable societies and economies.**

During GDAMS 2020 (April 10 to May 9), we are rising up together, from Seoul to Toronto and from Sydney to Buenos Aires, to demand major reductions of military spending in order to fund urgent measures to confront the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide human security for everyone.

Take action to move the money from the military to health, join GDAMS 2020!

- Join our [online](#) campaign!
- Use and share our [statements](#) and [infographics](#).
- Sign and share IPB's [petition](#): Invest in Healthcare Instead of Militarization
- Organize a webinar or a national press conference on April 27. So far we have confirmed Seoul, Sydney, Berlin, Rome, Barcelona and Washington D.C.
- Contact online your local/national representatives/congresspeople and ask them to position themselves and support demilitarization and major reductions of military spending.
- Use your social networks, stay active on social media debates, find allies, write an op-ed! How we understand and tell the story of this crisis as a society will define the measures to be taken afterwards.

To download this statement as a pdf file click [here](#).

Translations available in: [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), [Korean](#) and [Catalan](#)

GDAMS 2020 Wrap-Up: Thank You and What Comes Next ([Youtube Video](#))

“As these year’s global days of action on military spending come to a close, we would like to thank all those who contributed, from those who organized press conferences and webinars to those who engaged on social media to our Move the Money Selfie Campaign, and of course all the national Move the Money Action Campaigns. I think we can truly say with GDAMS this year has been a rousing success. The Global Campaign On Military Spending -GCOMS- was founded in 2014 but already in 2011 we had started having a Global Day of Action on Military Spending. Then of course our global campaign expanded so much to include so many countries and organizations and committees in different countries that we added days and days onto that original global day to the extent that, this year, we had practically the whole month. The recent figures we got on the 27th of April this year from SIPRI tell us that **1.9 trillion dollars** or, for those of you who are not native English speakers, 1917 billion US dollars were spent in 2019 and this is up 3.6 percent from the previous year 2018.

The stats are shocking and they’re coming at a time when the world is going through this great moment of change and of danger with the global pandemic. The warning signs were there already of risks being ignored. The atomic scientist Doomsday Clock was positioned 100 seconds before midnight when they published in February. The Heidelberg Institute, when they published their conflict stats, informed us that there are nearly 200 conflicts in the world.



We all know that **continued military growth makes us less safe**, not more. Instead we should be investing on programs that address threats to human security such as combating climate change, supporting the UN’s sustainable development goals and of course addressing COVID-19 crisis. This was the premise on which we based our Global Days of Action on Military Spending this year. There were press conferences in more than 10 cities and, according to the time zone in the world, the Australians were the first, then came the South Koreans and then there was us in Europe with Italy, Berlin, Barcelona and then there were also Western Hemisphere press conferences in North America and in several countries in Latin America. We all worked on the same basic figures but each of our campaigns had its own national objectives as well. This is what is so extraordinary, the way that we can all work together. (...)

The IPB family is fit, and well, and visible and they showed their support for this campaign and got engaged (...) **We’re becoming more accustomed to have online meetings, and webinars, and press conferences. We’re getting terribly good at it. Next year we’ll be back in the streets though; you just wait and see.**

I asked a question to myself: Is there a peace dividend coming from this process? Our voice there for social justice and for a new social contract, I think, is gaining residents. **Together we've moved forward with our goal to achieve disarmament for development.** But the struggle isn't over yet and neither is the campaign. While the GDAMS are coming to an end, the International Peace Bureau will continue in its efforts in the coming months and years. Please, join us in the activities. At this moment we have a petition to the United Nations General Assembly for next September calling for military funds to be moved to support healthcare. To sign this petition, go to www.change.org/healthcarenotwarfare and the petition is called Healthcare not Warfare, and it is promoted by us in the IPB. Furthermore, we will continue to host webinars and other online activities and new personal gatherings to build momentum for when we can, once again, meet in the streets. (...)



All those core messages that we bring to the world, I hope will be reflected in this sense of how we can build back better. There seems to be a sense out there and impatience that we have to have a better normal. Let me thank SIPRI for providing all the basic data for us. Let me thank the team in Berlin and Barcelona but, above all, the affiliates worldwide who have contributed to this campaign, helped the local debate, and helped us hopefully change the whole content and the tenor of the discussion when it comes to military expenditure.

Our activities will culminate in the **World Congress in Barcelona in 2021**, a follow-up to the world conference in Berlin in 2016. We hope you will all be able to join us there. Please follow us on our social media channels between now and then, sign up for our newsletter. You can also join our network of peace activists and organizations by becoming an IPB member. **Together, we are stronger, and we can truly build back better."**

Campaign Materials

Infographic ‘Healthcare not Warfare’

On the occasion of GDAMS 2020 we prepared the infographic ‘Healthcare Not Warfare’, which draws data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Centre Delàs, OECD and many other sources. This infographic intends to illustrate the vast **opportunity costs** of allocating resources to the military and weapons systems at a time of huge insecurity and vulnerability provoked by the pandemic of the coronavirus, in front of which there’s nothing military power can do. It **compares military spending with human security-oriented spending**, putting into perspective the costs of war and war preparations in comparison with the costs of much needed healthcare and with resources allocated to international agencies working for the wellbeing of people.

On the left-hand side, it compares the cost of specific arms and military hardware, such as jets, submarines or tanks, with the cost of health services and equipment currently in shortage due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

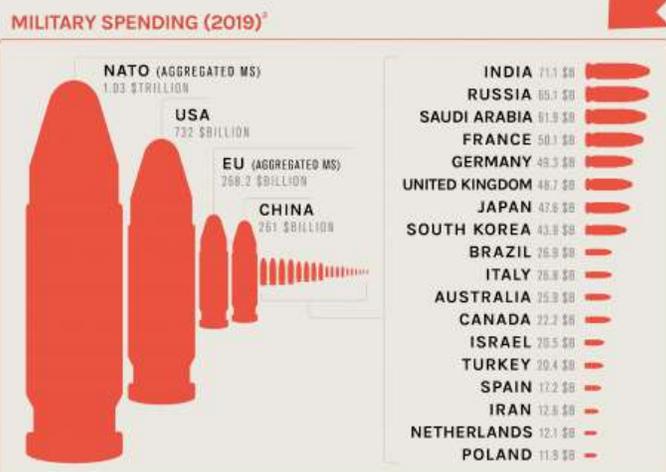
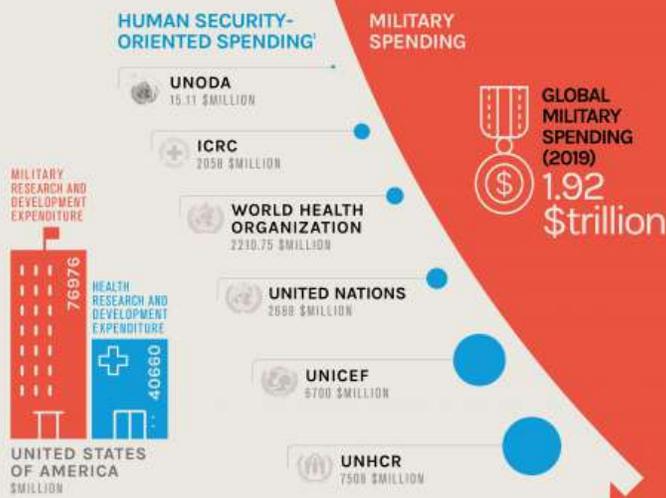
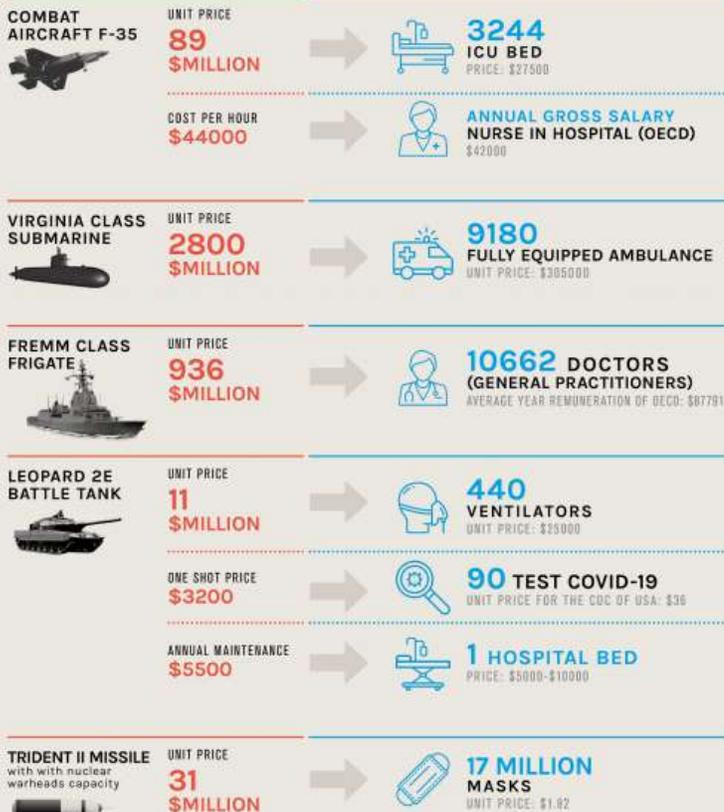
On its right-hand side, it compares global military expenditure for a year with the budget of organisations with missions oriented to human security, such as the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs -UNODA-, the World Health Organization, ICRC, UNICEF, or UNHCR, with year budgets piling in comparison with what the world dedicates to military-based security. The infographic also displays in a small table the difference between the U.S.A's expenditure on military research & development and on health R&D. Finally, a box lists countries and supranational organizations (NATO and EU) according to their military spending.

The Healthcare Not Warfare infographic reached tens of thousands of people on social media and was shared by referential organizations such as **Greenpeace, ICAN, IPPNW, WILPF, Reaching Critical Will, National Priorities, Center for Feminist Policy, CAAT, WRI, Nobel Women Laureates, or the BDS movement**, and was also adapted by organizations that prepared their own materials and/or used ours as a source.

On social media, our infographic earned **15,000 impressions on Twitter** and **14,250 on Facebook**, with more than 250 likes, shares and comments. Postings of the infographic by organizations such as Greenpeace, Reaching Critical Will or ICAN multiplied its impact enormously and earned many more likes, retweets and shares than the campaign’s original post.

HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE

ARMS AND MILITARY HARDWARE COMPARED WITH HEALTH SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT



GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING - GDAMS
 APRIL 10 - MAY 9 2020

1. Budgets for 2018 (estimated when Service)
 2. SIPRI's Military Expenditure Database
 You can find all data references here: <http://demilitarize.org/references/>



You can **download** this infographic [here](#), including translations to: Spanish, French, Catalan, Euskara and Italian.

You can check all **sources and references** [here](#).

When available, all data in this infographic referred to 2018 figures, in order to be consistent with the most recent military spending figures available at the SIPRI Military Expenditure [Database](#). It was later updated (in May 2020) with newly released military spending figures for 2019 by SIPRI. The aggregate military spending of the European Union includes that of the United Kingdom, as it was still a member of the union until December 31, 2019.

Social media pictures

This social media pictures featured the GDAMS 2020 slogan:

“Military Spending Costs Us The Earth“.

This is images were meant to be used in social media together with the hashtag #MilexCostsUsTheEarth, but the change of strategy that the health emergency provoked ended up limiting their use. Despite that, they were featured in many posters, social media posts, articles and op-eds prepared by partner organizations.

The tank illustration was made by the street artist *Escif*, who granted permission for its use to GCOMS and its partners. Find out more about the artist on his [Instagram](#).



You can also download this image [here](#).
Also in [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), [Korean](#) and [Catalan](#).

LE SPESE
MILITARI
CI COSTANO
UN MONDO

10 APRILE -
9 MAGGIO
GDAMS 2020
@DemilitarizeDay
@ReteDisarmo



Campagna Globale sulle Spese Militari

CONTROLLARMI

EL GASTO
MILITAR
NOS CUESTA
UN MUNDO

10 DE ABRIL -
9 DE MAYO
GDAMS 2020
@DemilitarizeDay



Campaña Global sobre Gasto Militar - GCOMS

ILUSTRACION: ESCOB

LES DÉPENSES
MILITAIRES
NOUS COÛTENT
LA TERRE

10 AVRIL -
9 MAI
GDAMS 2020
@DemilitarizeDay



Campagne Mondiale sur les Dépenses Militaires (GCOMS)

ILUSTRATION: ESCOB

지구를
위협하는
군비 지출

4.10 ~ 5.9
2020 세계군축행동의날 (GDAMS)



GCOMS
@DemilitarizeDay

ILUSTRATION: ESCOB

LA DESPESA
MILITAR
ENS COSTA
UN MON

10 D'ABRIL -
9 DE MAIG
GDAMS 2020
@DemilitarizeDay



Campaña Global sobre la Despesa Militar (GCOMS)

ILUSTRACION: ESCOB

Other materials

A dark, high-contrast image of the Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and some clouds.

Global Military Spending 2019
\$1.92 TRILLION
\$249 PER PERSON
MILITARY SPENDING
COSTS US THE EARTH

@DemilitarizeDay
www.gcoms.org

*According to SIPRI's military spending database

A red logo for GCOMS (Global Campaign on Military Spending) featuring a stylized tank and plant.
A stylized image of the Earth with a blue background and green landmasses.

GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION ON
MILITARY SPENDING - GDAMS

MILITARY
SPENDING
COSTS US
THE EARTH

Join the movement at
www.demilitarize.org



IPB
International
Peace Bureau

Is 2% of GDP For NATO really necessary?

How much money could better be spent in other sectors?

*All data comes from SIPRI Military Expenditure Database and econsworld.com, based on figures for 2018.



Germany:
1.2% of GDP on the military means:
US\$ 47 billion currently spent, and
US\$ 31,610,720,000 additional to reach 2%

Italy:
1.3% of GDP on the military means:
US\$ 27 billion currently spent, and
US\$ 14,530,992,000 additional to reach 2%




Canada:
1.3% of GDP on the military means:
US\$ 22 billion currently spent, and
US\$ 11,987,353,000 additional to reach 2%

Spain:
1.3% of GDP on the military means:
US\$ 18.5 billion currently spent, and
US\$ 9,992,731,000 additional to reach 2%




The Netherlands:
1.2% of GDP on the military means:
US\$ 9.2 billion currently spent, and
US\$ 6,192,312,000 additional to reach 2%

Belgium:
0.9% of GDP on the military means:
US\$ 4.8 billion currently spent, and
US\$ 5,854,948,000 additional to reach 2%



Global military spending reached US\$1.917 billion in 2019.

In other words:

\$5.252.054.795
every day

\$218.835.616
every hour

\$3.647.260
every minute

\$60.787
every second



Imagine where else this money could be spent. Join the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) and tell us where you would [#MoveTheMoney](#)



ARTWORK BY ESCIE

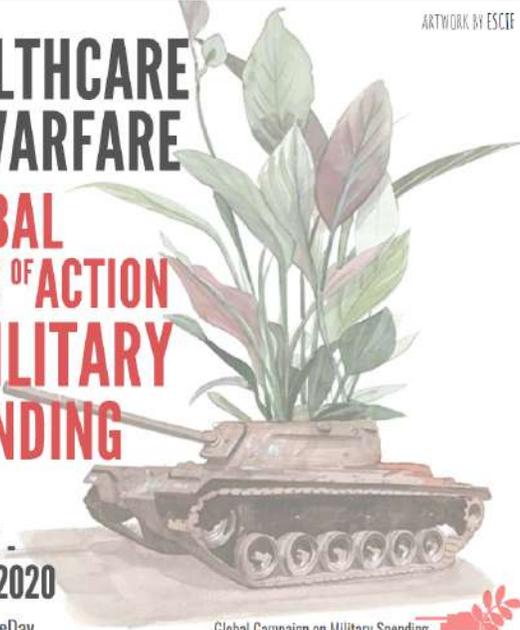
HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE

GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING

APRIL 10 - MAY 9, 2020

@DemilitarizeDay

Global Campaign on Military Spending



GDAMS 2020 - Actions

The interactive Map



* The Global Days of Action on Military Spending also accounted for more than 20 international actions, which are not displayed on this map.

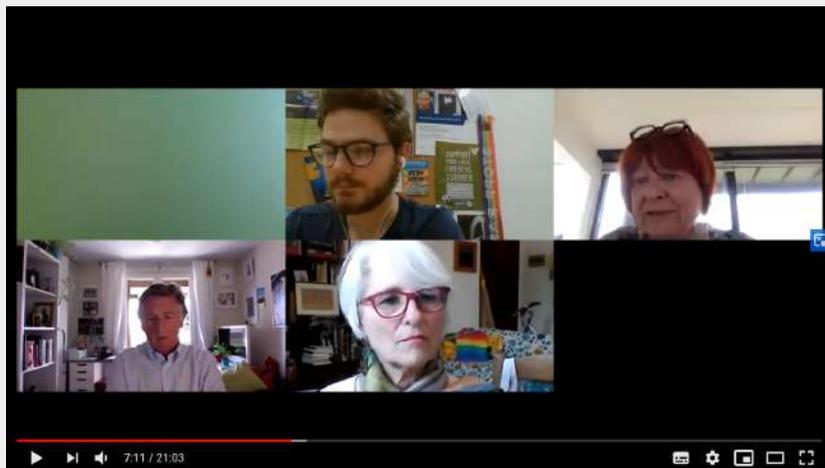
GDAMS Press Conferences

Four press conferences took place on **April 27** in Seoul, Berlin, Rome and Barcelona and press releases were launched in Sydney and Washington D.C, 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 2019 by the Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Military spending reached an estimated **\$1.917 trillion** in 2019, a 3,6 percent higher than the previous year. Press conferences and releases presented a critical analysis to this exorbitant levels of expenditure, especially in the context of a global pandemic and claimed for major reallocations of these resources to cover the true needs of people and ensure a just recovery for everyone.

Berlin - Press Conference

The International Peace Bureau hosted a video press conference on Monday the 27th of April 2020 as part of GDAMS and in response to the release of the SIPRI Data on Military Expenditure for 2019. This conference was hosted by IPB's co-presidents Lisa Clark and Philip Jennings, as well as Tarja Cronberg, Associate Fellow at SIPRI and former MEP.

Tarja Cronberg began by commenting on SIPRI's figures, highlighting a significant increase in global spending that can be explained in particular by the rivalry between the major world powers such as the United States, China and Russia, which have all increased their spending. According to Cronberg *"the general feeling is that this is not a period for arms control"*. Regarding the decrease in military spending in the middle eastern powers as well as in Africa, she considers this is not due to less conflict, but rather to the price of oil and economic hardship. Philip Jennings continues by opposing and criticizing the lack of coherence of trying to manage a pandemic while spending vastly on an ever growing arms race.



"We will not be building peace by building more firepower. We should be building capacity to deal with people's hope". Philip Jennings, IPB's co-president.

