

# GCOMS Newsletter, January 2019

## France should commit to nuclear disarmament, according to 76% of French people

The goal of doubling the credits devoted to atomic weapons fixed by the French law of military programming (from 3.2 to 7 billion per year) is inadmissible.



This is coming shortly after the UN Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted on July 7, 2017. France needs these funds both for social needs and to address the problems related to climate change. Achievements are real, as evidenced by the support of 76% of the French for France to engage in nuclear disarmament. Peace marches in France are united to say: “stop the misery, stop the violence, stop wars”.

[Read more...](#)

## Saudi Arabia was the third largest military spender in the world in 2017

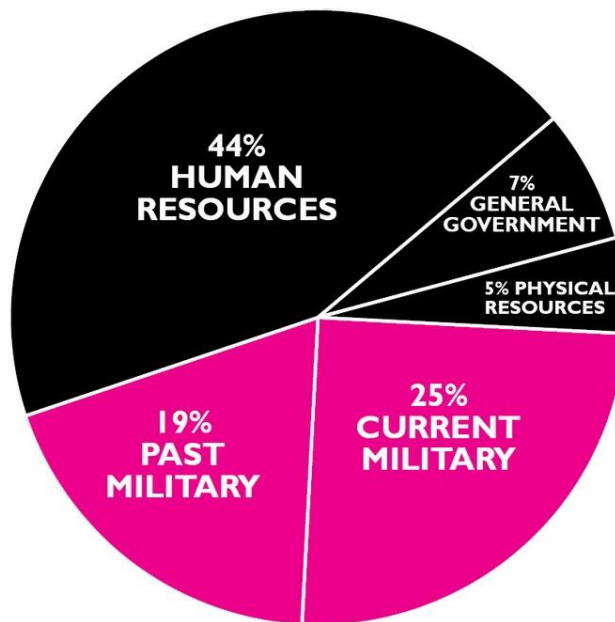
According to [a recent article of Pieter D. Wezeman \(SIPRI\)](#), seven of the 10 countries in the world with the highest military burden in 2017 were in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia being the country with the highest levels of military spending and arms imports in this region. According to Wezeman’s paper, Saudi Arabia was the second largest arms importer in the world in the period 1998–2017. Saudi Arabia has been leading the coalition of states in the military intervention against rebel forces in Yemen.

[Read more...](#)

# GCOMS Newsletter, January 2019

## Where USA Tax Money Really Goes

War Resisters League (WRL) has analyzed 2017 USA federal funds as presented in the “Analytical Perspectives” of the Budget of the United States Government. Adding “Current military” (Department of Defense and the military portion from other departments) and “Past military” (veterans’ benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt), military spending reaches a 44% of the 2017 federal funds. This is unacceptable. Citing Matthew Evangelista, from Costs of War Project, “The biggest contribution the United States can make to combating terrorism worldwide is to abandon the war paradigm and extricate itself from the wars that have served as such an effective recruiting device for new terrorists.”



[Read more...](#)

## IPB Interoffice meeting in Barcelona

On December 12 and 13, the Barcelona decentralized office of the International Peace Bureau hosted a meeting between the offices of Berlin, Geneva and Barcelona. The meetings aimed to address the main challenges that disarmament presents worldwide and, specifically, in the IPB campaigns. This was discussed in a context of global re-militarization in which some governments are questioning international treaties as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF).

[Read more...](#)

## Let us disarm our state budgets



Global military spending has risen to 1.738 trillion dollars in 2017, with an increase of 1.1% since 2016. States prioritize militarism (high defense budgets, arms trade, investment in new armament and weapons, military operations in third countries, creation of military bases), above human needs (health, education, subsidies and dole, civil research and housing, to name a few) ) and deprive us of our right to decide what to do with our taxes.

Activists in Spain have started a signatures campaign ([this is the campaign link](#), in Spanish) to ask for a redirection of military funds to human needs in Spain. We must put an end to the business of war, and to the budgets that feed it. We encourage you to start similar signature campaigns in your countries, asking for a redirection of military funds to human needs.

[Read more...](#)