



Find an event & join the GDAMS actions!



Photo credit: Peace Movement Aotearoa

Below is a listing of the actions planned on or around the Global Day all over the world. We encourage you to join an event and/or let these actions inspire you to organise one.

AUSTRALIA

In Brisbane, we will have a stall in the city and letters to the treasurer, the national trade union body (ACTU) newspapers and schools.

CAMEROON

A «Citizens' Tea » will be organised to gather the public and journalists. A document tackling the issue of military expenditure and human needs in Cameroon will be presented and serve as the basis of the discussion.

CANADA

A joint action to be spearheaded by a women's and a peace organisation.

CHILE

- Forum and Documentary: Militarization and Military Spending
- Hand In Letter to President Sebastián Piñera

Theme: “No to military spending, foreign military bases and training of soldiers at the School of the Americas” No al gasto militar, no a las bases militares extranjeras, no al entrenamiento de soldados en la Escuela de las Américas”

COLOMBIA

The Collective Action on Conscientious Objection will have a direct action in Bogotá, inviting the public to reflect on where their tax dollars should go.

EGYPT

A press release in Arabic and call addressed to media, civil society and governments in the Arab Region will be made available.

GERMANY

A common activity planned around the issue of UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) using the “Development is impossible without disarmament” slogan.

JAPAN

- Lectures and education sessions with the aim of raising awareness on military spending in Japan, and to compare it with what would be needed for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- Discussions about Fukushima that will focus on reconstruction and anti-nuclear energy and weapons actions;
- Targeting members of parliament and protest against the government plan to amend the constitution;
- Setting up artistic workshops in Japan on GDAMS day.

NEW ZEALAND/AOTEAROA

Preparations for the 2013 Global Day of Action here are already well underway, with more supporting organisations signed-on already than for previous GDAMS. We are planning public forums in Wellington and Auckland on government spending priorities, with speakers from peace, human rights, social justice and development NGOs, as well as street leafletting in various towns and cities.

During the run-up to GDAMS, the annual International Women’s Day ‘Women Say No to War’ vigils were held at the NZ armed forces headquarters in Wellington on 7 March and in Auckland on 8 March to highlight alternatives to military spending, eg ~ welfare not warfare ~ education not militarisation.

NORWAY

A day seminar at the Peace House in Oslo about military spending in relation to the economic and humanitarian consequences of warfare.

PHILIPPINES

- Launch GDAMS in Manila and International Women’s Day with the theme “Pagkain at Trabaho, Hindi Bala at Kanyon” (“Food and Jobs, Not Bullets and Arms”) with urban poor women in Smokey Mountain Tondo, Manila.
- Women’s forum and mobilization of peasant women in the farm community
- Feature articles in local newspapers or magazines on the Philippine budget and GDAMS

SOUTH KOREA

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement between North and South Korea. Around 15 organisations will campaign to “End the Korean War”. We are planning to have one full day campaign in Seoul, have a press interview and performance along these themes:

1) To lay down arms; 2) To request North and South Korea to sign international treaties together; and 3) To reduce the military spending to half.

SPAIN

An online petition–signing campaign to cut military spending and invest in social services was launched and currently ongoing.

SWITZERLAND

We plan a GDAMS photo–opportunity in front of the United Nations in Geneva and a seminar to discuss “Military and development spending in an era of austerity”.

SYRIA

A press release in Arabic and call addressed to Media, civil society and governments in the Arab Region will be sent out.

UNITED KINGDOM

- In London, a public meeting will discuss 'What if military spending were cut?' at the Houses of Parliament.
- You are invited to participate in a creative action outside parliament

In Scotland:

- Argyll and Bute: Big Blockade to Shut Down Faslane
- Edinburgh: Leafletting MSPs and Parliamentary staff as they arrive for work at the Parliament with information on military spending, asking MSPs to raise a motion about the need to redirect military spending towards human needs.

For more actions and events planned in the UK, please visit the [Global Day of Action on Military Spending \(GDAMS\) UK](#) website.

UNITED STATES

Washington DC:

- Music and socializing in a **benefit concert to shut down the School of the Americas.**
- Lobby trainings and sessions.
- Meet with your Member of Congress.
- Join the anti–militarization contingent with **SOA Watch** activists.
- Immigration Reform rally.

Plus much more all across the country!

For details and updates, please visit the GDAMS website often:

[Find an Event](#) and [Tools](#) pages.

Click on the image to download

GDAMS international flyer



Reminding you to kindly write the local contact in the space provided for after printing a copy and before making multiple copies.



Japan's Military Spending on the Rise

by Celine Nahory

On December 26, a key figure of Japan's ideological conservative right, Abe Shinzo, was elected as Japan's new Prime Minister.