You can watch the video conference on [YouTube](#)

USA - Press Release and Joint Statement

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) released a statement together with **39 U.S.-based organizations** reacting to SIPRI's new global military spending report that can be found [here](#).

AFSC also organised an online press release presented by Tori Bateman, policy advocacy coordinator in AFSC.

In this video reacting to the latest figures published by SIPRI on military spending, Bateman introduces a diverse group of organizations and partners. She begins by comparing the astronomical amounts we are investing in military equipment with those in the health sector that we need to deal with the pandemic and calls for a reduction of this spending by the U.S. government. Following Tori Bateman, several speakers from different organisations take the floor to comment on SIPRI figures in this particular context and to advocate for a reconsideration of our priorities in order to redirect the military budget to other sectors that are profitable to all.

Speakers included:

- **Tori Bateman** from AFSC
- **Nancy Parrish** from Women's Action For New Directions.
- **Ashik Siddique** from National Priorities Project.
- **Savannah Wooten** from Public citizen Campaign.
- **Zander Willoughby** from + Peace.
- **Rev. Michael Neuroth** from United Church of Christ.
- **Aura Kanegis** from AFSC.



You can watch the Facebook video [here](#).

Italy - Press conference

In Italy, the disarmament activist organisation Rete Italiana per il Disarmo organised an online press conference on the occasion of GDAMS 2020 and the publication of SIPRI figures on global military expenditure. The webinar was moderated by Francesco Vignarca, National Coordinator for Rete Italiana per il Disarmo, together with Lisa Clark, co-president of the International peace bureau, Sergio Bassoli, representative of Rete della Pace and Giulio Marcon, spokesperson for Sbilanciamoci.

Analysing the figures published by SIPRI, the main observations of our stakeholders are, first of all, that in this period of global pandemic and economic crisis, military spending continues to increase while health budgets remain insufficient. Secondly, certain alliances of which Italy is a member are the protagonists in terms of world military spending, in particular NATO, which



alone, with 1035 billion dollars, accounts for 55% of world spending. The Europe of 27 (without the UK), for its part, spends 220 billion dollars, representing 11.5% of the total. Giulio Macron comments on these figures by saying: “**All this while the WHO has a two-year budget of about \$4.5 billion** (0.11% of what governments spend globally on the military sector) for the most part voluntary contributions from states and private individuals”. Sergio Bassoli of the secretariat of @Rete_Pace adds: “Another comparison is with the investment in Official Development Assistance (ODA) of industrialized countries which is equal to 152.8 billion dollars, equivalent to 0.30% of their GDP and less than 8% of military spending”.



Regarding the claims to the government, the organizations present at this press conference are calling for a one-year moratorium on the purchase of new weapons and to reduce the expenses associated with the arms industry by 10% in order to redirect them to the social sectors as part of the GDAMS 2020 mobilization. See the invitation to the press conference (in Italian) at this [link](#).

You can watch the full press conference on [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#)

Spain - Press conference

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released on Monday, April 27, new figures on global military spending, which show a growing trend for the sixth consecutive year, exceeding more than \$1.82 trillion (later updated to 1.91 trillion US\$ for 2019) revealed by the 2018 data.

In order to critically present the new data and the growing global militarization in the context of a global pandemic, focusing on the Spanish State case, and coinciding with the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) of the International Peace Bureau's campaign on military spending, a press conference was held on Monday 27 April via videoconference called "Military expenditure for health investment".

This online press conference got together activists for peace and social justice like Jordi Calvo (vice president of IPB and coordinator of Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau), Pere Ortega (President of the Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau and expert in military expenditure), Ina Robles (firefighter and Greenpeace Spain activist), and Mar Gimena (Doctor from the Madrid Health Service, volunteer at IFEMA, field hospital during the pandemic).



Jordi Calvo started his intervention by pointing out the leading role of NATO member countries, which account for 54% of global military spending: "World military spending has reached \$1.92 trillion, the largest annual increase in the last decade. **54% of the world's military spending is in the hands of NATO member countries**".

Pere Ortega continued the discussion and focuses on the enormous expenditure of the Spanish State while the health sector lacks resources: “In the case of the Spanish State, we have had extended State defence budgets for three years. Even so, we always have to look at the final settlement that changes from what was initially approved: 20,050 million euros of military expenditure in 2019, according to the criteria of the @CentreDelas”, he continued: **“Spain's military spending in 2019 (20.05 billion euros) is equivalent to 55 million euros per day. Imagine if we had invested that in strengthening public health instead”**.

Mar Gimena then took the floor and explained the lack of coherence when the military gets involved in the management of a health crisis: “IFEMA (a field hospital installed in Madrid) could have been managed with civilian bodies, whether it is the Emergencies Military Unit (UME) or the army, it seems a waste of resources. **To fight a virus we don't need armed people, we need strengthened health systems**”. Lastly, she added: “The first thing that surprised me in this health crisis was the language: ‘this is a war’. This is not a war. In a war, health care is provided under other conditions”.

Ina Robles continued with similar remarks: **“The work the army is doing during the pandemic is not military work. The right people to do these jobs and the organizations that have the necessary skills are at home having a hard time with what I see as 'labor intrusion”**. He later explained one of his personal experiences with the UME during this crisis: “I followed a unit from the UME on those disinfections tasks. 2000 km in two weeks. This requires a brutal amount of resources and is not an effective system. All the work that the UME is doing could be done with civilian personnel in a more efficient way”.

GASTOS MILITARES PARA INVERSIÓN EN SANIDAD
Rueda de prensa | Lunes 27 Abril | 11:00h

Publicación de los datos sobre el gasto militar mundial del SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)

MAR GIMENA
Médica del Servicio Madrileño de Salud y voluntaria en IFEMA

JORDI CALVO
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GCOMS
Global Campaign on Military Spending

IPB
Instituto de Estudios para la Paz

*Para acceso a videoconferencia escribir a prensa@centredelas.org

ES INVERTIR EN SANIDAD PÚBLICA
ES SOLIDARIZARNOS Y
ES CUIDARNOS Y
#NoFsUnaGuerra

You can watch this video conference on YouTube [here](#)

Seoul - Press conference

In Seoul, South Korea, the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) issued a press release on the occasion of GDAMS 2020 in the form of a statement entitled: "2020 GDAMS, Reduce Military Spending to deal with the Climate Crisis and COVID-19".

From the very first paragraphs of this declaration, the emphasis is placed on the futility of investing such astronomical amounts of money for a security that fails as soon as a new virus begins to spread: **"We gravely face a shattered "security" for which astronomical military expenditures have been spent but were revealed to be helpless in the reality of a spread of a new virus, COVID-19"**. They then placed South Korea's position in world military expenditures which is ranked tenth for the seventh consecutive year "with an national defense budget that rise at an average annual rate of 7.5% after the inauguration of the Moon administration reaches 50.1527 trillion KRW (\$42 billion) in 2020".

They further develop in this declaration different thematics such as the inability of these enormous expenses and high-tech military equipment to deal with a virus or simply to make our lives safer, the need to rethink political priorities by moving from "military security" to "human security" or the possible link that there may be between the climate crisis and the spread of new viruses.



International actions

➤ IPB PETITION:

INVEST IN HEALTHCARE INSTEAD OF MILITARIZATION

IPB calls on world leaders to dramatically reduce military spending in favour of health care and social needs

The international Peace Bureau [is calling for a dramatic reduction in military spending in favour of health care and to satisfy the social needs.](#)

The world's oldest peace NGO, the Nobel Prize-winning IPB, has called on world leaders gathering at the UN General Assembly in September to send a message of peace and solidarity to reduce military spending in favour of health care and social needs.



“We, the signatories, call on the world leaders meeting at the General Assembly of the United Nations*, to dramatically reduce military spending in favor of healthcare and all social and environmental needs”

**Signatures will be brought to the United Nations General Assembly on the 1st day of the next session opening on September 15th 2020*

Health Care Stress

Together with the International Peace Bureau, the world's oldest peace organization and Nobel Prize winner, we are witnessing the consequences of irresponsible political decisions that have led to dramatic under-investment in healthcare. All over the world, health systems are reaching the limits of their strength and heroic front-line staff are under massive pressure. The coronavirus emergency shows the weakened state that our societies find themselves in: a world driven by financialization, shareholder value, and austerity has weakened our ability to defend the common good and placed human life in danger on a global scale.

Employees fearful of job and income loss are tempted to go to work sick. The elderly are vulnerable and need help. The virus hits the weakest hardest. Privatization, austerity measures, and the neoliberal system have brought local, regional and national health services to the brink of collapse.

We can already draw lessons for the future – **healthcare is a human right for young and old, for all people in all parts of the world. Healthcare must never be slashed or subordinated in the pursuit of profit through privatization.**

Time for a global social contract

The ILO reports on the labor market consequences with a potential loss of 25 million jobs, more than during the 2008 financial crisis. Working poverty is expected to increase significantly, affecting up to an additional 35 million individuals.

We support the efforts of the trade union movement globally and locally, in their call for a new social contract. We support their call for economic measures and resources to protect jobs, incomes, public services, and welfare.

Prioritize Disarmament

The world spends US\$ 1.8 trillion on military expenditure every year and is scheduled to spend 1 trillion dollars on new nuclear weapons in the next 20 years.

Militarization is the wrong path for the world to take; it fuels tensions and raises the potential for war and conflict. It aggravates already heightened nuclear tensions.

World leaders must put disarmament and peace at the center of policy making and develop a new agenda for disarmament that includes banning nuclear weapons. We reiterate our call for governments to sign up to the TPNW treaty.

Disarmament is a major key to the great transformation of our economies, to ensure that human beings and not profit are most valued; economies in which ecological challenges will be solved and global social justice will be pursued.

With disarmament, the implementation of the SDGs, a global social contract, and a new global green peace deal, we can address challenges such as the coronavirus pandemic.

We are calling the world leaders, meeting at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2020, to act for a culture of peace. A peaceful path means that we need a global strategy, a global social contract, and global cooperation to ensure planet-wide support for people. This will be the human solidarity of the 21st century – for and with the people.

[Full statement is available on our website with translations in Spanish, French, German, Swedish, and Finnish.](#)

“This is a time to open a new page in global relations to put geopolitical tensions to one side, to end proxy wars, for a ceasefire in those many conflicts around the world all of which stand to hamper a global solidarity effort. We have to lift the shadow of war and military brinkmanship which has blighted global cooperation in recent years and work to ensure that a spirit of peace and solidarity prevails.

The IPB has long drawn the world’s attention to the increasing velocity of the global arms race.

“Our communities are paying a high price for an arms race that has diverted resources from the basic health and welfare needs of the people. We are all paying a heavy price for failed leadership and misplaced market-driven practices that have weakened our means to address this emergency, which has hit the weakest hardest”.

[Sign the pledge and share it here.](#)

➤ **IPB Statement: Reaction to the Newest SIPRI Figures**

Military Spending on the Rise while Health Budgets Remain Insufficient in Confronting the COVID-19 Pandemic

With the release of SIPRI’s newest report, showing global military spending in 2019 at a new high of US\$1,917 billion, the International Peace Bureau (IPB) is calling for an end

to the military spending pandemic, starting with an annual reduction of military expenditure of 10% and a complete ban on nuclear weapons.

Military expenditure has increased by 3.6% from 2018 and represents \$252 for every person on the planet. The increase is evidence that the world is in a global arms race that benefits few and raises the likelihood of a global catastrophe. It sheds light on the effectiveness of military industries' lobbying, particularly in Europe, North America, Asia, and Oceania. NATO's military budget alone totals \$1,035 billion and accounts for 54% of total global military spending.

The release of these figures comes during IPB's Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) which highlight the need to reallocate military expenditure to confront COVID-19 and the urgent social and environmental crises.

Militaries and arms cannot and will not save us from this pandemic. Nearly \$2 trillion on destructive weapons and soldiers will not save the 250 million people facing starvation or provide jobs to the hundreds of millions currently unemployed. Just \$35 billion could provide social protection to the 28 poorest countries. We must imagine how much progress could be made if we instead committed these resources to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

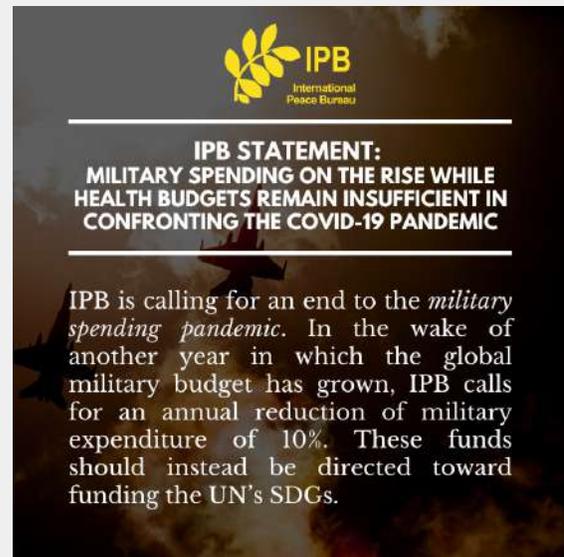
The COVID-19 crisis has made clearer than ever the flaws in our system, one that prioritizes military spending and global instability over the well-being of our people. Indeed, global priorities are wrong; it is time for a new era of peace, a global ceasefire as called for by the UN and people around the globe. **Let us demilitarize the world and invest in global peace and diplomacy.**

Download the statement [here](#).

Read the statement on the IPB website [here](#)

➤ UNODA statement in support of GDAMS 2020

*The current COVID-19 pandemic provides a tragic reminder that **our greatest collective challenges cannot be solved through military might.***



Yet global military spending has continued its relentless rise, reaching \$1,8 trillion in 2018— a level not seen since the height of the cold war. Meanwhile, transfers in major conventional weapons have steadily climbed since the early 2000s.

Now is the moment to seek options that provide for lasting peace and security in the face of daunting challenges like climate change, mass refugee flows and the ongoing global public health crisis.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains our primary tool for pursuing a more peaceful, prosperous and inclusive world for all.

Through its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Agenda provides a comprehensive strategy to tackle poverty, achieve gender equality, fight climate change, reduce inequality and improve health and education.

In 2020, we start the 10-year countdown to delivering on the SDGs. An ambitious global effort is underway, but more must be done.

Reining in unconstrained military spending would go a long way in freeing up crucial human, financial and technological resources urgently needed for this “decade of action” to transform our world.

To illustrate, let’s consider climate change.

It is estimated that the true cost of addressing the devastating effects of climate change in developing countries is \$56-73 billion per year. This cost could reach \$140-300 billion per year by 2030.

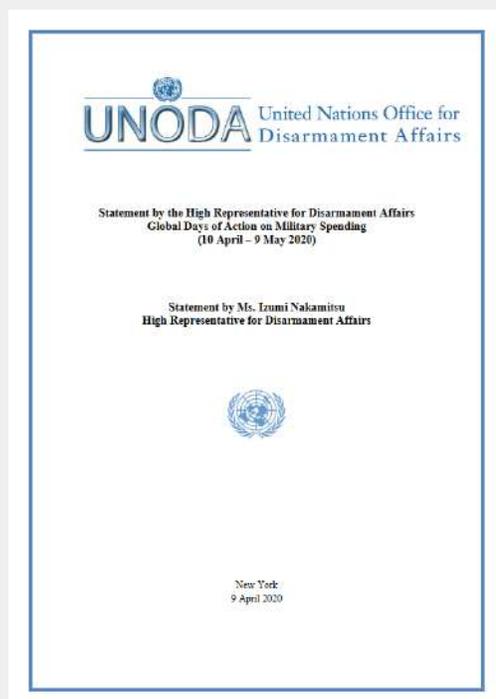
Put another way, if only 10 percent of today’s global military spending were spent towards SDG 13 on climate action, the current costs of adapting to climate change in developing countries would be covered several times over.

Another timely issue is public health. A recent study confirms that higher military spending negatively impacts health spending, and therefore becomes an important risk factor for population health and individual well-being. Concretely, a 1 per cent increase in military spending results in a 0.62 per cent decrease in health spending, growing to a 0.962 per cent drop in lower-middle-income countries.

These are just two of many examples that demonstrate the opportunity cost of diverting much-needed resources away from sustainable development and towards military hardware.

The Secretary-General, in his Agenda for Disarmament, Securing Our Common Future, recognizes that the global trend in military spending is going in the wrong direction. He calls for new, concerted efforts to interrupt the self-reinforcing cycle of increasing military spending.

The Agenda commits the United Nations to supporting efforts that replace tensions, animosity and mutual suspicion with transparency, trust and confidence-building.



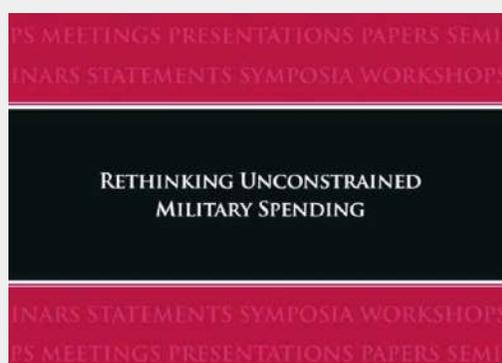
On the occasion of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending, I echo the recent appeal of the Secretary-General for a global ceasefire in the face of the ongoing health crisis. I also renew my call for the international community to redirect the world's finite resources towards promoting the well-being of every citizen and striving for a peaceful and secure world for all. Let us put humanity at the centre of our security.

Download the original statement as a pdf [here](#).

➤ UNODA Occasional Papers No. 35 'Rethinking Unconstrained Military Spending'

Coinciding with the ongoing Global Days of Action on Military Spending and complementary to the recent release of the [annual military spending data](#) by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Office for Disarmament Affairs is pleased to publish the second volume, [UNODA Occasional Papers 35](#), on rethinking unconstrained military spending.

This publication addresses the issue of military spending from various angles by examining the impact of military expenditures on international security; the relationship between military spending and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the importance of gender perspectives in rethinking unconstrained military spending; and lessons learned from economic conversion movements. It has been published in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament to promote renewed research and analysis on the relationship between military spending and economic and social development. Authors include Samuel Perlo-Freeman (Campaign Against Arms Trade), Nan Tian, Diego Lopes da Silva & Alexandra Kuimova (SIPRI), Ray Acheson & Madeleine Rees (WILPF), Miriam Pemberton (Institute for Policy Studies) and William Hartung (Center for International Policy). (UNODA)



➤ **ONLINE WORLD CONFERENCE:** Abolish Nuclear Weapons; Resist and Reverse the Climate Crisis; For Social and Economic Justice (April 25)

The online World Conference for nuclear weapons abolition, peace, the climate and justice, organised by Joseph Gerson, president of the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security and director of the American Friends Service Committee's Peace and Economic Security Program, was held between 9:00 and 11:00 am (NY time) in the context of GDAMS 2020.

