

GCOMS Newsletter, December 2018

The Cut Milex Campaign 2018 has started!

From 26 November to 26 December 2018, GCOMS is launching the Cut Milex Campaign 2018. Cut Milex has a global perspective, asking for a reduction and redirection of military expenses in the maximum number of countries. But it has also a local perspective, as annual budget debates in different countries have specific aspects which make them distinct.

Activists in each country must therefore craft their own approach, including how to organize debates with Parliamentarians and how to shape the messages and proposals for them. It is not only to raise awareness about military spending, but also encourage politicians in Parliaments to take actions against it and to redirect part of the Milex budget to human needs.

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Global Military Spending in 2016 reached **1.686 Billion \$**

10% of Worldwide Military Spending

10% It is all we need to reverse climate change and end poverty and hunger by 2030.

Will you engage for **#2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development** or for warfare?

Vote For peace, not war!

GCOMS
www.demilitarize.org

Pentagon Militarizes the Economy in the Name of Defense

The essence of the Pentagon's scheme for making America safe for a never-ending policy of war preparations (and war) is to organize as much of the economy as possible around the needs of military production.

Donald Trump plan is now visibly taking shape — one we can see and assess thanks to a Pentagon-led (US Department of Defense) study with a distinctly tongue-twisting title: "Assessing and Strengthening the Manufacturing and Defense Industrial Base and Supply Chain Resiliency of the United States." The idea is simple: reshaping the economy to serve the needs of the military-industrial complex.

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IPB calls to Defend the INF treaty

From President Trump's threatened U.S. withdrawal from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty. Abandoning the Treaty, combined with the possible expiration of the New START Treaty, will eliminate all nuclear arms agreements between the countries that possess 90% of the current nuclear arsenal, opening the way for an unrestrained and dangerous nuclear arms race. The International Peace Bureau calls on all people and nations around the world to use all political and diplomatic means to defend the INF treaty and to work for a nuclear-free world. The INF Treaty, for which millions of people around the world had fought, was negotiated in 1987 and marked the end of the Cold War.

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Climate Change and Military Spending

When we consider that climate change will dramatically increase instability and insecurity, examining the role of the military in a climate-changed world becomes ever more critical. In fact, the research group Oil Change International calculates that up to half of all interstate wars since 1973 have been about oil. As climate change impacts hit home ever harder, this tendency towards a militarized response is likely to grow. War business, powered by the Military-Industrial Complex, is based on arms trade and on power structures that produce civilian deaths, also degrading conflicts, preying on the planet and actively contributing to climate change. Actions to reduce climate change effects therefore require a reduction on military spending and renovated efforts to use negotiation to solve conflicts.

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