

# CAMPAIGN MATERIAL

## Example of **letter** to be send to parliamentarians

*Dear Mrs/ Mr ...*

*In this period of budget negotiations and vote, I would like to draw your attention to our military and defence spending. According to SIPRI data, military spending has increased steadily in recent years; in 2001 world's military spending amounted to USD 1.088 billion while amounted to USD 1.088 billion in 2001.*

*In (name of the country), military expenditures have reached (amount) in (year considered), what represent an increase of (amount). We are troubled by the heightened increase of our country's military spending. Indeed, increases in military spending result in more arms, more benefits for the military industry, more lobbying on our government, an increased arms trade and number of arms worldwide and in regions in conflict – with all its consequences on human rights. In addition, it has been shown that military spending is ineffective for creating job (unlike other domestic investments such as education, healthcare or climate change). Moreover, all expenses being devoted to the military are not used for our human and social needs such, as health, education or job creation. We want schools, hospitals, cultural sites, not warships, bombs and weapons! We want a welfare state, not a warfare state.*

*For all these reasons, we are respectfully asking you to take into account these issues during the budget vote and to keep in mind that it is possible and necessary to:*

- Reduce military spending while redirecting its funds to social needs, cooperation, conflict mediation and peace building;*
- Increase transparency and avoid opacity in official data on military and defence industry, as well as on arms export and import ;*
- Introduce criteria for addressing military spending in our national budget in a comprehensive and rigorous way;*
- Ensure that arms programs are audited and controlled by our Parliament.*

*We want [country name] to be a leader for peace, sustainable development, common and human security in the world, and not a war dealer.*

*Please accept, Mrs/Mr..., the expression of our highest consideration.*

*We are looking forward to your answer.*