Here is a description of the event: "In the context of the suffering and changes being wrought by the pandemic, the two- hour world conference will focus on the continuing urgent need to abolish nuclear weapons and its relationship to stanching the climate emergency and challenging injustices which have left so many people marginalized and vulnerable. To accommodate people across the world the conference was held at 9-11 a.m. New York/Boston time (3-5 p.m. in Europe, 10 p.m.-12 a.m. in East Asia) with simultaneous interpretation. The conference was live streamed on youtube and was also posted and made available on the world conference2020.org and co-sponsors sites for continuing availability."

"Saturday's World Conference for nuclear weapons abolition, peace, the climate and justice came off very successfully. It was deep, informative, inspiring and with remarkable diversity of speakers"

Speakers included:

- **Izumi Nakamitsu** (High Representative of UNODA)
- **Sharan Burrow** (ITUC, Australia)
- **Reiner Braun** (IPB, Germany)
- **Joseph Gerson** (AFSC/CPDCS/IPB, USA)
- **Emad Kiyaei** (IDG Group, Iran)
- **Hiroshi Takakusaki** (Gensuikyo, Japan)
- **Rev. Liz Theoharis** (Poor People's Campaign, USA)
- **Dr. Carlos Umana** (IPPNW, Costa Rica)



ONLINE WORLD CONFERENCE

Abolish Nuclear Weapons; Resist and Reverse the Climate Crisis, For Social and Economic Justice

April 25, 2020 9-11 a.m. New York/Boston/Washington, D.C.
3-5 p.m. Central European Time; 10 p.m.-12 a.m. Tokyo

Register at: bit.ly/abolishnuclear

In the context of the suffering and changes being wrought by the pandemic, the two- hour world conference will focus on the continuing urgent need to abolish nuclear weapons and its relationship to stanching the climate emergency and challenging injustices which have left so many people marginalized and vulnerable. Additional sessions of the World Conference and four workshops will be for a healthier time in the future.

To accommodate people across the world the conference will be held at 9-11 a.m. New York/Boston time (3-5 p.m. in Europe, 10 p.m.-12 a.m. in East Asia) with simultaneous interpretation. The conference will be held in concentric circles with up to 500 people in the conference itself with simultaneous live streaming so everyone can join by listening in. The conference will also be recorded and posted and made available on the world conference2020.org and co-sponsors sites for continuing availability.

Speakers include:

- Sharan Burrow (ITUC, Australia)
- Reiner Braun (IPB, Germany)
- Joseph Gerson (AFSC/CPDCS/IPB, USA)
- Emad Kiyaei (IDG Group, Iran)
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- Rev. Liz Theoharis (Poor People's Campaign, USA)
- Dr. Carlos Umana (IPPNW, Costa Rica)
- Wada Masako (Japan Confederation of A- & H- Bomb Sufferers Organizations)
- Xiye Bastida (Fridays for Future, Mexico)

Invitations pending to United Nations Office for Disarmament, the Sunrise Movement, and Marshall Islands

ONLINE WEBINAR - April 25th, 2020 @ 9-11 a.m. EDT

REGISTRATION: <https://bit.ly/abolishnuclear>

For more information: see <https://www.facebook.com/events/the-riverside-church/world-conference-2020/1105835629625534/>; or write: JGerson80@gmail.com

- **Wada Masako** (Japan Confederation of A- & H- Bomb Sufferers Organizations, Japan)
- **Bina Nepram** (Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and IPB member)
- **Xiye Bastide** (Fridays for Future, Mexico)



You can watch the full conference [here](#).

View the digital resource guide [here](#). Read the call to action [here](#). Download the event flyer [here](#).

➤ **International webinar - Move the Nuclear Weapons (and fossil fuel) Money (April 21)**

The organization Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) held an international webinar in conjunction with the GDAMS 2020.

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the need for governments and the international community to focus more on human security issues and to shift resources from military spending, especially the nuclear weapons budgets, to accomplish this. However, the nuclear weapons and fossil fuel industries have vested financial interests in maintaining the nuclear arms race and a fossil fuel economy. They are **a potent political force preventing change**.

Move the Nuclear Weapons Money

Global Webinar, April 21, 2020

Speakers:

Susanna Choe (USA)
Executive Director of the Regeneration Fund,
Investment Community Visibility Group

Thies Kaetow (Germany)
Divestment Researcher, World Future Council

Marzhan Nurzhan (Kazakhstan/Switzerland)
Coordinator, Abolition 2000 Youth Network

Jeff Perkins (USA)
Executive Director, Friends Fiduciary Corporation

Vanda Proskova (Czech Republic)
Social Media Director, Move the Nuclear Weapons campaign

Jennifer Blemur (USA)
Director, Women Legislators' Lobby

Kehkashan Basu (UAE/Canada)
World Future Council Youth Ambassador
Winner, 2016 International Children's Peace Prize

Plus a representative of the Global Campaign on Military Spending

MOVE THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS MONEY

- * Cutting nuclear weapons budgets.
- * Ending investments in nuclear weapons & fossil fuels.
- * Reallocating these to public health, climate protection and sustainable development.

Contact: info@nuclearweaponsmoney.org
Visit: www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org

Governments, cities, religious communities, universities, banks and private investors can shift these financial incentives by divesting from the nuclear weapons and fossil fuel industries and re-allocating these investments according to ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) principals. Such actions provide political support for legislative efforts to cut nuclear weapons budgets, especially in the USA and UK. This webinar highlighted **examples of nuclear weapons and fossil fuel divestment and examined how these can assist initiatives to cut nuclear weapons budgets and support public health, climate protection and sustainable development.** The event included the preview of a Handbook on Nuclear Weapons Divestment which will be produced by the Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign.

Speakers included:

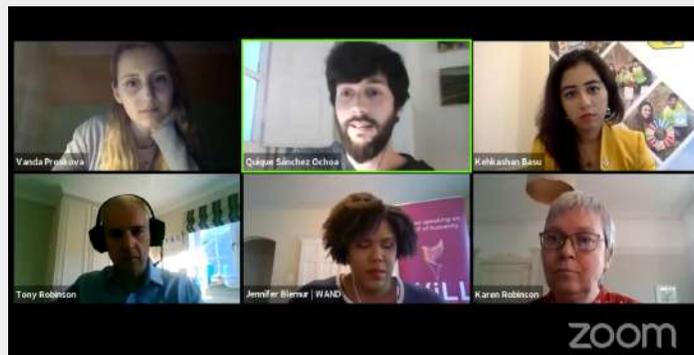
- **Susanna Choe (USA)**, Executive Director of the Regeneration Fund and the Move the Nuclear Weapons Money program, Investment Community Visibility Group.
- **Thies Kaetow (Germany)**, PNND Germany Coordinator. Divestment Researcher for the World Future Council.
- **Quique Sánchez (Spain)**, Global Days of Action on Military Spending;
- **Jennifer Blemur (USA)**, Director, Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL), a program of Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)
- **Marzhan Nurzhan (Kazakhstan/Switzerland)**, Coordinator of the Abolition 2000 Youth Network. Deputy Director of the Basel Peace Office.
- **Jeff Perkins (USA)**, Executive Director, Friends Fiduciary Corporation
- **Matt Robson (New Zealand)**, Former Deputy Leader of the Progressive Party and New Zealand Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control.
- **Vanda Proskova (Czech Republic)**, Social Media Director for the Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign.

- **Kehkashan Basu** (United Arab Emirates/Canada), *Youth Ambassador, World Future Council. Winner, 2016 International Children's Peace Prize.*
- **John Ingram** (USA). *350NYC.org Steering Committee Member. Member of Divest NYC Coalition and Divest NY State Coalition.*
- **Karen Robinson** (UK). *Campaign Worker, Conscience: Taxes For Peace Not War.*

Quique Sánchez participated in representation of **GCOMS** and introduced this GDAMS's main message and infographic, and also possible ways to take action during this period to demand a shift in public spending and a change in our priorities as a society.

Find out more about the event [here](#).

Watch the full conference [here](#)



➤ **IPB Webinar: Challenging Nuclear Weapons in Europe**

On the 27th of April between 15:00 and 16:30, the International Peace Bureau organised a webinar named “Challenging Nuclear Weapons in Europe”.

Outline of the webinar:

The tensions between nuclear weapons possessors states have worsened dramatically these last months and Europe is at the centre of the storm. The suspension of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia has directly exposed Europe to a new nuclear arms race and there is no indication that a successor to the US-Russian New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) will be negotiated before the February 2021 deadline. NATO states are much too silent, worse, French President Macron suggested that France’s nuclear weapons could become a European “deterrent”.



But, along with the 74% Millennials thinking that war and nuclear annihilation can be avoided, let's point the historical movement building up around the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) ratified by 36 states and 81 have signed the Treaty, putting it on its way to entering into force in the coming months. What is the situation from different perspectives in Europe? How can civil society bring its contribution?

This Webinar replacing a Side Event due to take place at the opening of the 2020 NPT session hosted experts and activists to discuss with the participants how to challenge nuclear weapons in Europe.

Speakers included:

CHAIR: **Reiner Braun** IPB Executive Director

- **Hans Kristensen** – Federation of American Scientists - Points of tensions in regards to Nuclear Weapons in Europe
- **Oleg Bodrov** - Coalition for a Clean Baltic/Russia – A view from Russia of the nuclear tensions in Europe
- **Kate Hudson** Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament – UK nuclear developments
- **Bastien Lachaud** French MP - French situation
- **Katherine Vogler** German MP - German situation - 5min
- **Daniel Hogsta** ICAN – Potential tracks for progress in Europe(TBC)
- **Owen Tudor** ITUC Representative
- **Susi Snyder** –Pax/ Don't Bank On the Bomb campaign on divestments and financial institutions

- **Philip Jennings** - IPB- building coalition with the social movements

You can watch this webinar on [IPB's Youtube channel](#).

For more info about the event click [here](#).

➤ **ENAAT (European Network Against Arms Trade) Europe Day statement and online actions and advocacy.**

The way out from the COVID-19 crisis: will the EU work for peace or prepare for war? On Europe Day, the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) and the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT) call the EU to fund peace, not arms dealers.

8 May 2020, Brussels, Barcelona

The EU High Representative Mr Borrell stated on April 24 that the world will look very different after the COVID-19 crisis and will depend on the choices made today. On the eve of Europe Day celebrating peace and unity, the EU bears a large responsibility for how this future will look like, and has a key choice to make: work for sustainable peace by seriously tackling the root causes of conflicts, or continue the path to militarism and prepare for war.



The current pandemic was predictable: both national strategic documents (from US to UK) and the 2016 European Global Strategy alerted for years about the need to get prepared for serious pandemics. According to the [Global Risks Report 2019](#) by the World Economic Forum, the top 3 risks in terms of likelihood are all environmental (extreme weather events, climate change, natural disasters). And the [EU-tailored Normandy Index](#) identifies energy insecurity as the biggest threat for the EU's strategic autonomy.

Yet global military spending saw its biggest increase in a decade in 2019, a growth Europe largely contributed to. The Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) 2020 that are closing tomorrow brought attention to the vast opportunity costs of the

current levels of military spending: 1.91 trillion US\$ in 2019, almost \$5 billion per day, \$239 per person.

Collectively the 28 EU Member States rank second with a total of \$268.2bn (United Kingdom was a member till 31 December 2019), before China and four times more than Russia, as was the case for the last decade. This is a 15 % increase within five years.

“But armament provides us little protection against health and environmental threats. Strengthening further our military arsenal will not help much needed international cooperation, trust and diplomacy but rather feed fear and distrust, in other words pave the way for potential wars resulting from unresolved challenges” says **Jordi Calvo, Coordinator of IPB’s campaign on military spending.**

On top of national expenditures, the EU budget is also being diverted for military purposes: from 2017 to 2020 half a billion Euros is being allocated to support Research & Development of ‘cutting-edge’ weaponry and equipment, with a strong focus on unmanned and autonomous systems, surveillance and disruptive technologies radically changing how wars are conducted.

This EU Defence Fund should benefit from an exponential increase in the next EU long term budget (MFF 2021-2027), possibly up to €13 billion.



The COVID-19 crisis requires now a drastic overhaul of the initial MFF proposal, and one could hope a refocus on health and environmental challenges, and on the communities most affected by them. But the military-industrial complex and its supporters are rallying and calling loud and clear for maintaining or even increase EU funding for the arms industry.

even increase EU funding for the arms industry.

“Every Euro of the EU budget used for the military is a lost Euro to face interrelated environmental, climate and health challenges that represent today the most tangible threats to human security worldwide and the root-causes to many conflicts” alerts **Quique Sánchez, Project Officer at IPB-GCOMS.**

Moreover, it is predictable that those subsidies will exacerbate the global arms race by boosting European arms exports to areas in conflicts or under tension, and those weapons will in turn feed conflicts.

The European Union should instead revise the traditional military security approach by a human security approach encompassing all aspects of a decent livelihood (healthcare, education, food safety, healthy environment...) and stop any funding for the research and development of new weaponry in its next long-term budget. Reallocating EU and national defence budgets would help finance a much needed transition toward more peaceful, just, and sustainable societies and economies worldwide, thus tackling the root-causes of many conflicts.

“There is no time left for half-measures and the EU cannot have it both ways; in the coming months it will have to decide to serve peace and citizens interests, or please the arms industry and prepare for war” concludes **Laëtitia Sédou, EU Project Officer at ENAAT.**



More information on ENAAT can be found [here](#)

The European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT) was founded in 1984 and involves groups and individuals who see the arms trade as a threat to peace, security and development. It is made up of 17 national campaign and research groups from 13 European countries and 3 European or international organisations

Download this statement as a [pdf](#)

Also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#)

This statement was sent to Members of the European Parliament and widely shared on social networks.

➤ **SIPRI joins GDAMS on their social media**

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) referenced GDAMS when releasing their new figures on military expenditure on [Twitter](#):
“Global military expenditure sees largest annual increase in a decade—says SIPRI—reaching \$1917 billion in 2019’. Read the [Press Release](#). Download the [Fact Sheet](#). #MILEX #GDAMS2020”

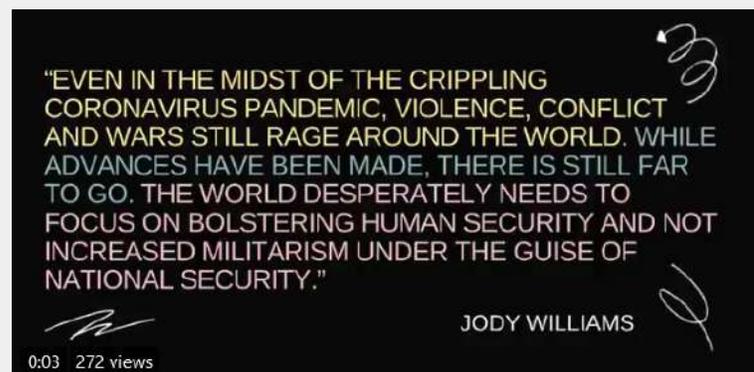
➤ **ICAN (International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons)**

ICAN shared the GDAMS infographic on April 28, after SIPRI’s release of new figures on military spending.

“\$1.9 trillion! SIPRI’s latest [report](#) reveals that in 2019 global military expenditure had its largest annual increase in a decade. Meanwhile, that money could have gone to life-saving equipment and human security: [@DemilitarizeDay](#)”

➤ **Women Nobel Laureates**

Nobel Women called to action on the first day of GDAMS by sharing this [message](#) and picture: “Today marks beginning of several Global Days of Action on Military Spending! Let’s start with a powerful [#FeministFriday](#) from Nobel peace laureate [@JodyWilliams97](#). It’s time to prioritize human security, especially relevant in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. [#MoveTheMoney](#)



➤ **Reaching Critical Will**

Reaching Critical Will, the Disarmament Programme of WILPF, shared the Healthcare Not Warfare infographic on their social media and a thread related to UNODA occasional paper on military spending on the occasion of GDAMS.

➤ **IPPNW**

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) shared GDAMS materials on their social networks.

➤ **Global Campaign for Peace Education**

The Global Campaign on Peace Education shared the GDAMS statement and infographic on its [website](#).

➤ **Control Arms**

Control Arms shared our message and infographic on an [article](#) about Arms control in the time of COVID-19 “The Global Campaign on Military Spending illustrates (Figure 1) how resources spent on militaries and weaponry could have been used today to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) shared similar research, comparing the spending of [nuclear arsenals vs. healthcare infrastructure](#). Several other organisations and individuals have weighed in on the issue, including Control Arms member Project Ploughshares on “[Arms control diplomacy a worrying casualty of Covid-19](#)” and the Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) in its [ongoing Covid-19 blog](#) series.

As ever, irresponsible arms transfers and diversion of arms fuel conflicts and armed violence and enable terrorism and organized crime. Unregulated arms deals perpetuate conflict, facilitate human rights violations and abuses, exacerbate refugee crises and hamper development efforts. However, when coupled with the global health crisis, unchecked arms transfers to conflict zones and beyond result in even more devastating consequences.

➤ Greenpeace International

Greenpeace international shared the GDAMS message and infographic and prepared and article by Jen Maman on the issue:

“At a time when communities around the world are struggling with the lack of intensive care unit (ICU) beds, ventilators and even simple masks, consider the following figures collected by the Global Campaign on Military Spending;

- A single F-35 combat aircraft – which costs US\$89 million – could pay for 3,244 ICU beds. The F-35 cost for one hour is equivalent to the annual salary of a nurse in an OECD country. The UK reported [a purchase](#) of 138 F-35 aircrafts, and [the US](#), 1,763.
- A single FREMM class Frigate warship costs US\$936 million. This is equivalent to the annual combined salaries of 10,662 doctors in an OECD country. FREMM Frigates are in service in Italy and France. The US is reportedly negotiating to purchase over a US\$1 billion worth Frigates.
- German manufactured new Leopard 2 Battle Tank costs US\$11 million, which could pay for 440 ventilators. The price of one cartridge for the tank (USD\$3,200) could pay for 90 COVID tests.
- Annual nuclear weapon budget worldwide is 1,000% – or 10 times – the combined budget of both the UN and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

This is madness, but it is also our current reality. What we really need right now are fewer soldiers, jets, tanks and aircraft carriers, and many more nurses, doctors, ambulances and hospitals. **What can you do?**

Speak up against excessive military spending and the need for better, smarter allocation of national budgets for the citizens and the greater good for the planet. Greenpeace believes we need to stop pouring money into our military-industrial complex and instead #movethemoney to sustain a more green and peaceful future.

Where would you #movethemoney? The Global Campaign on Military Spending ([@demilitarizeday](#)) invites people to share their suggestions on Twitter.

It’s time for us to start redefining our idea of safety”

Read the full article [here](#)

➤ War Resisters International

War Resisters International supported GDAMS online and shared its materials and statement on their social media.

“The #COVID-19 pandemic crisis is another reminder of where our priorities should lie!

