GCOMS Newsletter, March 2019

GCOM

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.

Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS)
unching the 2019 Global Days of Action on Military Spendin
April 13 – May 9, 2019
Demilitarize: Invest in People's Needs!



The current context of international relations shows an increase in militarion with an accompanying and significant feet work military security of the companying and significant feet work military specific gives a continued in increase by JTMS (solicity) and JTMS (as a present than 1 and 1 and

Moreover, the Trump government has increased military spending by US 5 4,000 million; has liaunched statacks on Somality fivenes, prist and Aphinistics, has remembed military persent in the China Seas and elsewhere, while expanding US bases in the Particle. In addition, it has withdrawn from the in outside deal and the intermedial-enlage, but closer forces (MI) Planks 2.4 the same time. He Australian government has announced dis interaction to Southern some of the very work is post 3 announced to interaction to be common or the contraction of the contraction of the contraction of the contraction of the state of the contraction of the contraction of the state of the contraction of the contraction of the state of the contraction of the contraction of the state of the contraction of the contraction of the state of the contraction of the cont

In Europe, the draft European Defence Action Plan authorites for the first time the allocation of EU funds to commo defence programmes and has earmarked 90 million euros over three years 100 million in 2019; for research and development in the milliary and scentry field, with security becoming increasingly millitaried. The proposal of the European Commission includes financing defence industries with \$1,000 million euros between 2017-2027. We also between the wereinge trend of arms companies increasing insurface reveal for funding companies increasing insurface reveal for funding companies increasing insurface prevaint funding for milliary companies.

We are, therefore, living in a time of military escalation and increasing political tension around the world. As evidence of this, the US and NATO are demanding its member countries to increase their military spending up to 2% of GDP, generating tensions with States custicle AND. This should be money for social spending and human needs, not for the military

Global military spending already accounts for 2.3% of global GDP. Governments are allocating resources to the military fixed bound because to ensure that people on effectively egity their encounties and social grids are enthreised in the international Covernant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as human rights in general. Many peace and development organizations estimate that a 10% reduction per year and per country of the resources invested in the arms and defence sectors could enable the achievement of the main elements established by the United Nations in as 7.00 for such such human more of enable the achievement of the main elements established by the United

Militarism has serious impacts on people's lives, generating major risks to their safety and well-being. According to Misest MINICR report, there are 63,5 million displaced persons, of which 40,5 million are displaced in their own country, 22,5 million are refugees in other states and 2,8 million are asylum seekers. These are persons displaced as a result of conflicts in countries like Sovira. Serious Administration, 120, 120 lestive, as well as several African and Latin American countries.

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The Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) is an international campaign founded in December 2014 an promoted by the International Pacea Bureau. The aim of the campaign is to convince governments to invest smone; in this sectors of health, education, employment and climate change rather than the military. We urgently need to build human security the critical results which will be about the sectors of the sectors of the control of the sectors of

We need to involve an increasing number of citizens and organizations in an open and robust debate on the counter productive results of milizary separations. More strongly has ever, we urge you to reach out to new partners to work on the on-going Global Campaign on Military Spending, and to make the Global Days of Action on Military Spending a great success! Move the funds from the military to peace! Demilitarite: Invest in People's Needs!

Barcelona, 22 February 2019

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 lift 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





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".

GDAMS
GDAMS
Global Days of
Action on Military
Spending

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

GCOMS Global Campaign Military Spending

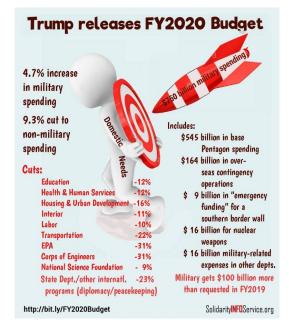
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Trump's new budget: militarize, invest in people's fears

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 energic of oppositions, and is perfect prove that our campaign is now more essential than ever.

Demilitarize, invest in people's needs! Read more here.



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...