Elected on a nationalist platform, Abe won a landslide victory of the Liberal Democratic Party in the lower house of Parliament.

During his first tenure as Prime Minister in 2006–2007, Abe ardently pushed for the revision of war-renouncing Article 9 of Japan's Constitution in the name of building a "strong Japan." His track record includes overseeing the **creation of the Ministry of Defence, advocating for the re-interpretation of Article 9 to expand the mandates of Self-Defence Forces' missions** and allow collective action, as well as, some will even say, **encouraging the debate over Japan's acquiring nuclear weapons.**

Back in power, Abe is determined to push his agenda forward. One of his first moves has been to order the review and replacement of Japan's five-year national defence guidelines adopted in 2010, which called for a gradual reduction in defence spending. Instead, **he wants to bolster the country's military and announced an increase of 40 billion yen (\$440 million) in defence spending – the first increase in 11 years.**

According to the draft budget proposed on January 27, **the defence budget will rise by 0.8%**, bringing defence spending on equipment, personnel and operations by Self-Defense Forces to a total of **4.68 trillion yen (\$51.7 billion).**

"While Japan has been cutting defence spending for the past ten years, other countries in the area have gradually been increasing their budgets. "I want to ask for a budget that will make it possible for us to secure a more certain defence system," explained Japanese Defense Minister Onodera Itsunori, in commenting the draft budget. The document will have to be approved by the Diet before it takes effect in April.

Claimed to be in accordance with Japan's 2010 National Defence Program Guidelines that advocated for a more "dynamic" defence strategy, the new budget puts an emphasis on strengthening Japanese "deterrence and response" capabilities and is intended on protecting "islands, ensuring security of the surrounding seas and airspace". In fact, a significant portion of the budget (331.3 billion yen) has been earmarked for the defence of the Southwestern region.

In an already edgy regional context, many fear this risks exacerbating already tense relations affected by territorial disputes with China (over the Senkaku/Diaoyu/Daiaoyutai) and South Korea (over Dokdo/Takeshima Island), as well as by North Korea's nuclear test, thus threatening to further destabilize regional peace.



Photo credit: Associated Press

In 2012, Japan's defence budget stood at 4.65 trillion yen, or \$53.3 billion, making Japan's military budget the world's 6th largest (with 3.6% of global military spending) and one of the largest and advanced militaries in Asia, in spite of a tacit limit on military spending of 1% of the country's GDP.

Abe's move to increase Japan's military spending is part of a broader agenda "to reclaim Japanese sovereignty" by getting rid of Japanese peace constitution, which, according to him fails "to provide a necessary condition for an independent nation". Abe has already taken steps to authorize Japan to exercise a right to collective self-defence (prohibited by the current interpretation of Japan's peace constitution) and to facilitate the process for amending the constitution – a significant step toward revising Article 9.

According to a recent poll by the leading newspaper Asahi Shimbun, 62% of Japanese voters support the Abe Cabinet, 48% of which because of its policies. **A majority of the population polled approves Abe's economic policies as a way to tackle recession.** 54% of the respondents indicated they support the government's plan to increase defence spending, against just 33% who do not support it.

In this political context, **many citizens' groups are getting organized to initiate a public debate and raise awareness about the grave consequences Abe's policies** would have on Japan, the regional context and the image Japan has abroad.

With elections in the upper house of parliament scheduled for July 21, civil society organisations have put significant dates in the calendar – notably GDAMS on April 15 and Constitution Day on May 3 – to mobilize public opinion, attract media coverage and send a strong signal against this trend of militarism.

Launched in 2005 by a coalition of civil society organisations in Japan, **the Global Article 9 Campaign seeks not only to protect Article 9 and build a society based on peace and security that does not rely on force; it also acts to educate people around the world about existing international peace mechanisms** such as Japan's Constitution and encourage governments to work towards disarmament, demilitarization and a culture of peace.

The Campaign engages in advocacy efforts at the national and international levels, highlighting the global impact of Article 9, notably in terms of Conflict Prevention, the codification of the Human Right to Peace, the promotion of Peace Constitutions, and the reduction of military spending.

The Japanese peace movement has a huge task ahead and will need the support of the global peace movement to reverse the trend we are witnessing today in Japan.

*(Celine Nahory is International Coordinator of Peace Boat/Global Article 9 Campaign.
Know more about the [Global Article 9 Campaign and Peace Boat](#))*

What Obama Should Do Now

by Robert Reich

What should the President do now? Push to repeal the sequester (a reconciliation bill in the Senate would allow repeal with 51 votes, thereby putting pressure on House Republicans), and replace it with a “Build America’s Future” Act that would close tax loopholes used by the wealthy, end corporate welfare, impose a small (1/10 of 1%) tax on financial transactions, and reduce the size of the military.