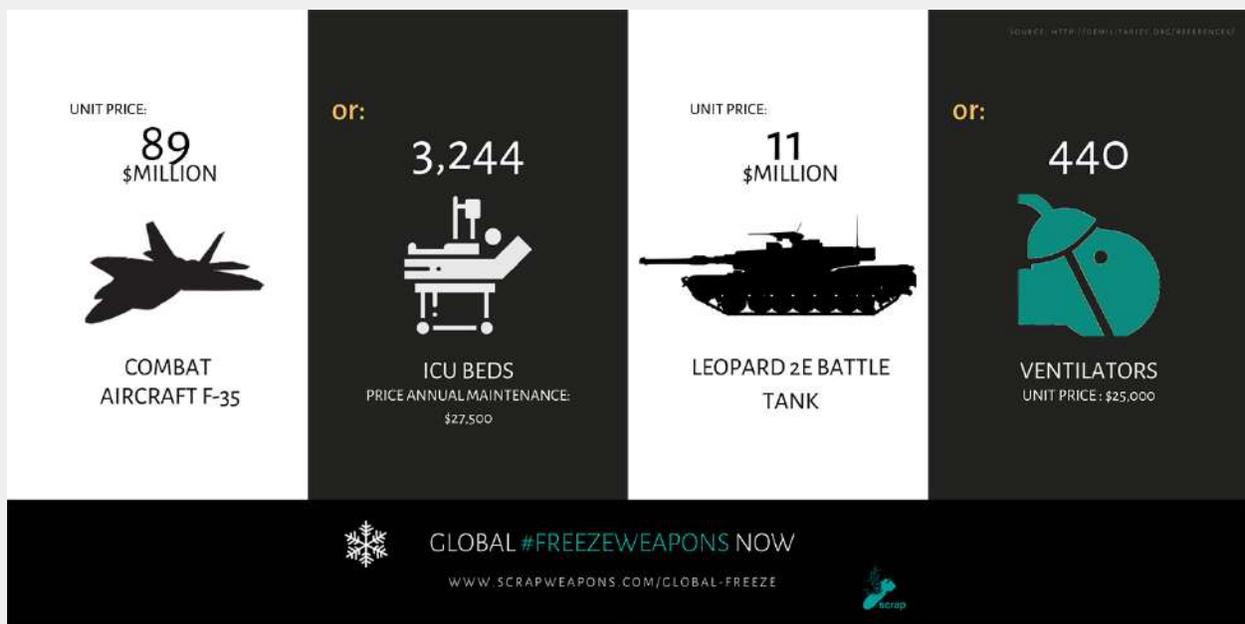
Healthcare Not Warfare!"

"The [#COVID19](#) crisis has made clearer than ever the flaws in our system, one that prioritizes military spending and global instability over the well-being of our people."

➤ Scrap Weapons

Global Freeze Weapons Now is a campaign by SCRAP, an initiative of the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy (CISD) at SOAS, University of London.

This campaign created a series of [videos](#) and infographics which had as a reference the GDAMS infographic Healthcare Not Warfare, and disseminated them widely on social media.



You can support this initiative by [Signing their Declaration](#), Promoting their [Formal Text for Governments](#), Parliaments and International Organisations and Circulating and using their [Background paper](#). Find out more about it [here](#).

➤ AEPF (Asia-Europe People's Forum)

AEPF, through its cluster of Peace and Security, supported the campaign for one more year, as part of an strategy to make GCOMS one of the main campaigns of the forum.

- **RAMALC (Antimilitarist Network of Latin America and the Caribbean) supports GDAMS**



➤ **BDS Movement**

The Palestinian movement for Boycott and Divestment and Sanctions to Israel supported GDAMS on their social media:

“With disarmament, the implementation of the SDGs, a global social contract & a new global green peace deal, we can address challenges such as the coronavirus pandemic.” [#HealthcareNotWarfare](#) [#StopArmingIsrael](#) Sign IPB petition: <https://bit.ly/2RMKJo7>

Africa

NIGERIA

➤ World Youth Peace Organization supports GDAMS

Peace Ambassador Ejimole Fidel Onwuekwe of the World Youth Peace Organization held a statement to support GDAMS 2020 in Nigeria.

“Nigeria on the front line of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending 2020. A global call for an end to military spending pandemic which started on the 10th april to 9th may, 2020. Youth wants a complete ban on nuclear weapons. This global yearly event organized by the International Peace Bureau marks activities to reach out to civil society groups, NGOs, government agencies working on conflicts and peace resolution; religious bodies; environmental organizations, labor unions etc., on military spending and development and also on the climate change crisis.

Youth advocates for major reductions of military spending and reallocating the funds to human security, such as healthcare, education, food and not bombs. It is now time for us all to come together to rethink our priorities on how and why to move the money to healthcare. Coronavirus is taking the world hostage.”

World Youth Peace Organization also called to sign and share IPB’s petition to the United Nations General Assembly “Healthcare not warfare”.



COVID-19 has sharply exposed the dangerous and unsustainable priorities of our society. On the other hand, the vast majority of Australians are co-operating to control the virus. World-wide, there are desperate shortages in the supply of most basic safety and life saving equipment – ICU beds, ventilators, virus testing kits and personal protective equipment for front line health workers.

At the same time there are vast stockpiles of technologically advanced military weaponry worth trillions of dollars, waiting to be used in endless profit-making wars.

Redirect military spending.

The UN call for a worldwide ceasefire means little unless foreign military forces are sent back to their home countries. To that end we call on the Australian government to bring home our military forces from battle zones in the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Philippines, and to close the Pine Gap function that supports U.S. drone warfare. Hundreds of billions of our tax dollars are used to buy military equipment largely to support the U.S. military agenda around the world.

Instead, huge expenditure is urgently needed here in Australia, for health and medical services and to address the climate crisis.



Australia's immediate priorities should be providing support for millions of people facing unemployment, homelessness and poverty during the national disasters of coronavirus, the climate crisis, drought and bushfires – rather than supporting unjust U.S. led wars.

Prioritise people and environment.

In spite of this difficult period of physical distancing, people are organising and helping each other and building social unity. We need to make sure we come out of these crises with a more humane, just and democratic society.

We need a society that prioritises the health, education and safety of people and the environment over war.

We need a society that builds Australia's self-reliant and diverse industries to manufacture and produce for the needs of the people, and an economy that's not based on multinational profit making.

We need a society that invests in our research scientists, the CSIRO and other public research institutions, not globalised corporations in search of profit.

We need a society that prioritises peace, justice and the health of people and the environment – an independent and peaceful Australia.

This statement is the initiative of IPAN, the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network.

IPAN is national network of over 50 member and supporting organizations, including peace groups, trade unions, church and community organisations and individuals which works to promote independent and peaceful Australian foreign policies. The statement continues to circulate at www.ipan.org.au and we welcome further endorsements and donations towards publishing.

[Download a pdf](#) of the notice published in a national newspaper.

Organisations who have signed this IPAN statement (4th May, 2020)

Alice Springs Peace Action Think Tank; Australian Solidarity with Latin America; Campaign for International Cooperation and Disarmament; Civil Liberties Australia; Communication Workers' Alliance; Communist Party of Australia WA Branch; Concerned Australians; Earth Charter Australia; Fair Go For Pensioners – Victoria; Guam Coalition for Peace and Justice; International League of People's Struggles-Australia; International Volunteers for Peace Inc.; Hunter Peace Group; Just Peace Qld; Maritime Union of Australia Victoria Branch; Marrickville Peace Group; Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia); Melbourne May Day Committee; Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church Inc.; Pace e Bene Australia; Pax Christi Vic; People for Nuclear Disarmament; Philippine Caucus for Peace; PJ Governance; Presentation Sisters WA; Queenscliff Reconciliation; Remembering and Healing Inc.; Socialist Alliance; Spirit of Eureka – Vic, SA & NSW; Stop The War Coalition (Sydney); Sydney Peace & Justice Coalition; Sydney West Peace Group; The Green Institute; Wage Peace; War Resisters International (Australia); Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Workers Art Collective; World Beyond War NZ

➤ **MEDIA RELEASE by IPAN**

Increase in Military Expenditure Unjustified and Destabilising

- The Australian Government's increase in military expenditure is pure fear-mongering and compromises urgent social needs.
- The objective to project significant military power far from Australia's shores only contributes to regional instability while undermining our security and peaceful relations with our neighbours.

The Morrison Government's decision to spend \$575 billion on the Defence budget over the next ten years to 2029-30, including \$279 billion in defence capabilities, is of great concern to the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN).

"There are numerous pressing issues impacting on the wellbeing of Australians that are more deserving of such budgetary investments. That the Federal Government has committed to spending this eyewatering amount over the next decade in the midst of a massive health and economic crisis makes it all the more extraordinary", stated IPAN spokesperson.

PDF version: [Media Release re Increased Military Expenditure](#)

➤ **Online action by Australia Anti-bases Campaign Coalition**

Time for Australia to reduce its military spending.

The United Nations Secretary General has called for a ceasefire in all wars throughout the world. The Pope in his Easter message has called for end to all wars. Yet the Australian Government is continuing to build and buy war materiel. ADF personnel are participating in military exercises now and in the future (eg Pitch Black, RimPac). Subsidies to arms traders are still in place and are being used to produce weapons for Saudi Arabia, Israel and other countries. In the middle of the coronavirus pandemic it is essential that all our country's resources are devoted to the dealing the health crisis. The government must end all ADF participation in war games and end all arms exports now

COVID-19: A CATASTROPHE IS UNFOLDING IN ADEN, YEMEN

“The United Nations and donor states need to do more and do it urgently, not just for Aden but for the whole of Yemen. Money to pay healthcare workers must be found and supplies of the personal protective equipment necessary to keep them safe need to be organised. The country also badly needs more oxygen concentrators to help sick patients breathe.

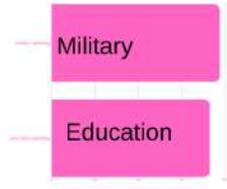
What is Australia doing? Selling weapons to Saudi Arabia!

Scomo says he's interested in education but



Military spending always tops education spending

Budget 2019-2020



Category	Spending Level
Military	High
Education	Low

Later on, the Australia Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition created this [KitAction](#)

➤ **Hiroshima Day Sydney**

Call to action in support of GDAMS through their social media.

➤ **Protest against EOS and HSBC (Sydney)**

“HSBC is a bank that does harm. It invests in harming people. HSBC and EOS are partners in war-crime and [#WarCrimesMatter](#) Sign this petition now <http://bit.ly/NoArms4Yemen> HSBC invests money in an Australian company that sells arms to Saudi Arabia. Electro Optic Systems (EOS) sells a lethal missile fire system: R400s to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. There is proof via photos of their products at Sydney airport. Both countries EOS sell to have been involved in war crimes in Yemen, bombing civilians and civilian infrastructure. Bombing civilians is a war crime. The war in Yemen is 5 years old in March 2020. It's possible that EOS is also selling to other war torn environments and dictatorships such as Mali and Congo given that their weapons exports are increasing significantly and 90% of their income is exports.



Read more at <https://www.wagepeaceau.org/justice-e...> Sign this petition now <http://bit.ly/NoArms4Yemen> and join www.wagepeaceau.org to stay up to date

"EOS is selling weapons to Saudi Arabia & Israel, states involved in wars & human rights abuses. We're calling on the Australian Government to cancel EOS' export licences, withdraw its support of the arms trade and lessen its military spending"

Watch a video of the protest [here](#)

NEW ZEALAND / AOTEAROA

➤ Global military spending increases, New Zealand ranks in report

(27 April 2020)

Shamefully, this year New Zealand is ranked at number 13 in the SIPRI table ranking the highest increases in military spending around the world. The SIPRI figures, which are based on self-reporting by the government, put the 2019 increase at 19%.

However, the government figures do not include military spending across all three of the Budget Votes where it is mostly itemised: Vote Defence, Vote Defence Force and Vote Education. The increase in military spending in the 2019 Budget - the first 'Wellbeing Budget' - when compared with the allocation in the 2018 Budget was 24.73%.^[3]

The allocation for military spending in last year's 'Wellbeing Budget' increased to a record total of \$5,058,286,000 (NZ) - an average of \$97,274,730 (NZ) every week. By way of contrast, more than 20% of children here are estimated to live in a family with an income below the poverty line, and an estimated one in one hundred New Zealanders are homeless.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, essential public services including health, education, support for persons with disabilities and housing desperately needed increased spending, yet the government continues to prioritise military spending - in addition to the increase in last year's Budget, in June 2019 the government announced that it would spend \$(NZ)20 billion over the next decade on increased combat capability, frigates and military aircraft.

The shocking increase in military spending - whether here in Aotearoa or around the world - shows the same dominant ideology that focuses on outdated narrow military security concepts, rather than real human security that meets the needs of all, continues to harm us all.

If there is any lesson to be learnt from the current pandemic, surely it is that there must be a transition from combat-ready armed forces to civilian agencies that meet the needs of all peoples and the planet.

Link to share:

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/peace-movement-aotearoa/global-military-spending-increases-new-zealand-ranks-in-report/2895290027185014>

Online actions - Peace Movement Aotearoa

Peace Movement Aotearoa held an online action on the occasion of GDAMS 2020: “Here in Aotearoa New Zealand - where the number of children living in families with an income below the poverty line and the level of homelessness continues to rise, and there is a desperate need for more social funding - a record \$(NZ)5,058,286,000 was allocated for military spending in the 2019 'Wellbeing' Budget... that's an average of \$97,274,730 every week. In June 2019, a further \$(NZ)20 billion over the next decade (additional to each year's annual expenditure) was announced for increased combat capability.”

Find out more [here](#).

➤ ANZAC Day virtual peace activities

This year we are moving online for the ANZAC Day peace events, and this note has the details of how you can participate in a range of activities - pictures, posters, photos and poetry for peace, and the ANZAC Day virtual peace vigil - as well as information about the 2020 White Poppies for Peace annual appeal, and the forthcoming release of the 2019 global military spending figures.

The relevance of the key message of the nationwide ANZAC Day peace vigils - **‘honour the war dead by ending war’** - seems more apparent this year than ever before. The absurd folly of military spending and endless preparation for war is highlighted as the death toll from COVID-19 continues to rise. Health systems and social welfare around the world are under siege due to decades of inadequate funding, while military spending continues to increase in all states that maintain combat ready armed forces, including New Zealand.

And military spending is not the only issue - the prioritising of military activity above public health here in Aotearoa can be seen in this week's military training exercises in South Auckland, which are proceeding despite the level 4 lockdown (see for example, <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceMovementAotearoa/posts/2867823906598293>) and

the US insistence that RIMPAC, the biennial military invasion of Hawai'i, will continue (see, <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceMovementAotearoa/posts/2854691427911541> for example, <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceMovementAotearoa/posts/2854691427911541>).

This year's ANZAC Day virtual peace activities are an opportunity for you to share your hope and dreams for a better world, or your thoughts on one or more of the themes of the annual peace vigils: to remember all the casualties of war, to remember all who resisted war, to call for an end to war, and to promote peace. If you are homeschooling in your bubble, this is a perfect opportunity to add creative peace activities into the curriculum over this week.

Read more about this [here](#).

JAPAN

➤ Peace Boat

Peace Boat joined GDAMS one more year by sharing its message and infographic.

"Today, we reflect upon the costs of war. The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has shown the world where humanity's priorities should lie, and that huge military spending is not able to protect lives and people's security"

"Peace Boat is participating in the Global Campaign on Military Spending #GCOMS, between April 10-May 9. We are sharing the message to #MovetheMoney to #HealthcareNotWarfare through a range of webinars and online events."

S KOREA

➤ Joint Statement: Reduce Military Spending to deal with the Climate Crisis and COVID-19

Find the Statement on the PSPD website [here](#).

The whole world is in an emergency state due to the spread of COVID-19. As of April 26, the global toll of confirmed patients amounts to around 2.88 million, along with 200 thousand deaths.



We are going through “the most challenging crisis since the Second World War”.

Today (April 27), we gather here for the Global Days of Action on Military Spending(GDAMS) 2020. We gravely face a shattered “security” for which astronomical military expenditures have been spent but were revealed to be helpless in the reality of a spread of a new virus, COVID-19.

According to [the Trends in World Military Expenditure 2019](#) from the Stockholm International Peace Research(SIPRI) that was released today, Total global military expenditure rose to \$1917 billion in 2019 with a 3.6 percent increase from 2018, which is 2.377 quadrillion in KRW. Military expenditure of South Korea is placed at the tenth, a fixed world status for seven years in a row since 2013. The national defense budget that has been rising at an average annual rate of 7.5% after the inauguration of the Moon administration reaches 50.1527 trillion KRW in 2020.

However, **high-tech weapons and immense military spending could not solve the COVID-19 crisis, nor did they secure our lives.** The global spread of COVID-19 pandemic is asking us what “security” for humans is. It warns us of our wrongly placed priorities in the meanwhile. To this day, our taxes have been primarily distributed on “national security”. A reckless arms buildup cost us chances to invest in policies for the livelihood of citizens and their safety. The fact that Korea’s military spending ranks the global tenth but the social welfare expenditure compared to GDP is placed at the bottom of OECD, exemplifies this. While Korea is evaluated as a model nation to deal with COVID-19 at the moment, the budget that is directly linked to the health and safety of citizens is greatly inadequate compared to the amount set aside for the military. It is appalling that the 2020 response budget for emerging infectious diseases was only 200 billion won and there was none allocated for public medical institution expansion. At this rate, there are rising concerns about chaos and damage that will be inevitable once the second wave of COVID-19 swoops down.

It is the time to reconstruct the national policy priorities to be “human security” instead of “military security”. Until recently, the government and the ruling party have been colliding upon who the grant subjects should be for the COVID-19 emergency crisis support funding. However, what is required here is a change in the way of thinking rather than mere finances. There would be enough



funds once we confront the threats to life and coordinate the policy priorities accordingly. The curtailment of the budget for defense capability improvement that was planned to obtain the weapons system can be immediately reconsidered in a constructive manner. We are glad to note a recent government decision to redirect 900 billion KRW of the military budget to provide for the emergency crisis support fund. South Korea has become the first nation in the world to cut down its military spending to respond to COVID-19, adding on to its high reputation for COVID-19 disinfection, etc.

Be that as it may, this is not enough, for this was not an actual budget cut from weapons obtainment, but a reduction from the disused amount due to the drop in oil prices, the abroad testing cost for maritime operation helicopters that is expected to be cancelled, the already cancelled reserve force training cost, and the adoption cost of American weapons that has been postponed until next year. This is the background of the report Ministry of Defense has made, about how there won't be any setbacks in adopting weapons from abroad because of the supplementary budget. Starting from this reduction, the cutback of military expenditures should be thoroughly scrutinized. There has been accumulated projects that must be closely examined of their validity and order of priority, such as the 6 trillion construction cost of the aggressive Korea Triad System(Kill Chain, KAMD, KMFR) which term was changed but the plan still in progress, 1 trillion of development cost for Korean Fighter program (KF-X) which plan has become uncertain due to the technology transfer rejection from the US and unpaid shared expenses of Indonesia, and the shared expenses for defense to host US armed forces in South Korea.

