

GCOMS Newsletter, March 2019

The GCOMS 2019 Statement

The current context of international relations shows an increase in militarism with an accompanying and significant rise in world military spending.

Nowadays, climate change is the most pressing global threat. Even the World Economic Forum agrees with this, yet politicians continue to listen to the 1 percenters rather than the vast majority. Climate change is a direct consequence of global power and mass consumption. It is the main threat to people in the Global South, as well as to the planet itself and its diversity. We aim to convince governments to invest money in the sectors of health, education, employment and climate change rather than the military. We urgently need to build human security structures worldwide and at the same time put a stop to war and destruction.

Read the full statement [here](#).



Germany under huge pressure to lift the embargo on Saudi Arabia



Germany's decision to halt exports of military equipment to Saudi Arabia in November (after the horrendous killing of journalist Jamal Kashoggi), is threatening Berlin's participation in the European arms industry, both in current and future programmes, as well as its own ambitions to foster a common European defence policy. German exports to Saudi Arabia account for only 2 percent of the kingdom's imports, but the arms freeze is affecting other

European countries, companies and projects, as German firms have an important role in the making of components.

Many companies are lobbying for the arms freeze to be lifted and some are also taking action to rid themselves of their German suppliers. This is all placing the German Government at a crossroads.

[Read more...](#)

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The 2019 Selfie Campaign

Demilitarize!
Invest in people's needs

APRIL 13 -
MAY 9 2019

**GLOBAL DAYS
OF ACTION ON
MILITARY SPENDING**



#MoveTheMoney
to: **\$174**
TRILLION
2017 GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING

APRIL 13 - MAY 9 2019

**GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION
ON MILITARY SPENDING**



Once again, we are ready to spread the word on pacifism and social justice and raise awareness on the crucial issue of military spending.

For this year's Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS), that will take place from April 13 to May 9, among many other actions we are glad to re-launch the Selfie Campaign together with all of you. As you already know, 2019 GDAMS' slogan is "Demilitarize! invest in people's needs" and for the Selfie Campaign we are going to use 2 banners, one with this slogan and another one with the line '#MoveTheMoney to...', with a blank space underneath to be filled in by each of you.

You can read further instructions and download the banners [here](#).

Sharp rise in US attacks on Somalia



Donald Trump's presidency has coincided with a sharp rise in US-led airstrikes in Somalia and the trend is set to continue in 2019.

In a speech in December outlining the US' Africa policy, President Trump's National Security Adviser John Bolton said "terrorists operating in Africa have... repeatedly targeted US citizens and interests".

The message was that there would be no let up in the struggle against militant Islamist groups, : Commanders now no longer require high-level vetting to approve strikes on al-Shabab in "areas of active hostilities" in Somalia. Read more in [here](#)

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Trump's new budget: militarize, invest in people's fears

President Trump has released his budget request, and the numbers are outrageous. His Administration goes even further than last year by increasing an already enormous military budget a 5 percent to \$750 billion, and they would do it mainly at the expense of the most vulnerable and of the climate.

This budget should therefore find the most energetic of oppositions, and is perfect proof that our campaign is now more essential than ever.

Demilitarize, invest in people's needs!
Read more [here](http://bit.ly/FY2020Budget).



The US budget on nuclear weapons keeps rising



If the U.S. carries out all of its plans for modernizing and maintaining the nuclear arsenal, it will cost \$494 billion over the next decade.

The first nuclear power on Earth is planning on spending at least 494 billion US dollars in the next decade to grow and maintain its nuclear arsenal.

If the recent government estimates are accurate, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) stated that the percentage will increase a 23% over the number released in 2017, and that figure was already representing an increase of a 15% over last year estimations.

Despite that, these figures still have to go through Congress, where partisan friction may play a key role. [Read more...](#)