Half the revenues would be used for deficit reduction, the other half for investments in our future through education (from early-childhood through affordable higher ed), infrastructure, and basic R&D.

Also included in that bill — in order to make sure our future isn’t jeopardized by another meltdown of Wall Street — would be a resurrection of Glass-Steagall and a limit on the size of the biggest banks. I’d make clear to the American people that they made a choice in 2012 but that right-wing House Republicans have been blocking that choice, and the only way to implement that choice is for Congress to pass the Build America’s Future Act.

If House Republicans still block it, I’d make 2014 a referendum on it and them, and do whatever I could to take back the House. In short, the President must reframe the public debate around the future of the country and the investments we must make together in that future, rather than austerity economics. And focus on good jobs and broad-based prosperity rather than prosperity for a few and declining wages and insecurity for the many.

(Source: <http://robertreich.org/>)

Click and Watch!

Rolling Out the Budget Where are your tax dollars going?

Catastrophic Pentagon Cuts? Not Really. The Sequestration and the Pentagon budget, explained

If I Had a Trillion Dollars (IHTD) – The *If I Had a Trillion Dollars Youth Festival* includes short films made by youth speaking out about where their communities would rather spend the \$1 trillion spent on war or the Pentagon budget.

All these videos and more are part of the **US Tax Day Materials** in the GDAMS website.

A (U.S.) Tax Day Speech

(Excerpts from Clare Hanrahan's GDAMS 2012 speech)

...I'm one of thousands of people around this country who openly identify themselves as War Tax Resisters. Some file and refuse to pay. Some refuse to file or cooperate in any way. Some refuse a portion of federal taxes, some refuse to pay any at all.

Most War Tax Resisters are also Peace Tax Payers, redirecting refused war tax dollars to fund community needs. Local alternative Funds throughout the U.S. each year deliver more than \$50,000 in refused war taxes to support constructive projects.

...The Pentagon and media are aligned in their efforts to hide the costs: the maimed soldiers, the battlefield carnage, the grieving widows, the broken souls, the poisoned Earth—funded with nearly one-half of every tax dollar obediently submitted under threat. The mandate of the Nuremberg War Crime Tribunal of 1950 is clear: “Individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience. Therefore [individual citizens] have the duty to [refuse to obey] domestic laws to prevent crimes against peace and humanity from occurring.”

...According to the International Criminal Court a person is criminally liable who “aids, abets or assists” in the commission of such a crime “including providing the means for its commission.”

Governments cannot wage war without the money to buy weapons, pay troops or purchase supplies. Without the support of taxpayers and moneylenders war would be impossible.

When war is illegal, isn't paying war tax a crime?

(Read the full text of Clare Hanrahan's in [More Than a Paycheck](#), the newsletter of the [National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee \(NWTRCC\)](#). NWTRCC is a coalition of local, regional, and national groups supportive of war tax resistance.)



Check out the IPB newsletter too!

Every month the International Peace Bureau publishes news about its main programme Disarmament for Development and other topics in its newsletter IPB News. Military spending is one of our main topics. To read previous editions go to our [Archive](#).

The newsletter is sent out by email to all IPB members and subscribers. Let us know if you wish to receive it regularly. Our website has [information on membership](#) .

How to evaluate our success?

By Colin Archer, IPB Secretariat

In the world of peace campaigning it is always hard to assess our own effectiveness. We set ourselves ambitious and usually long-term goals, and our resources almost always seem inadequate. And yet we sometimes move mountains! However, we all know that the funding world is becoming more demanding in terms of ensuring that programmes achieve their targets, and they want to see evidence of hard-headed thinking.

The other reason to consider this issue is to improve our own work -- by reflecting on our results, developing more strategic approaches, and ultimately having more impact on policies.

Recent suggestions have included:

1. Conduct a survey of GDAMS actions after April 15, to see, not only what participating groups have done, but also how they perceive the impact.
2. Keep a record of political support/endorsements received from organisations (especially outside the peace movement – for example, development agencies, labour unions, environmental campaigns..) and, if possible governments and international bodies.

IPB will work on both these suggestions in the coming months. But if you or your colleagues have other ideas do let us know.

GDAMS Online

Website: gdams.org and demilitarize.org now lead to the same website. Come visit us there!

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- Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/DemilitarizeDay

www.gdams.org

International Peace Bureau
41, Rue de Zurich
1201 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-731-6429
gdams@ipb.org • www.ipb.org

Peace Action (US Focal Point)
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 524
Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA
Tel: +1-301-565-4050
info@peace-action.org • www.peace-action.org