The COVID-19 pandemic warns us of the seriousness of climate crisis. While the exact reason for the proliferation is yet to be revealed, the experts point out a close relation between the emergence of new infectious disease and climate change. WHO has warned that infectious diseases will increase 4.7% corresponding to each 1°C rise in the Earth's average temperature, and <Comprehensive Report on Responses to COVID-19> presented last April 7 by the National Assembly Research Service also indicated that as there are more frequent contacts between humans and wild animals due to climate change and damages in the ecosystem, there are increasing cases in which the destruction of the environment leads to infectious diseases. We have vividly witnessed how the climate crisis can actually threaten our lives.

South Korea is placed at seventh in CO2 emissions and is among the countries with the most rapid growth rate in greenhouse gas emissions. While there is a significant portion of South Korea's responsibility in intensifying the climate crisis, the South Korean government has not for a single time kept its goal of greenhouse gas emissions since the initial establishment of the target. The greenhouse gas released during military activities has also been identified as one of the main reasons that cause the climate

change, but no proper control or reduction of greenhouse gas in the military sector took place. Now is the time to invest budget and switch the policies to stop the climate change, and the key lies in the cutback of military spending.

We request. Let us change the set priorities of “security”, and invest our resources to save people and the Earth rather than to prepare for war. The government should entirely convert all defense and diplomatic measures in the direction to establish peace in a peaceful manner instead of recklessly increasing military expenditures. Let’s utilize the drastic reduction of the military expenditures to alleviate social inequality, solve the climate crisis, and contribute to international cooperation for COVID-19 pandemic control and humanitarian aid.

April 27, 2020

Civilian Military Watch

Green Korea United

Korean Climate Emergency Action

Korea-Vietnam Peace Foundation

PEACEMOMO

People’s Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD)

World Without War

번역 : 윤혜원 자원활동가 / *Translation* : Hyewon Yoon

감수 : 참여연대 평화군축센터 / *Proofreading* : PSPD Statement [[See/Download](#)] [Korean Version >>](#)

PHILIPPINES

➤ **GDAMS actions by Stop the War! Coalition and Zoto (Zone One Tondo).**

On April 27 they released the GDAMS Statement to media friends in the region and in the country, as well as through Mailing Lists. This poster/ FB cover was made from artworks done by young people from urban poor communities in Manila. All planned activities in communities had to be postponed, so organizers decided to wait until it's possible to gather physically.



Stop the War Coalition is trying to oppose the Philippine government's purchase of 2 billion USD worth of attack helicopters, ammunition, surveillance equipment, etc. Read more about it here and sign this petition to stop the sale: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdi5v4k8N5ZEopKWsDQe8W0mLjat3rdbdzImQmTO1T7KF5EzQ/viewform>

Webinar "Peace and the Pandemic": On May 21, Corazon Fabros participated in representation of Stop the War Coalition on the webinar "Peace and the Pandemic" with participants from Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Kashmir and India and focused on military spending, using GCOMS resource materials and also presenting IPB's petition to support the UN Call for global ceasefire and to stop military exercises.

Stop the War Coalition - Philippines also participated in the #MoveTheMoney selfie campaign.



EUROPE

CYPRUS

➤ **AHDR call to action during GDAMS**

The Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR) which works for dialogue and an Education for a Culture of Peace in Cyprus, shared the GDAMS materials and call to action on its [newsletter](#).

GERMANY

➤ **IPB Webinar - 22 April 2020**

The Opportunity Costs of Military Spending: How and Why it's Time to Rethink Our Priorities - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (CET, GMT+2)

On the 22th of April 2020, IPB held a webinar "The Opportunity Costs of Military Spending" that brought together young peace activists from across the world -- from Argentina to Germany, Liberia to India -- to discuss the realities of military spending & strategies and tools we can use to effect change.

As part of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) 2020, IPB hosted a webinar for students and young professionals interested in learning more about how military expenditures weigh up against social spending on issues such as combating climate change, improving infrastructure, and investing in education. The webinar started with an overview of worldwide and country-specific military spending based on available data from SIPRI and other reliable sources. Subsequently, the group looked at the figures for spending on various social programs.

In addition to presenting a review of military and social spending, the webinar laid out practical methods and procedures of demilitarization and disarmament at a



MILITARY SPENDING COSTS US THE EARTH

ARTWORK BY ESCIF

The Opportunity Costs of Military Spending: How and Why it's Time to Rethink our Priorities

22 April 2020 | 11:00-13:00 | Online Webinar

Join us for a workshop and dialogue that critically examines global military budgets and imagines how these resources could be reallocated to social causes and development such as combating climate change, improving infrastructure, and investing in education.

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IPB is a registered nonprofit organization with its headquarters in Berlin, Germany. Working with a network of member organizations in over 20 countries, its main mission is a world without war.

IPB
International
Peace Bureau

governmental level as well as how individuals can engage others in the conversation to produce societal change and pressure on national governments.

Participants were given the opportunity to brainstorm and share their ideas with each other and the IPB team and explored how they can best use their skills to engage in the conversation about disarmament and demilitarization.



The event was held online and was presented by Reiner Braun, Executive Director of IPB and Amela Skiljan, IPB Coordinator, and discussion was led by IPB Interns Eskil Grav and Sean Conner. More info at IPB's [website](#).

➤ Liberation Day Advertisement at the Süddeutsche Zeitung.

Announcement at the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* calling for disarmament, made possible by the International Peace Bureau, Abrüsten statt Aufrüsten, DGB, GEW, IG Metall, NaturFreunde, Neue Entspannungspolitik jetzt!, ver.di.

“NO TO VIOLENCE. YES TO A CULTURE OF PEACE.

75 years after the end of the Second World War, peace is once again under threat. Even here in Europe it is fragile. Many things have grown uncertain and global threats have been exacerbated. The world, which has grown increasingly interdependent in a short period of time, shows new forms of violence and vulnerability. Social divisions are deepening, and the man-made climate crisis, the destruction of food resources and the struggle for raw materials are threatening us. The worldwide spread of the corona pandemic is also used to create or cement authoritarian structures. It hits the poorest and weakest particularly hard. Last but not least, nationalists are trying to use the uncertainty for their lousy propaganda. **Those who want peace must fight for peace.** The frequently heard demand that Europe learn the ‘language of power’ (Munich Security Conference) and develop its military capabilities is wrong. **Further militarization will not solve any of our problems. Rather, we need to bring social, ecological and economic conflicts back into the civil sphere.** Otherwise the ghosts of the past will return, bringing only death and destruction. **A new arms race is already in full swing.** Ten countries alone account for around 75 percent of global military expenditure. Germany is in seventh place. Expenditure on armaments and the military

➤ Center for Feminist Foreign Policy

The Center for Feminist Foreign Policy shared the GDAMS infographic 'Healthcare Not Warfare' on their social media (@feministfp)

"We need fewer soldiers, jets, tanks and aircraft carriers and more doctors, ambulances and hospitals."

UNITED KINGDOM

➤ Women in Black - April 20-26, London: Invest in Healthcare not Warfare

While unable to vigil in Central London, Women in Black kept working against militarism and war. Women in Black London focused the week of April 20-26 on the Global Days of Action on Military Spending sharing its infographics and supporting IPB's petition to invest in healthcare not warfare.

Visit their Facebook page [here](#) or Twitter [here](#).



➤ Peace Pledge Union - Joint letter

Peace Pledge Union published a joint letter about military spending and coronavirus. Nineteen charities, NGOs and other organisations have signed this open letter, including Colin Archer, as a representative of the GCOMS UK Working Group.

Covid 19 is a deadly reminder that armed force cannot make us safe. People around the world have the same needs and face many of the same threats. We urgently need to stop accepting “defence” and “security” as euphemisms for war and militarism.

Military personnel have taken part in building the Nightingale Hospital in London and the Dragon's Heart Hospital in Cardiff. The arms company Babcock is diverting some resources to produce ventilators. These initiatives, which involve just a small percentage of the armed forces and arms industry, should be the first step in reallocating “defence” resources to defending us from the most serious threats to our security.

While NHS staff struggle with insufficient protective equipment, nuclear submarines patrol at a cost of billions, powerless to defend us from a pandemic. While some armed forces personnel are helpfully delivering medical supplies, others are increasing military tension by participating in NATO exercises – scaled back but not cancelled despite coronavirus. UK troops train Saudi forces who have attacked civilians in Yemen.

The UK government's security reviews in 2010, 2015 and 2018 identified pandemics as a serious security threat. Despite this, they chose to increase spending on armed force, maintaining the seventh highest military expenditure in the world. Recent wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya demonstrate that deep-seated problems cannot be solved with bombs. War makes the whole world less safe.

Money diverted from military budgets could contribute towards NHS and social care costs, initiatives to assist those losing their jobs and support for people whose mental health is affected by isolation. Longer term, we need to re-orient the economy towards socially useful production and shift “defence” resources away from militaristic approaches and towards tackling serious threats to human security, including pandemics, poverty and climate change.

You can also consult this letter [here](#).

➤ Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)

CND called to action on GDAMS through a piece by Kate Hudson (CND General Secretary): “**A global struggle: healthcare not warfare**”

Hudson echoes here the words of Dave Webb, CND Chair and member of the GCOMS steering group: ““This year the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) are taking place from April 10th until May 9th. During this time peace and justice campaigners around the world will be highlighting the ridiculous and unsustainable levels of global military spending – over \$1.82 trillion a year, equivalent to \$239 per person every day. The **UK 2020 defence budget is £55 billion**, the 7th highest in the world and over 2% of our GDP – as requested by NATO. This represents a substantial increase over previous years. We had been warned of the possibility of a wide-spread pandemic for sometime – it was one of the first tier threats in the 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review – but were totally unprepared for it when it happened. Meanwhile, the government is prepared to continue with Trident Replacement at an eventual total cost of over £205 billion and with the purchase of 138 F-35 jet fighters, costing £85 million each. (...)

Military spending is costing the Earth and reallocating defence budgets would help finance an adequate response to both the coronavirus crisis and the challenge of climate change. It would assist the urgent transition toward more peaceful, just, and sustainable societies and economies.”

Read the full article [here](#)

➤ Yorkshire CND

Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament joined GDAMS by [sharing](#) its infographic and IPB’s petition to the United Nations.

➤ Pax Christi (England and Wales)

Pax Christi shared the GDAMS infographic on its social networks: “*Such a good infographic on military spending vs healthcare, worth sharing again!*”

➤ Medact - Webinar

Medact shared their online seminar “The arms industry in the era of COVID-19 - lessons for the future” with a reference to GDAMS.

“If you weren't able to make our webinar last week on 'The arms industry in the era of

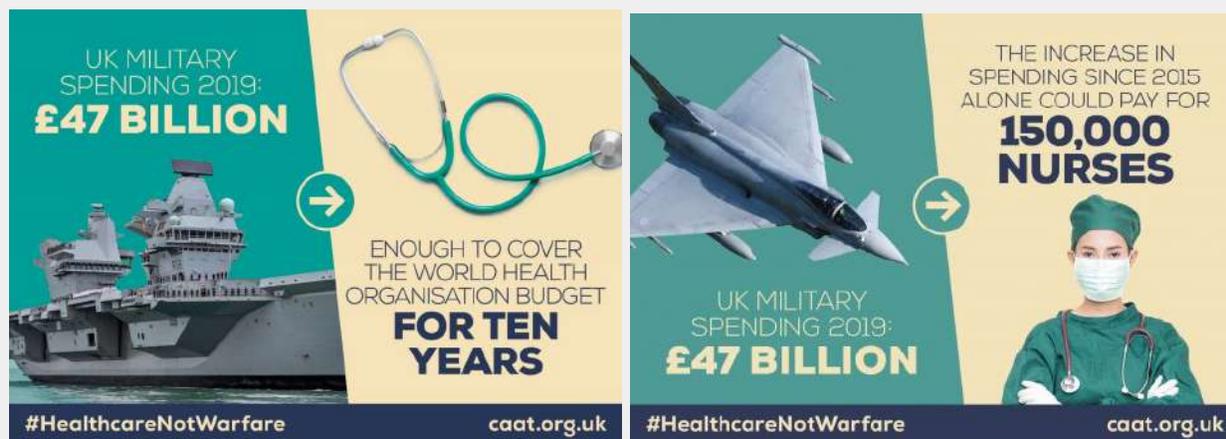
[#COVID19](#) - lessons for the future', you can now watch (& share) the talks by our brilliant speakers online [#GDAMS](#) [#HealthcareNotWarfare](#)

You can watch it [here](#).

➤ Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) - Online Campaign

CAAT reacted to the release of new data on military spending by SIPRI, a post-WW2 record in 2019: “As the world faces the challenge of Covid-19, we can see more than ever that our security isn't advanced by spending billions on nuclear weapons systems and aircraft carriers, but by building fairer societies that support the most vulnerable, and by investing in strong public services. Out of this crisis we must build a truly safer world, where real human needs are prioritised”. CAAT prepared their own infographics for the occasion and used their social media to spread the message.

“UK military spending in 2019 = £47 billion. The increase in spending since 2015 alone could pay for 150,000 nurses - or 6,000 ICU beds for a year. Time to [#MoveTheMoney](#) [#HealthcareNotWarfare](#) [#JustRecovery](#) [@DemilitarizeDay](#)”



See also the [article](#) by Caroline Jones on the occasion of GDAMS.

➤ Scottish CND

Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament join GDAMS on Social Media, sharing the Healthcare Not Warfare Infographic

“With the latest @SIPRIorg report on global military expenditure being released today, we looked at the UK's spending on Trident warheads as part of @DemilitarizeDay. #healthcarenotwarfare #ScrapTrident #nuclearban”

“Here is a fantastic infographic on global military spending by @DemilitarizeDay for #GDAMS on #HealthcareNotWarfare which puts into perspective the costs of war preparations in comparison with healthcare.”

➤ Abingdon Peace Group call to action during GDAMS

“Getting out onto the streets of Abingdon with a leaflet that we had ourselves produced was to have been our focus this month. And our theme was to have been the urgent need to divert the world's military spending to resolving the climate and other environmental crises. But then came Covid-19. Now unsurprisingly the emphasis has changed. The IPB (International Peace Bureau) slogan is 'Invest in Healthcare Instead of Militarization'. Of course there is no true conflict here. The peace movement has always stressed for example how many additional hospitals could be afforded by giving up a small number of Trident missiles; and indeed what we are arguing for is a diversion of human resources to satisfying genuine human needs”

➤ Huddersfield Quakers

Huddersfield Quakers shared the message and infographic of GDAMS on their social networks:

“Truly shocking statistics and priorities. As Quakers we will continue to witness and take action to help create a more just, equal, sustainable, peaceful and loving world”.

➤ Movement for the Abolition of War

Movement for the Abolition of War joined GDAMS by sharing its statement on [Facebook](#)



➤ Forces watch

Forces Watch a UK-based organisation that monitors British militarism shared our 2020 GDAMS statement on their [social media](#):

“Major reductions in military expenditure would free up resources not only to provide universal healthcare, but also to tackle climate and humanitarian emergencies. Some more simple actions to take to say [#DivestFromWar](#) and [#HealthcareNotWarfare](#)”

ITALY

➤ Online actions coordinated by Rete Italiana per il Disarmo

Besides the press conference held on April 27, Rete Italiana per il Disarmo, Sbilanciamoci! and Rete della Pace made a proposal on the occasion of GDAMS 2020 to the Italian government: “a year moratoria for all military acquisitions of new weapons systems. It takes courage to put the true needs of the citizenship before the interests of the military-industrial complex”.

➔ moratoria di un anno su acquisto di nuovi sistemi d'arma (sia con fondi della Difesa che con fondi Mise)

➔ bloccare prima dell'approvazione la "Legge Terrestre" richiesta dall'Esercito

➔ risparmio possibile di oltre 6 miliardi sul 2021, da destinare a investimenti per scuola e sanità

#spesemilitari #SpotalSoldi #MovetheMoney

le proposte delle reti pacifiste

CONTROL/ARMI Sbilanciamoci! rete della pace IPB

La Giornata Civili di azione sulle spese militari sono promossa dalla Campagna CCOTIS e dall'International Peace Bureau

Rete Disarmo also prepared materials illustrating Italian military spending and the global figures by SIPRI, which were shared on their social media, and translated and adapted the 'Healthcare Not Warfare' infographic to the Italian context.

Spese militari italiane 2020 (previsione) **i dati MilEx**

➔ 26,3 miliardi di euro, il massimo registrato

➔ aumento di oltre il 6% (oltre 1,5 miliardi) sul 2018

➔ equivalenti a 436 euro per ogni cittadino italiano

➔ quasi 5,9 miliardi di euro per acquisto di nuovi armamenti

#spesemilitari #SpotalSoldi #MovetheMoney

CONTROL/ARMI Sbilanciamoci! rete della pace IPB

La Giornata Civili di azione sulle spese militari sono promossa dalla Campagna CCOTIS e dall'International Peace Bureau

Spese militari mondiali 2019 **i dati SIPRI**

➔ 1.917 miliardi di dollari, record storico

➔ crescita del 3,6% rispetto al 2018

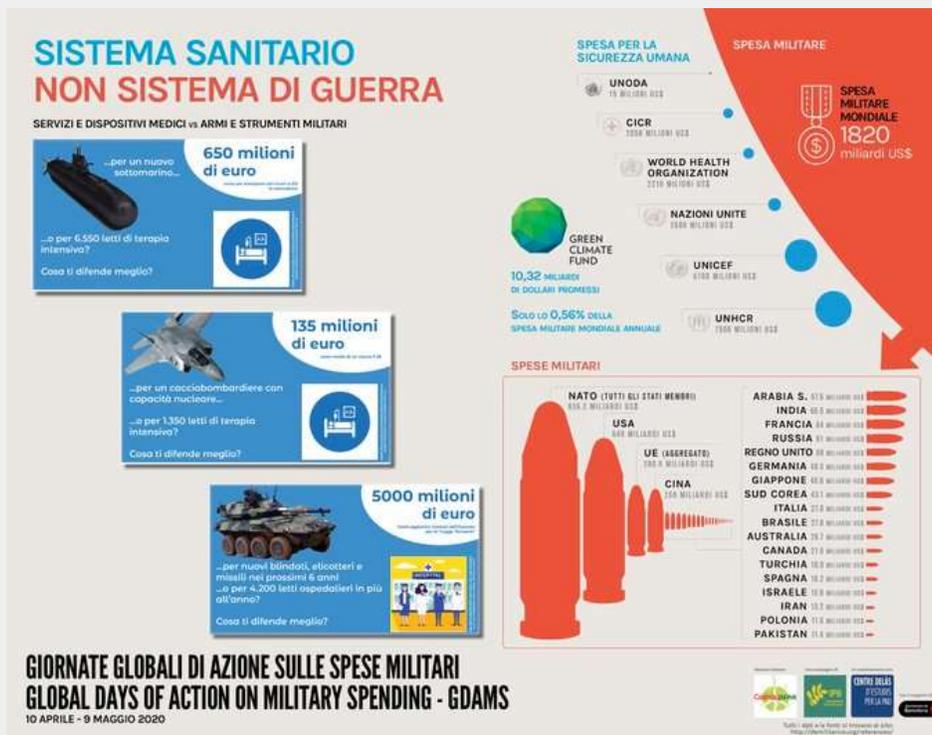
➔ equivalenti a 259 dollari per ogni abitante della terra

➔ i primi 15 Stati totalizzano l'81% (pari a 1.553 miliardi di dollari)

#spesemilitari #SpotalSoldi #MovetheMoney

CONTROL/ARMI Sbilanciamoci! rete della pace IPB

La Giornata Civili di azione sulle spese militari sono promossa dalla Campagna CCOTIS e dall'International Peace Bureau



➤ Webinar by Rete Disarmo

Meeting of Rete disarmo (the Italian Network for Disarmament) organised by Percorri la Pace (ACLI Bresciane) and US Acli on April the 27th with the collaboration of Coop. Cattolico-democratica di Cultura, Comm. Diocesana Giustizia e Pace, Movimento Nonviolento, Movimento dei Focolari, OPAL and Pax Christi.

Speakers included:

Fabio Corazzina -

Per...corri la pace

Carlo Cefaloni -

redactor of "Città Nuova"

Francesco Vignarca -

Rete Disarmo



in collaborazione con:
Coop. Cattolico-democratica di Cultura,
Comm. Diocesana Giustizia e Pace,
Missione Oggi, Movimento Nonviolento,
Movimento dei Focolari, OPAL, Pax Christi.

"di pane e non di fucili abbiamo bisogno"

don Fabio Corazzina • per...corri la pace
Carlo Cefaloni • redattore di "Città Nuova"
Francesco Vignarca • coordinatore Rete Disarmo

Lunedì 27 aprile 2020 ore 21
diretta streaming sui canali ACLI Bresciane

www.aclibresciane.it

➤ Movimento Nonviolento

Movimento Nonviolento (Nonviolent Movement) joined GDAMS by sharing a [video](#) dedicated to “military distancing”.

"In tempo di pandemia, EBCO (European Bureau for Conscientious Objection) e Movimento Nonviolento si sono uniti per dire che vi è un distanziamento sempre utile: quello dalle nostre coscienze dalla guerra e dalla sua preparazione. Abbiamo così preparato questo video con le foto dei tanti attivisti che dalle loro case hanno voluto esprimere un messaggio antimilitarista di pace e Nonviolenza." Il Movimento Nonviolento aderisce alle Giornate Globali di Azione sulle Spese Militari (Global Days of Action on Military Spending – GDAMS) indette in Italia dalla Rete Italiana per il Disarmo."

➤ Radio programme

May 7, at 18:00 pm on www.radiobarrio.it

Episode dedicated to "Global Campaign on military Spending" (in ITALIAN). With Franco Uda of the Presidency Arci nazionale and Francesco Vignarca, spokesperson for the Rete Italiana per il Disarmo, to talk about Italy's economic choices that, in the middle of this crisis, increases military spending.



➤ IRIAD - Archivio Disarmo calls to action on GDAMS

IRIAD shared the GDAMS infographic and brought attention to this period of action.

“Un altro po' di dati dalla GCOMS su spese per gli armamenti e spese per la salute e la prevenzione dei rischi a livello globale. Sono in corso i [#GDAMS](#) Global Days of Action on Military Spending. Bisogna mantenere alta l'attenzione sul tema”.

➤ Atlante delle Guerre e dei conflitti dei Mondo

Atlante delle Guerre shared an [article](#) including GDAMS materials in Italian prepared by Rete Disarmo on April 25, with occasion of the liberation of fascism, which considers a good moment to rethink the usefulness of military spending. *“E adesso liberiamoci dalle*

armi. Buon 25 aprile Festa della Liberazione dal nazi fascismo dalla redazione dell'Atlante. Un'occasione per ripensare anche all'inutilità della spesa militare che va tagliata e riconvertita”

SPAIN

➤ Centre Delas of Peace Studies: GDAMS infographic and online actions

Centre Delàs of Peace Studies prepared and shared infographics and reflections on military spending within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spain, bringing attention to the vast opportunity costs of military outlays and to human security-based alternatives.



Centre Delàs adapted the GDAMS infographic to the Spanish case, comparing its military spending (more than 20 billion €) and its major arms programmes (such as Eurofighter jets, submarines, tanks or frigates), with the costs of health care equipment and personnel, much needed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This infographic follows the same logic as the general one from GDAMS, but **bringing attention to the imbalance between expenditure in health services and what has been spent in weapons systems in Spain for the last two decades and what's been approved for new weapons programmes.**

This infographic was launched at the same time as the April 27 press conference was held. Together with a press release ([here](#)) and messages on social media, Centre Delàs and IPB Barcelona demanded the cancellation of all new arms programmes approved by the current government (over 13 billion €) and a major reduction of Spanish Military Spending. This infographic was **widely shared on social media**, reaching also political parties as [Compromís](#) (València), Més Mallorca or [CUP](#) (Catalonia)

You can download this infographic [here](#) with translations available in Catalan and Euskera.

➤ Webinar by ADN V ‘Deconfining our minds, unlearning war’

A representative of GCOMS (Quique Sánchez) and a military spending expert from Centre Delàs (Pere Ortega) participated in the first session of this series of webinars (in Spanish) organised by Acción Directa Noviolenta (ADNV). This first session took place on April 29 and hosted a discussion on **military spending and tax resistance to war** as a form of civil disobedience. The webinar also included a representative of Mujeres de Negro (Women in Black) and was organised with the collaboration of Ben Magec - Ecologistas en Acción, Radio Guinguada and Radio pimienta.

You can watch this webinar [here](#)



➤ Webinar by Centre Delàs: “Virus, fear, security and loss of rights”

In this online seminar (May 5), experts of Centre Delàs analysed and reflected on the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of security, militarization and rights. They also reflected on the loss of liberties and on the social control mechanisms that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about. Are measures taken necessary and proportional? How do we avoid their normalization? Which of these measures will become permanent? What's the impact of this situation on vulnerable communities?

Virus, por, seguretat i pèrdua de drets

Reflexions del Centre Delàs davant la crisi del Covid-19

5 de Maig | 17:00 Hores | Webinar

TICA FONT
Por, control social i pèrdua de drets

PERE BRUNET
Inteligència artificial pel control social

XEMA MOYA
Tecnologies de control

ANNA MONTULL
Metàfores i comunicació de la crisi

ARES PERCEVAL
Actes racistes, xenòfobs i l'odi en temps de crisi

FRANCESCA MONTANARI
El crim organitzat i el COVID-19

JORDI CALVO
Virus i conflictes armats

EDGARD VEGA
Militarització a Amèrica Llatina en el context de Covid-19

AINHOA RUIZ
Fronteres i moviment després de la crisi

PERE ORTEGA
Seguretat humana i seguretat militar

QUIQUE SÁNCHEZ
Despesa militar per sanitat

NORA MIRALLES
Llibertats, militarització i gènere en temps de coronavirus

Es pot visitar a l'enllaç: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4467656367>
ID de reunió: 446 765 6367

CENTRE DELÀS
D'ESTUDIS
PER LA PAU

You can watch it on [Youtube](#) (in Spanish)

➤ 15M (Zaragoza) shares GDAMS infographic

The platform [shared](#) the Healthcare not Warfare infographic and a reflexion on our priorities as a society.

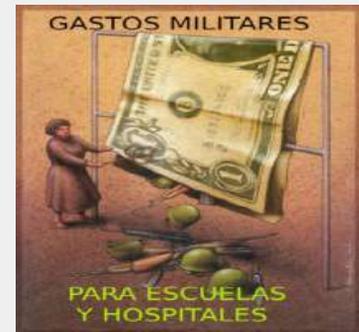
➤ Greenpeace Spain

Greenpeace España shared the article of Greenpeace International by Jen Maman 'Redefining safety' (page 84) and supported its call to reduce military spending and rethink our security paradigm.

“Los nuevos datos de SIPRI elevan a 1,9 billones de dólares el gasto militar mundial de 2019. La crisis del COVID-19 nos ha enseñado que la seguridad y potencial militar no son lo mismo. ¡Redefinamos la seguridad!”

➤ USTEA - Educational toolkit

This toolkit (in Spanish) has been prepared by a teachers union from Andalusia to help teachers start a conversation with students on militarism & military spending. This toolkit includes [songs](#), tales, articles and GCOMS maps and infographics.



Please, find the toolkit [here](#) (in Spanish)

USTEA also published two articles compiling actions and readings for GDAMS. You can find them [here](#) and [here](#). Branches of this union in **Cádiz** and **Granada** also shared GDAMS materials and message.



➤ Pobresa Zero (Valencia) shares GDAMS infographic

This campaign against poverty shared the Healthcare not Warfare infographic on its [social media](#): “Department of Defence spends on a tank what 440 ventilators cost. Each shot of a Leopard vehicle equals 90 covid-19 tests. Let’s invest in healthcare what we spend on the military. Let’s invest in saving lives”.

➤ Coordinadora d'ONG de Lleida - Online Actions



Coordinadora d'ONG de Lleida and AMS de Lleida joined the actions of GDAMS by raising awareness through social media and encouraging people to do tax resistance to military spending. Find more details on the online actions [here](#)

➤ **Joint Statement by 3 organizations in Cádiz.**

Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos, Ecologistas en Acción and USTEA Cádiz joined to demand a reallocation of military spending to tackle the crisis provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Find out more [here](#)

➤ **Joint statement by basque organizations**

Nine Basque organizations support GCOMS in their demand to invest in social spending instead of militarization and denounce the militaristic management of the COVID-19 health crisis. These organization include: AA-KEM-MOC Nafarroa, Bake-Ekintza Antimilitarista, Centre Delàs (Delegación Vasca), Emakumeok Gerraren Aurka, Gerrarik Ez Eibar, Gerra Hemen Hasten da/La Guerra Empieza Aquí, Gernika Gogoratuz, Kakitzat koordinakunde Antimilitarista and KEM-MOC Bilboko Talde Antimilitarista.

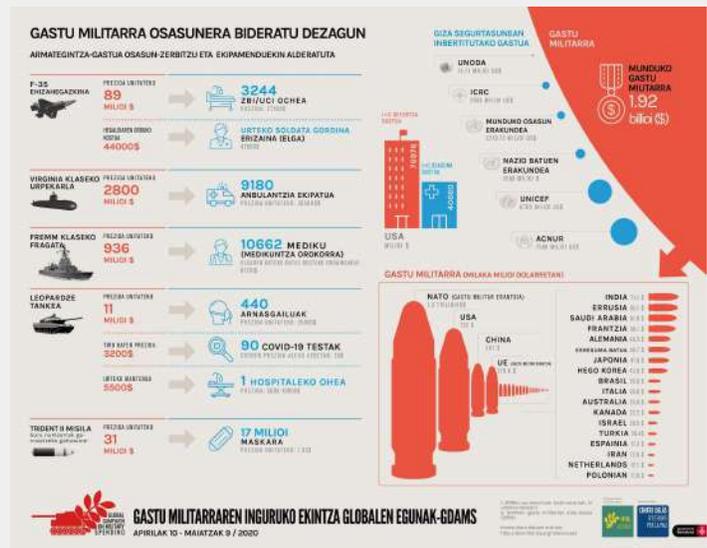
“We shouldn’t and can’t go back to “normal”, as “normal” was already a state of crisis. We are aware it is not going to be an easy task, as nowadays economic interests prevail over the rights and needs of people, but, at the same time, the global health crisis we are enduring can help us reconsider the sinister direction which we had taken as societies”

Read the full statement (in Spanish or Euskera) [here](#)

➤ **USTEC-STES**

The secretary of social movements of the Catalan teachers union USTEC-STES shared information on GDAMS, including its 2020 infographic on the organization’s [blog](#). This post also compiled all educational tools and possible actions to be carried out by students and teachers.

➤ Translation of GDAMS infographics to Euskera by Bake Ekintza



➤ Desarma Madrid - Online Actions

The Madrid-based movement joined GDAMS for the second time by sharing materials and articles via online. Find out more about them here:

<https://twitter.com/DesarmaMadrid>

➤ KEM-MOC Bilbao joined GDAMS



The antimilitarist group of Bilbao (Basque country) joined GDAMS by sharing a pictures and the motto “military spending to social services”

[#GastosMilitaresParaServiciosSociales](#) [#GastuMilitarrakZerbitzuSozialetarako](#)

➤ APDHA

The Andalusian Association for Human Rights (APDHA), a non-profit working for the promotion and defense of Human Rights, joined GDAMS for the first time to demand a reorientation of military spending towards social spending, in particular to health care. APDHA shared the GDAMS materials on their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, wrote an [op-ed](#) and joined the Move The Money selfie campaign with dozens of pictures.



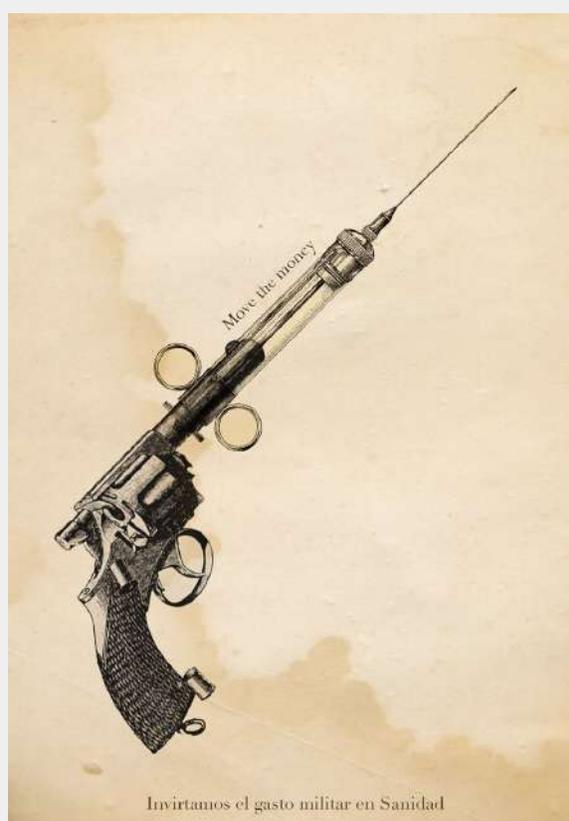
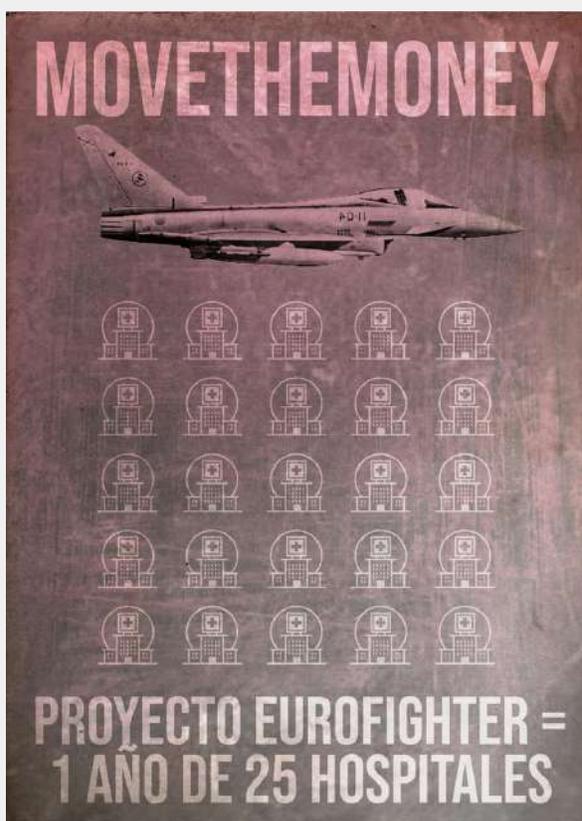
➤ MEP Miguel Urban supports GDAMS

The Member of the European Parliament Miguel Urbán Crespo publicly supported GDAMS and shared the infographic adapted to the Spanish case and the petition formulated by Centre Delàs and IPB.

“¿Cuánto gastamos en armamento y cuánto gastamos (o recortamos) en sanidad? Los datos del [@CentreDelas](#) y [@IntlPeaceBureau](#) son alarmantes: -Recortes en sanidad en 2008 y 2009: entre 15.000 y 21.000 millones de € -Gasto militar español en 2019: 20.050 millones de € [#GDAMS2020](#)”

➤ Mario Gargon (artist) - Artwork in support of GDAMS

The Spanish artist Mario Gargon created these 2 images in support of GDAMS and its Healthcare Not Warfare message.



➤ La Guerra Empieza Aquí (War starts here) online actions and manifest.

This basque organization joined the manifest on support of GDAMS and shared it on their social [media](#).

➤ **Bake Ekintza: video on the occasion of Guernica's bombing**

On the 83th anniversary of Guernica's bombing, Bake Ekintza, a Basque antimilitarist group, shared a compilation video of actions carried out on the occasion with references to GDAMS and to Spanish military expenditure. Watch it [here](#).

➤ **Marea blanca de Lleida**

This platform of health personnel and users in defence of public health care shared on their [social media](#) our infographic and the petition by Centre Delàs to reorientate military spending and new arms programmes' money to healthcare and social services.

➤ **Ecologistas en acción, tax resistance campaign.**

Ecologistas en acción (Ecologists in Action) joined the Spanish campaign for fiscal objection based on “the non-disposition to collaborate with the State in the war spending and maintaining the military structure, disobeying actively in the moment of the annual tax declaration.” For this purpose they used the comparison made by Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau for GDAMS, where they analyze the 2019 Spanish military spending comparing the amount of money they could have invested in healthcare, something crucial in a pandemic context such as ours. Find more [here](#).

➤ **Espazo aberto antimilitar shared GDAMS materials**

The Galician group shared the GDAMS infographic prepared by Centre Delàs at their [website](#) and used it as a way to encourage people to do tax resistance.

➤ **Antimilitarist and Nonviolent Network of Andalusia**

Red Antimilitarista y Noviolenta de Andalucía joined GDAMS and [shared](#) the statement and infographic 'Healthcare not Warfare'.

➤ **Justícia i Pau joined GDAMS one more year.**

The Catalan peace organization joined GDAMS by sharing the infographic and the IPB petition on its social media.

➤ **Senator Mulet presented questions to the Spanish Government**

Senator Carles Mulet, from the Valencian political party ‘Compromís’ presented several questions to the Spanish Government at the Senate regarding military spending prospects after the COVID-19 health emergency. The spokesperson of Compromís demanded more transparency to the government in relation with military spending hidden in departments other than Defense and demanded a reallocation of budget given to new weapon’s programmes. He used the comparison between health equipment and weapons elaborated by GCOMS and Centre Delàs and claimed that citizens are entitled to decide what their money is spent on.

Find out more in this [news article](#).

See the registered questions at the Senate [here](#).

Compromís also shared our infographic and message on their [social media](#) together with the message: “We need to rethink military spending and dedicate it to rescue people”.

➤ **Motion at the Senate for the reallocation of military spending towards healthcare by ‘Més per Mallorca’.**

The regional party ‘Més per Mallorca’ submitted a motion in the Spanish Senate through its Senator Vicenç Vidal Matas to demand the reallocation of military spending towards health care. The group denounced how military spending in Spain is 4 times higher that the total budget of the Balearic region. The group also created 3 infographics based on the reference provided by GCOMS and Centre Delàs.





➤ **CUP Sant Andreu shares infographic**

The Catalan political party CUP, Sant Andreu's branch, shared on their [social media](#) the infographic of Spanish military spending created by GCOMS and Centre Delàs, together with the message "Let's invest in healthcare military spending!" and this image:



GREECE

➤ **Inter Alia - Online campaigning**

Inter Alia joined GDAMS for the second time by sharing its message and infographic on social media.

“Would you sacrifice more than 3000 Intensive Care Unit beds to have one more fighter jet? Maybe you don't have to answer, because someone has already opted for the jet. Let's move the money from what takes lives to what saves them!”

NORWAY

➤ Norges Fredslag - Online campaigning

Norges Fredslag joined GDAMS for one more year and shared its materials and IPB's petition on social media.

“Reduksjon av militære utgifter vil frigjøre store ressurser til helsevesen, og samtidig gjøre oss bedre rusta til å møte klima- og humanitære kriser. Denne epidemien kan inspirere oss til å prioritere menneskeliv over opprustning”.

They also joined the Move The Money selfie campaign sending and sharing 4 pictures.



FRANCE

➤ Mouvement de la paix

The organisation "Mouvement de la Paix" supported the GDAMS 2020 campaign with a Facebook article that you can consult (in french) [here](#) and by sharing information and petitions about the campaign on social media.

They also took action against the arms fair in Paris or elsewhere and the arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Join the movement [here](#).

You can also: Sign the petition against the Eurosatory [here](#).

Sign the petition against the arms sales to Saudi Arabia [here](#)

➤ Stop Fuelling War - Online actions and press release

Stop Fuelling War supported GDAMS 2020 campaign by sharing one of the campaign's infographics on its social networks and calling for a reduction in military spending to reinvest in health, education and ecology.

“Infographie comparant le coût des systèmes d'armes au matériel et aux services de santé nécessaires pendant la pandémie [#COVID19](#) Les solutions ne peuvent venir du financement du matériel militaire mais plutôt en soutenant les soins de santé, l'éducation et l'écologie”

With the occasion of Europe's Day, Stop Fuelling War prepared a [press release](#): Communiqué de presse: Sortie de crise COVID-19, le choix de l'UE : œuvrer à la paix ou se préparer à la guerre?

Find out more about Stop Fuelling War [here](#).

FINLAND

➤ April 27 - Rauhanliitto - Online Action by Peace Union of Finland

Rauhanliitto supported GDAMS 2020 campaign by sharing one of the campaign's infographics on its social networks and calling for a reduction in military spending to reinvest in health care and human security, by sharing selfies, the GDAMS statement and a press release on April 27 that you can consult (in Finnish) [here](#).

Find Rauhanliitto's website [here](#).

➤ GDAMS Online Actions by Sadankomitea (Committee of 100)

Sadankomitea supported GDAMS 2020 campaign by sharing one of the campaign's infographics on its social networks and calling for a reduction in military spending to reinvest in human security.

Find Sadankomitea's website [here](#).

➤ May 5 - Aseistakieltäytyjäliitto (The Union of Conscientious Objectors)

Aseistakieltäytyjäliitto joined GDAMS by sharing its message and materials on their [social media](#).

“Vuonna 2019 maailman valtiot käyttivät sotilasmenoihin n. 1,77 biljoonaa euroa eli 1,77 miljoonaa miljoonaa euroa eli 1770 miljardia euroa! 1 770 000 000 000 €! Kasvua

edellisestä vuodesta tapahtui 3,6 %. Vertasi sotilaskuluja terveydenhuollon kuluihin. #GCOMS”

BELGIUM

➤ Vrede Vzw: Online Actions

Vrede Vzw supported GDAMS 2020 campaign by sharing the campaign's infographic on its social networks and calling for a reduction in military spending to reinvest in healthcare and human security.

Visit their website [here](#)

DENMARK

➤ The Peace-movement of Esbjerg - Virtual action

This year, the Peace-movement of Esbjerg held a virtual activity in connection with GDAMS 2020. For more information contact poul@peaceweb.dk.

Visit their website [here](#).

KOSOVO

➤ Kosovar Centre for Security Studies joined GDAMS

KCSS/QSSS (Qendra Kosovare për Studime të Sigurisë) joined GDAMS by sharing the Healthcare Not Warfare infographic:

“This great infographic exposes the spending gap between military and healthcare; High level of mistrust/hatred between people in the world; For all those thinking we are our main enemy, COVID-19 teaches us a very different story”

GDAMS 2020 NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



➤ April 27 - Joint statement: U.S. organizations react to global military spending 2019 figures

Our diverse group of 39 think-tanks, non-profits, faith-based organizations, and advocacy groups based in the United States find the exorbitant amount of money spent on military worldwide to be an irresponsible and harmful use of global wealth. The Global Military Expenditures Report released today shows that in 2019, countries spent \$1.917 trillion on militaries. As U.S.-based organizations, we are especially critical of the huge share spent by the United States, which accounted for 38% of military spending around the world in 2019. This is not just a U.S. issue, however, and we join organizations from Spain to New Zealand who are speaking out in response to this report. The devastating impact of this \$1.917 trillion in military spending has become painfully clear in the United States as we struggle to keep pace with the healthcare needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Had our government chosen to invest in hospitals, production of life-saving medical devices, and the training of medical professionals across the country in 2019, our health system would be better prepared to face the current threat to our safety. Instead, it chose to sink \$732 billion in taxpayer dollars into weapons and endless wars. The release of 2019 Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) data on global military expenditures reaffirms what has been true for decades - the United States spends an astronomical amount of money on the Pentagon. Under the guise of providing 'security,' this spending has actually made global communities less safe, hindered the global

economy, and contributed to environmental degradation. At a time when public health concerns are paramount, it is unconscionable that our leaders continue to pour money into weapons & war instead of prioritizing global cooperation and investment in industries like healthcare. Though our respective organizations' views may differ on why the bloated U.S. military budget is so harmful, we all agree on one thing- U.S military spending must be reduced. We call on the United States to reduce Pentagon spending.

National Organizations:

+Peace Alliance of Baptists American Friends Service Committee Beyond the Bomb Center for International Policy Center on Conscience & War Christian Peacemaker Teams Church of the Brethren Office of Peacebuilding and Policy Churches for Middle East Peace Church World Service CODEPINK Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces Friends Committee on National Legislation International Peace Research Association InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia Leadership Conference of Women Religious Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office National Council of Churches National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies Pax Christi USA Peace Action Presbyterian Church (USA) Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator Sisters of Mercy of the Americas- Justice Team The United Methodist Church- General Board of Church and Society Unitarian Universalists for Just Economic Communities (UUJEC) United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries US Labor Against the War Veterans for Peace Win Without War Women's Action for New Directions State and Local Organizations: Occupy Bergen County (N.J.) Pennsylvania Council of Churches Veterans for Peace Chapter 136- Central Florida Veterans for Peace Chapter 27 World Beyond War - Central Florida

You can download this statement [here](#).

➤ **AFSC online actions and advocacy**

American Friends Service Committee, besides coordinating the video released on April 27 (page 16) and the joint statement (above), launched a campaign on its social media, which include an easy-to-use form you can use to contact Congress.

“The United States has spent \$6.4 trillion on post-9/11 wars. These wars have killed more than 800,000 people and displaced at least 37 million more. This money could have had a transformative impact on things that would actually make our communities healthy, safe, and strong—like universal health care, education and peacebuilding. Instead, Congress continues to waste taxpayer dollars on weapons and war. It's time to reimagine security. We need significant cuts to the Pentagon budget, and for Congress to instead prioritize peacebuilding and investment in our communities.

Tell Congress: Stop spending our tax dollars on weapons and war and reinvest in our communities!

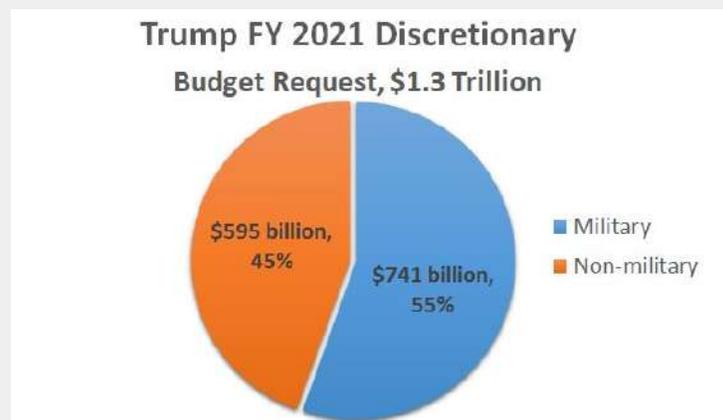
You can find this online tool [here](#)

➤ **GDAMS BRIEFING CALLS on Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS).**

Lack of preparedness for the COVID-19 epidemic reveals the potentially grave consequences of slashing social safety net spending while deluging the military-industrial complex with our tax dollars. Trump and the Pentagon are pressing yet another massive increase in military spending. Critics from Washington think tanks working with the Poor People's Campaign, reinforced by grassroots activists across the country are demanding that money be moved from wars and preparations for wars to addressing our urgent human needs: health, climate, housing, education and more.

1st Call - Thursday, March 19, 2020 8 – 9 pm EDT; 7 – 8 pm CDT; 6 – 7 pm MDT; 5 – 6 pm PDT

We hope that you will consider organizing a local event. To help you prepare for this year's GDAMS and for longer term efforts to change our national spending priorities, we have scheduled an inspiring briefing call featuring these two leading authorities on military spending and alternatives.



Lindsay Koshgarian: Lindsay's work and commentary on the federal budget and military spending has appeared on NPR, the BBC, CNN, The Nation, U.S. News and World Report, and others. Now at the Institute for Policy Studies, her work is at the intersection of military and domestic federal spending. She got her start as a clinic worker and organizer at Planned Parenthood in central and suburban Philadelphia, and

led economic development and affordable housing studies at the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute prior to joining the National Priorities Project in 2014.

Bill Hartung: Bill is director of the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy. He has also served as a Senior Research Fellow in the New America Foundation's American Strategy Program and is former director of the Arms Trade Resource Center at the World Policy Institute. He specializes in issues of weapons proliferation, the economics of military spending, and alternative approaches to national security strategy. Hartung was the director of the Arms and Security Initiative at the New America Foundation. Prior to that, he served as the director of the Arms Trade Resource Center at the World Policy Institute. He also worked as a speechwriter and policy analyst for New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams.

Ruth Benn, of the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee and the New York War Resisters League has prepared a fine short piece announcing this year's Global Days of Action on Military Spending along with background about this U.S. and international campaign. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Listen to a recording of **Lindsay Koshgarian** of the **Institute for Policy Studies** and **Bill Hartung** of the **Center for International Policy** in the first of two national calls on GDAMS: <https://fccdl.in/ktz8LaKOW0>

2nd Call - Wednesday, March 25, 2020

8:15 – 9:15 pm EDT; 7:15 – 8:15 pm CDT; 6:15 – 7:15 pm MDT; 5:15 – 6:15 pm PDT

Shailly Gupta Barnes is the Policy Director at the Kairos Center. She coordinated and edited the Souls of Poor Folk: Auditing America report for the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, working closely with the Institute for Policy Studies. This report looked at the evolution of the key themes of the Campaign over the past 50 years and its findings informed the current Campaign's Moral Agenda and Demands. Read more about the Souls of Poor Folk and Moral Agenda at poorpeoplescampaign.org.

Mark Dunlea is an attorney associated with the National Lawyers Guild, was a



co-founder the Green Party in New York. He is a leading climate change activist with 350.org, and news correspondent for WOOC Radio who speaks widely about the Green New Deal. He formerly served as executive director of the Hunger Action Network of New York State and has run for Congress.

You can listen to the recording of this call [here](#).

➤ **Code Pink campaign: [Divest from the War Machine](#)**
Global Days of Action on Military Spending 2020: Toolkit

- April 22: 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

April 22 2020 is officially the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. This Earth Day, they asked their supporters to help spread the message that [#WarIsNotGreen](#)



Talking points on social media about #WarIsNOTGreen:

- Did you know the Pentagon is the single largest institutional consumer of fossil fuels in the world? **#WarIsNOTGreen!** we need to cut the Pentagon budget and invest in a Green New Deal NOW! www.codepink.org/wing
- Did you know If the Pentagon were a country, its fuel use alone would make it the 47th largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world? If we're going to address the climate crisis, we need to **#DivestFromWar** NOW! **#WarIsNotGreen**
- Instead of spending \$740 billion on the Pentagon budget every year, we should invest in a Green New Deal and cultivate our local peace economies **#WarIsNotGreen**

- US military emissions come mainly from fueling weapons and equipment. That means that asset managers like **@blackrock** are contributing greatly to climate change when they invest billions in weapons manufacturers like Raytheon and Lockheed Martin. **#WarIsNotGreen**

Take Action for a **#PeacefulGreenFuture** by....

[Telling the Fed Chair that BlackRock, the world's largest investor in weapons manufacturers and fossil fuels, must use our taxpayer money to bail out the people and not the weapon and oil companies.](#)

[Telling the 2020 Presidential Candidates to Divest from the Pentagon and Invest in a Green New Deal!](#)

[Asking AOC to include a New Peace Deal in the Green New Deal!](#)

[Learning more about why War is Not Green and sharing with your communities](#)

- Join us for a social media storm to cut the Pentagon Budget on Tax Day!

We might be physically distancing, but you can still join in a strong show of social solidarity this Tax Day to raise awareness about cutting money from the Pentagon Budget to pay for vital social services. It's like being in the streets together with banners that decry that we spend \$740 billion of our tax dollars to fund war, violence and militarism. Get engaged with us on social media!



- April 15: Tax Day

From **10AMPT-11AMPT** we're participating in a social media storm asking your following where they would **#MovetheMoneyTo** if they could create their **#PeaceBudget**

1. Print or download your own **#PeaceBudget**
2. Take a photo showing us where you'd **#MovetheMoneyTo**

3. Post your selfie (or downloaded **#PeaceBudget**) on twitter, instagram, and facebook using **#DivestFromWar** and **#PeaceBudget**. Make sure you tag CODEPINK on [twitter](#), [facebook](#), and [instagram](#)

Here are some examples or you can [print a blank one](#):



Example of twitter and Instagram and Facebook images:



- **Political advocacy online tools:**

Take Action to [#MovetheMoneyTo](#) social programs, by...

[Telling Congress to double the funding of the CDC by cutting Pentagon funding NOW!](#)

[Telling Congress to Bail out people, not Corporations by denying Boeing a \\$60 billion taxpayer-funded bailout](#)

- **Pledge** to [#DivestFromWar](#) and invest in local peace economies open for [signatures](#).

- **Webinars Divest from the War Machine: 5-Part Webinar Series.** April 23-May 19 [CODEPINK](#) + [World BEYOND War](#) organised a FREE 5-week online webinar series about divesting from the war machine. Starting April 23, we'll explore how to organize to divest funds from weapons manufacturers, military contractors, and war profiteers. We'll feature activists and organizers who have run successful divestment campaigns, to share strategies and tactics about how to replicate these successes in your community.

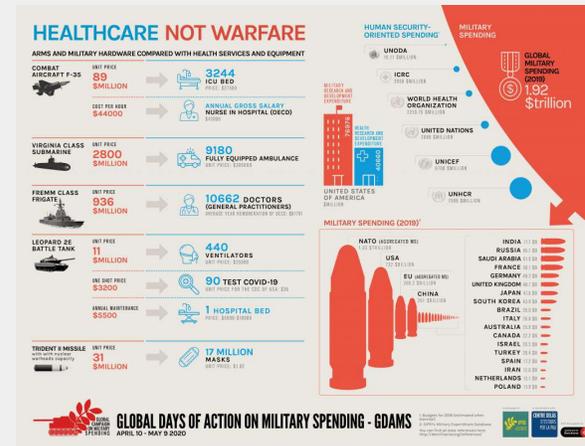


➤ **Mother's Day Call for Healthcare for All – WILPF U.S.**

Originally published in [WILPF US website](#)

On Sunday we honor mothers. In this pandemic period, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom US honors all mothers and women nationwide who

have lost their lives to COVID-19, including 88 (mostly female) nurses, as of this writing. Two women who had cared for both Civil War soldiers and community health needs founded Mother's Day. In that horrific time of social and economic crisis, they advocated for peace. During this catastrophic pandemic, we, too, call for healthcare for all and peace as we celebrate Mother's Day. (...) Covid-19 has exposed fault lines too long ignored; now we see clearly those who have been hurt the most. This hurt is not just because of the virus, but because of the social structures in which it has taken hold – structures characterized by gender, racial, and ethnic discrimination plus economic and political disparities. These people and communities are the ones who must be at the table, to propose solutions based on their harsh experiences of discriminatory policies, lack of representation, and continued inequality.



On this Mother's Day, we call for:

- thorough investigation of the failure of this administration and Congress to exercise “due diligence” in being prepared for a pandemic and the delayed, disorganized and fragmented response that has cost so many lives and pitted state against state; this failure comes on top of a healthcare system already decimated for years by federal and state “austerity” cuts and private care facilities protecting their profits;
- universal healthcare as a basic human right, with funding now for mental health services, to respond to increased gender-based violence and domestic violence;
- appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for all essential workers – in health care, transportation, all aspects of food production and sales, sanitation, public safety, and in other essential areas; it is reported that one in three jobs designated as essential are held by women, with non-white women most likely doing these low-wage job often no healthcare;
- decarceration and other serious steps, including PPE and immediate safety and health measures, to protect prisoners, and adults and children in ICE detention, from surging COVID-19;
- restoration of tens of millions of dollars repeatedly cut from underfunded Indian Health Services, to provide urgently needed COVID-19 treatment for underserved, vulnerable Native Americans and Alaskan Natives;

- an end to the military-industrial-congressional complex stranglehold on our economy and lives; systematic annual cuts in the over *\$750 billion military budget*, including closing the 800 US military bases around the world and ending unneeded weapons purchases, nuclear weapons upgrades, and new weapons systems;
- an end to all unilateral US sanctions undermining emergency response to COVID-19 in the “targeted” countries.

While those currently in power in Washington and in corporate boardrooms – weapons manufacturers and investors – would like us to believe we must sacrifice everything for “security”, we reject this policy of militarism and propaganda of fear. “True security is found not in domination and weapons of war, but in peaceful international cooperation.” (Patricia Hynes, Traprock Center for Peace and Justice).

Accordingly, we call upon all nations, including the US, to join us in endorsing the call of UN Secretary General Guterres and supporting inclusive peace negotiations – with women equally represented at the peace table.

When all children of the world have access to clean water and affordable health care, are well fed, and live free of fear in homes with loving people around them – then, indeed, we can celebrate a **happy Mother’s Day!**

➤ **National Priorities**

National Priorities posted on its website an [article](#) by Jessica Corbett making reference to GDAMS and IPB: **'Halt This Madness': US Drove Last Year's Over \$1.9 Trillion in Global Military Spending.**

➤ **Pax Christi USA**

Pax Christi USA joined partners in responding to global military spending report and shared this message on their social media. More about this [here](#) and [here](#).

➤ **Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin**

Physician for Social Responsibility Wisconsin shared the GDAMS infographic on [Facebook](#) with this message: “Take a look! Thank you GCOMS for this important graphic on the costs of warfare vs healthcare”.

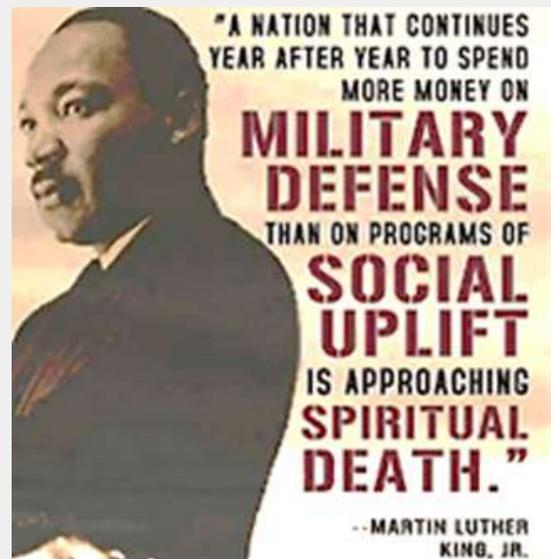
➤ **Dorchester People for Peace: Tax Day Protest (April 15)**

Wars, Military Spending and Tax Cuts for the Rich Are Hurting Our Communities – And Destroying the Planet!

Fix the T – Free Bus Service in Boston! -
Make UMass Tuition Free!- Full Funding for
Boston Schools- Build Affordable Housing
Now- Green New Deal- Medicare for All-
Criminal Justice Reform.

HOW? CUT THE PENTAGON

Almost 60% of annual US “Discretionary Spending” goes to wars and military spending. The Trump tax cuts overwhelmingly favor the wealthy and Corporations while limiting potential spending that will benefit our communities.



Will your group cosponsor? Contact
Dorchester People for Peace, info@dotpeace.org

Wednesday, April 15, 2020 Great Hall, Codman Square, Dorchester. [Download the flyer](#)

➤ **April 25 - Online World Conference.**

Abolish Nuclear Weapons; Resist and Reverse the Climate Crisis; For Social and Economic Justice - Originally planned in New York City from April 24 to 26. (See page 27)

CANADA

➤ **VOW PEACE**

Canadian Voices of Women joined GDAMS 2020 by organising an online campaign which lasted for the whole month. It consisted of 2 parts:

1) VOW asked their members (100's across Canada) and all of their followers on social media (FB, IG and Twitter) to print or create the #movethemoney sign and tag and post VOW and GCOMS.

2) Creating graphics to highlight Canada's military spending and releasing them throughout the GDAMS month.

Posts on their [social media](#) included messages like these:

“Let's invest in services that benefit Canadians. Women are shouldering more unpaid care work, are facing increasing levels of domestic violence and will bear the brunt of the COVID-19-driven recession. This is our money and it should benefit us not weapons companies”

“VOW Coordinator Vanessa wants the approx. \$100 billion slated to buy warships, fighter jets, LAVs and drones to go back into the taxpayer's pocket. 50% of Canadians were living paycheque to paycheque BEFORE the pandemic [#MoveTheMoney](#) GCOMS - Global Campaign on Military Spending”



GDAMS 2020 Actions SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA

➤ April 22 - No Bullet Stops a Virus: Military Spending in the Context of Covid 19 - La Vox Populi

La Vox Populi organised this radio show on april 22 about the excessive military spendings in South America: #SONORAVIRUS - The Radio Pandemic. Chapter 17: No Bullet Stops a Virus: Military Spending in the Context of Covid 19.

“Every year, a large amount of resources is allocated to strengthen the military capacities of States around the world. Although this situation has been problematic for a while, the current situation of the pandemic allows us to see some particular characteristics of this militarist structure at a global level, revealing its functioning in moments of crisis and the precarious conditions in which the basic needs of humanity are found, in contrast to the strengthening of military investment as one of the key axes of the capitalist system”.



Participants: Pelao Carvallo (Ramalac - Chile y Paraguay), Benjamín Tarqui (Bolivia), Koldobi Velazco (Internacional de resistentes a la guerra - Islas Canarias), Alejandro Parra (ACOOC - Colombia)
Wednesday 22nd from 4pm (Colombia) live broadcast: www.lavoxpopuli.com fb live @ la vox populi radio

➤ ACOOC - Acción Colectiva de Objectores/as de Conciencia - ONLINE SURVEY

The organization Accion Colectiva de Objectores/as de Conciencia organised an online survey in order to raise awareness about the huge military expenditures that could be redirected to other areas: “We invite you to fill out and share this survey, which attempts to add voices and proposals to urgently reduce military spending, and use those resources for the basic needs of the population in the midst of the COVID - 19 situation. The resources of war, we need them for life. #NoWeaponStopsaVirus”

Find the survey [here](#)

Also visit their [website](#) and [Facebook Page](#)

**➤ Political advocacy action at the Colombian Congress:
Colombia sets an example by shifting military spending towards
healthcare.**

On the occasion of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) promoted by the International Peace Bureau from April 10 to May 9 of 2020, we celebrate the proposal made by the Colombian congressman and human rights defender Iván Cepeda Castro, alongside 27 other congressmen, to the government of the Republic of Colombia, of transferring [1 billion](#) Colombian pesos allocated to arms purchases and the defense sector towards the health sector.

“I propose that a billion pesos that could go to buy weapons or other non-essential defense sector expenses goes to buy ICU equipment, diagnostic tests for coronavirus, biosecurity aspects or payment of health personnel’s delayed salaries,” stated Senator Cepeda.



On [April 21](#), 2020, Colombia’s defense ministry accepted the proposal of the 27 Colombian congressmen and decided to invest US\$25 million in the health sector to respond to the health crisis facing the South American country.

We believe this is the time to prioritize human life and health over military spending, which according to the last SIPRI report amounted to 1.92 trillion in 2019, a historical figure in the investment of military spending which shows both the loss of opportunities involved in devoting enormous resources to armament and preparing for war, and the capacity of these resources to provide the sort of security and defense in which they are justified.

From the coordination of the Global Campaign on Military Spending, we believe the actions of Senator Ivan Cepeda and the other 27 Colombian congressmen create a hopeful outlook and set an example for other parliamentarians around the world to join their voices and demand reductions of military spending. (Angelo Cardona, Council member of IPB)

➤ Statement by Escuelas de Paz

A statement for life and demilitarization of bodies, minds and territories in South Colombia

Schools of Peace Foundation, as an organization committed to peacebuilding, peace education development and territorial peace transformations, calls on respect for the life of our community leaders, youngsters, adolescents, boys and girls.

We consider necessary to make visible what happens in Colombia and to create sensitive and protective actions in order to decrease affectation and effects on minds, hearts and bodies of people who inhabit the territories and on the construction of individual and collective life plans.

We are convinced ceasefire is completely necessary. Militaristic path will never mean security for communities and culture of violence possible transformations will be given by paths of education, non- violence, creativity and public pedagogy that builds collectively:

- We recognize peacebuilding work done in territories, community processes that support people who inhabit each municipality, bonds that allow us to rebuild ourselves in presence of violent historic events, the affection and trust that moves around renew and restore social fabric .
- We condemn and reject acts of war against civil society, youngsters, adolescents, boys and girls.
- We reject youngsters, adolescents, boys and girls forced conscription; we consider there are not any motive for them to participate directly or indirectly in war.



- We reject State lack of measures in a situation of systematic assassinations of social leaders that has also involved their family's lives.
- We call on the continuation of dialogues, reflections and collective actions that allow us to build other possibilities together.

As an organization active present in South Colombia territories, once again we join social leaders, youngsters, adolescents, boys and girls !!!!

#ForWarNothing #Ceasefire #NoExcuseForForcedConscription #KnittingPeacePaths #HealingPower

Download it as a [pdf](#). You can find it in Spanish [here](#)

Articles, op-eds and media

Redefining safety - Jen Maman (Senior Peace Advisor at Greenpeace International)

“Global military spending is on the rise. The latest figures released today by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) tell us that US\$1.9 trillion were spent preparing for war in 2019 by governments world-wide, a 3.6% increase from the year before. Costs for 2020 are already confirmed to increase further as major powers have boosted their military budgets and spendings. Spending in the US increased by 5.3% and in Germany by 10% from the previous years. Does this make you feel safe?”

Read the full article [here](#)

A Worldwide Demand to Cut Military Spending - Ruth Benn (NWTRCC)

“There are a lot of reasons to be discouraged these days. I mean really, that divisive, crude president hosted by a divisive, nationalist prime minister visiting Gandhi's ashram. It's just too grotesque for words. So, needing some uplift, I thought about all the grassroots organizing that goes on all the time, around the world, on so many issues. One campaign that war tax resisters have been and should continue to be linked to is the [Global Campaign on Military Spending \(GCOMS\)](#). They are gearing up for the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) from April 10 to May 9, 2020, and their nicely redesigned website has excellent background information on military spending and related topics”

Read the full article [here](#)

A global struggle: healthcare not warfare - Kate Hudson (CND)

*“This year the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) are taking place from April 10th until May 9th. During this time peace and justice campaigners around the world will be highlighting the ridiculous and unsustainable levels of global military spending – over \$1.82 trillion a year, equivalent to \$239 per person every day. The **UK 2020 defence budget is £55 billion**, the 7th highest in the world and over 2% of our GDP – as requested by NATO. This represents a substantial increase over previous years. We had been warned of the possibility of a wide-spread pandemic for sometime – it was one of the first tier threats in the 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review – but were totally unprepared for it when it happened. Meanwhile, the government is prepared to continue with Trident Replacement at an eventual total cost of over £205 billion and with the purchase of 138 F-35 jet fighters, costing £85 million each. (...)*

Military spending is costing the Earth and reallocating defence budgets would help finance an adequate response to both the coronavirus crisis and the challenge of climate change. It would assist the urgent transition toward more peaceful, just, and sustainable societies and economies”.

Read the full article [here](#)

COVID-19: Divest, Demilitarise, and Disarm - Ray Acheson (WILPF)

“\$1,917,000,000,000. Or \$1.9 trillion. Any way you write it, that’s a lot of money. All of which has been spent on militarism: on weapons production and development, on soldiers, on wars, on bases, on command and support systems, on repression. This [number](#), released this week by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, constitutes a 3.6 per cent increase from 2018, which is the largest annual growth in spending since 2010. (...)

The connections between military spending, human rights, and the health of people and planet have never been clearer. We are what we spend our money on. Right now, we are armed to our teeth without a face mask to spare. If we are to survive this crisis, and the next one—crises of our own making because of our choices in investment in militarism, fossil fuels, and the capitalist economy—we absolutely must learn and adapt. In this case, adaptation means divestment, demilitarisation, and disarmament. This is entirely possible, if we choose to act. Now.”

Read the full article [here](#)

Pentagon Spending: A Primer - William Hartung (Centre for International Affairs)

“In addition to the considerable power of the military-industrial complex, the main driver of the enormous level of expenditures the United States lavishes on the Pentagon and related agencies is an aggressive and unrealistic strategy that views military power as the primary means for solving the world’s most urgent problems.

The Pentagon’s most recent National Defense Strategy is a case in point. It suggests that the United States should be able to fight and win a war against either Russia or China while holding the other at bay; intimidate, and potentially go to war with Iran or North Korea; and continue the far-flung global war on terror described above. These are the wrong problems to be addressing, and the military is the wrong tool for addressing them.”

Read the full article [here](#)

World military spending surges to new heights - Caroline Jones (CAAT)

Last year, as the world unknowingly stood on the brink of the worst international crisis since World War Two in the form of the Coronavirus pandemic, its nations stood very well prepared... for war. (...)

World military spending is twelve and a half times the total Official Development Assistance provided by OECD member states to the developing world.

It is three and a half times global spending to combat climate change (which whilst increasing, is still far too low to halt the growing catastrophe).

While we’re talking doom and gloom though, we should mention one country that has been consistently at the bottom of the military expenditure tables, with a very steady level of spending since 1948 – zero. Costa Rica abolished its armed forces back then, and has now gone over 70 years without invasion or civil war.

The world urgently needs to look to the example of Costa Rica, and rethink security to redirect resources to tackling the real problems that lead to human suffering and insecurity – climate change, disease, poverty, inequality, and repression.

Read the full article [here](#)

Will the EU fight for peace or prepare for war? It can’t have it both ways - Laëtitia Sédou (ENAAT)

“The current pandemic was predictable: both national strategic documents (from US to UK) and the 2016 European Global Strategy alerted for years about the need to get prepared for serious

pandemics. Instead, many European countries took austerity measures, partly due to EU budgetary rules, which negatively impacted national healthcare systems.

In parallel, global military spending saw its biggest increase in 2019, and the EU is no exception: its collective military expenditure makes it second in the world for two decades, reaching \$268 billion in 2019 including UK, four times more than Russia.

Those past choices look particularly choking today knowing that the price of a F-35 combat aircraft could cover the purchase of 3244 hospital beds and one-hour flight the annual gross salary of a nurse, that 440 ventilators could be bought with the cost of one Leopard 23 battle tank, or that the unit price of a Trident II missile could cover 17 million masks.”

Read the full article [here](#)

'Halt This Madness': US Drove Last Year's Over \$1.9 Trillion in Global Military Spending - Jessica Corbett (Common Dreams)

"The COVID-19 crisis has made clearer than ever the flaws in our system, one that prioritizes military spending and global instability over the well-being of our people," IPB said. "Indeed, global priorities are wrong; it is time for a new era of peace, a global ceasefire as called for by the U.N. and people around the globe. Let us demilitarize the world and invest in global peace and diplomacy." Sharing a SIPRI infographic, IPB co-president Philip Jennings tweeted: "The military industrial complex is raking it in and we don't feel safer. Time to halt this madness."

The SIPRI findings, as the statement from Jennings' group noted, were published during IPB's Global Days of Action on Military Spending ([GDAMS](#)), which run from April 10 to May 9 and "highlight the need to reallocate military expenditure to confront COVID-19 and the urgent social and environmental crises."

Read the full article [here](#).

A shorter version of this article was published on National Priorities' [website](#).

As Global Military Spending Hits Nearly \$2 Trillion, These Weapons Are Useless Against Biggest Threats We Face - Tori Bateman (AFSC)

"The pandemic has taught us a lot about the possibilities for a post-COVID world. People and governments have come together to respond to the common threat, sharing resources, knowledge, and action plans. Climate change, poverty, diseases, and injustice all require the global community to come together in creative ways to care for one another and create a better world. It's time for the global community to come together in the realization that weapons don't make us safer. Investment in people—including public health and global cooperation—is infinitely more important than propping up the military-industrial complex.

Investment in people—including public health and global cooperation—is infinitely more important than propping up the military-industrial complex.”

Read the full article [here](#).

WILPF Spain: “Flattening the curve of military spending”

TICAMBIA reported the analysis of Laura Alonso Cano, member of WILPF Spain, where she used the Centre Delàs' GDAMS data to explain how the global military spending could have been invested in healthcare in times of a pandemic. They also advocated for the reconfiguration of the “security” concept, understanding that “human security” should be the very base for all security policies and discourses.

Read it [here](#) (in Spanish)

“We need to rethink military spending and shift it towards rescuing people” - Spanish Senator Carles Mulet

The spokesperson of ‘Compromís’ at the Spanish Senate Carles Mulet presented a question to the Government related to military spending prospects in the face of the COVID-19 health emergency and the economic recession, also demanding more transparency on this issue, as some expenses are hidden in departments other than Defense.

Read it [here](#) (in Spanish)

Other references to GDAMS on media outlets

Press:

Common Dreams; Medium; (**U.S.A**)

Euractiv (**Belgium**)

Público; Europapress; La Marea; la Directa; La Vanguardia; El Salto Diario; Tercera información; el Mòn; Llibertat.cat; Portal de Cádiz; La voz del Sur; Kaos en la Red; Noticias de Navarra; Ara Balears; Veu Anoia; Naiz; SCI; Diari de Girona; Baladre;

Cambio 16 (**Spain**)

Repubblica; Today; Avvenire; Estreme Conseguenze; Globalist; Dal sociale 24 (**Italia**)

Süddeutsche Zeitung (**Germany**)

[Granma](#) (**Cuba**)

Article by Tica Font and Pere Ortega ([Público](#))

Article by Jordi Calvo ([Ara](#))

Monographic ([Argia](#) magazine)

TV: TV3; Àpunt; 324 (Spain)

Radio: Catalunya Ràdio; La Vox Populi; Radio Pimienta; Radio Guinguada; Radio Cable; Ràdio Estel; Radio Barrio

#MoveTheMoney Selfie Campaign

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 the \$1,82 trillion spent globally in the military in 2018 (later updated to \$1.92 trillion for the year 2019), people were also free to express their creativity.



Among all the pictures we received, despite the variety of propositions, investing in health care and social services clearly stood out from the rest, due to the particular context of the covid-19 crisis.

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

Coordination Team + ISC

Since 2017, the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) is coordinated by Centre Delàs for Peace Studies and by IPB's office in Barcelona (Spain). The coordination team is formed by officers, researchers and volunteers of both organizations and works in coordination with IPB's Berlin and Geneva offices and with its own International Steering Committee.

The International Steering Committee (ISC) is formed by some IPB officers and Board and Council members and by the most active GCOMS partners. The GCOMS steering committee meets online periodically to coordinate actions, especially during the GDAMS period.

Its members are:

- Angelo Cardona, **IPB Youth Network**
- Amela Skiljan, Germany, **International Peace Bureau**
- Corazon Fabros, Philippines, **Stop the War! Coalition**
- Cyrille Rolande, Cameroon, **Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme**
- Dave Webb, UK, **Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)**
- Denis Doherty, Australia, **Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)**
- Edwina Hughes, New Zealand, **Peace Movement Aotearoa**
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To add your organisation's name to the list of partners, please write to us at:
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We want to express our most sincere gratitude to all partners, collaborators, sympathizers and friends who contributed to GDAMS 2020.

All of your actions, despite the hardship of these times, are proof of the strong commitment to peace and disarmament of our worldwide social movement.

Thank you, and see you next year!



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