

FINAL REPORT

GDAMS 2021

Global Days of Action on Military Spending
April 10 - May 17



GLOBAL
CAMPAIGN
ON MILITARY
SPENDING

INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

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Introduction

The **Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS)** is an international campaign founded in December 2014 and promoted by the International Peace Bureau. GCOMS incorporates the **Global Day(s) of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)**, which started earlier in 2011.

The overall goal of the GCOMS is to push governments to achieve major re-allocations of military expenditures (especially in high-spending countries) to 5 broad alternative areas:

- **Peace**: disarmament, conflict prevention and resolution, common and human security;
- **Sustainable development** and anti-poverty programs;
- **Climate change** and biodiversity loss – for their mitigation and adaptation;
- **Public services / social justice**, human rights, gender equality and green job-creation;
- **Humanitarian programs** to support the most vulnerable groups.

All the above are parts of a wide global transformation towards a Culture of Peace.

By convincing governments to invest money in the sectors of health, education, employment and climate emergencies rather than the military, this campaign aims at building **human security structures worldwide** and at the same time **puts a stop to war and destruction**. GCOMS also intends to involve as many citizens and organizations as possible in an open and robust debate on the **counterproductive results of military expenditure**.

Since it started in 2011, the **Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)** have been a spring event that takes place in April-May every year. GDAMS are coordinated by the International Peace Bureau (IPB), being the **annual highlight of the GCOMS**. This campaign aims to raise public awareness on the huge amount of public money allocated to the **military sector** and on the necessity to redirect these funds to **human needs**.

It was decided that the GDAMS actions would take place (firstly during a day, afterwards during a short period of time) near the U.S. Tax Day and the yearly publication of SIPRI's data on worldwide military expenditure. This is a particularly good timing: during these days the biggest world military spender is collecting taxes, while SIPRI is publishing its report and drawing attention to the issue.

The objective of GDAMS is to alert the public about the fact that their money is being used to fund the military industry rather than social services such as education, health or culture. Moreover, with this campaign, **IPB aims to promote a new culture of**

peace, where international tensions and conflicts could be transformed by **diplomacy, dialogue and cooperation** rather than with violence or the threat of it, in accordance with a **common security** paradigm;

To do so, the campaign organizes public awareness activities all around the world. As these activities are targeting mainly citizens, they often invite them to reflect on the impact military spending has on their daily lives and the alternatives they can think of.

Overview

This year's Global Days of Action on Military Spending were still conditioned by the **health emergency provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic**. The year 2020 had changed the way we campaign to protest military expenditures and in 2021 we maintained many of these new tools. This year was still complicated for many activists around the globe, but in many countries we were able to once again organise protests and street actions in the way they used to be, so we therefore combined online and in person actions. During this second year of the pandemic, we deemed necessary to keep protesting current levels of military spending, which hasn't decreased despite the hardships imposed on many by simultaneous health, economic, climate and social crises.

The emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic shows us the many inconsistencies of our system, and questions the current "defence" and security paradigms, and the increasing budget allocations. It's now evident that ever growing military capacities can't address the day-to-day problems of people, and that these require urgent attention and investment. This is why this year we have decided to use the motto:

"Defund the Military – Defend the People and the Planet!"

This GDAMS we've listed **over 150 actions** carried out by organizations (partners and others) in at least **29 different countries** of all 5 continents. Thousands of people engaged with the campaign and its members on social media all across the world and it was mentioned in dozens of media outlets. The GCOMS twitter account earned almost 120 thousand impressions over the GDAMS period.

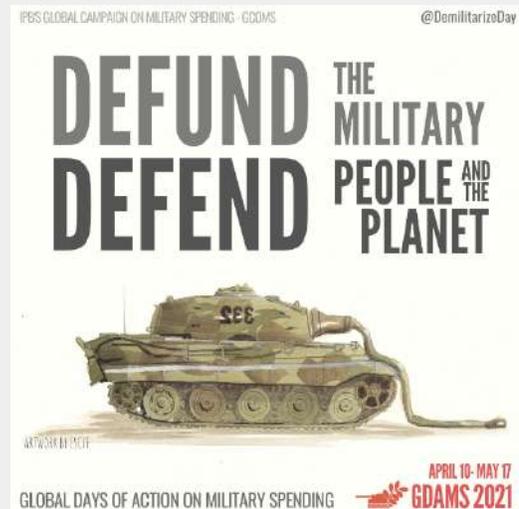


We want to thank the GCOMS Steering Group and all partner organizations and sympathisers for contributing so much despite the difficult circumstances everywhere. You've all made our message resonate louder than ever at a time when it's most needed

GDAMS Appeal

Defund the Military – Defend the People and the Planet

The world spent \$1.98 trillion on the military in 2020, a 2.6% increase over the previous year and the highest figure since the end of the Cold War. Our governments' ever-growing military capacities, in the name of national security, have proved themselves completely useless to defend people from the COVID-19 pandemic, nor can they keep us safe in the face of other global emergencies such as climate change. In addition, as the victims of the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and elsewhere can testify, militarism makes conflicts worse rather than resolving them.



Current levels of military spending not only fail to provide true security, but they actually stand in the way of just and comprehensive solutions to the problems urgently demanding our attention. Indeed, the military power our rulers are so committed to -including new great power Cold Wars – helps create and sustain the very emergencies, tensions and injustice that they claim they are protecting their populations against.

We therefore demand that governments across the globe drastically reduce their military expenditures, especially those accounting for the largest shares of the world's total spending, and reallocate the freed-up resources to human and common security-oriented sectors, notably for confronting the coronavirus pandemic and the eco-social collapse we are now facing.

Now is the time for a reset of our priorities as societies, and a new defense and security paradigm that puts human and environmental needs in the center of policies and budgets.

We need to defund the military if we are to defend people and the planet.

List of endorsements

Abingdon Peace Group (GB), Accademia Apuana della Pace (IT), Acción Colectiva de Objetores y Objektoras de Conciencia (CO), ACPD (ES), ACT4DEM ry (FIN), Actions for development and empowerment (CM), Acción Directa No Violenta (ES), Alternatives to Violence (AU), Alianza Iberoamericana por la Paz (Intl), Alianza por la Solidaridad- ActionAid (ES), Alternativa Antimilitarista.Moc (ES), American Friends Service Committee (US), Aotearoa New Zealand Campaign on Military Spending (NZ), APDHA (ES), Arab Human Security Network (KW), Asociación de Desarrollo Solidario “Yachaywasi de Tablada” (PE), Asociación Española de Investigación para la Paz (AIPAZ) (ES), Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (CY), AssoPacePalestina.org (IT), Auckland Peace Action (NZ), Australia Solidarity with Latin America (AU), Bake Ekintza (ES), Beati i costruttori di pace (Blessed Are the Peacemakers) (IT), Brisbane Combined Union’s Choir (AU), Campaign Against the Arms Trade – CAAT (UK), Campaign for International Cooperation and Disarmament (AU), Campaign for Peace Disarmament and Common Security (US), Campaigns and Policy Lead, Medact (GB), Campaña No soy arma de Guerra Nariño (CO), Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (CA), Cátedra UNESCO de Filosofía para la Paz (Universitat Jaume I) (ES), Cátedra UNESCO de Resolución de Conflictos (Universidad de Córdoba) (ES), CEMEA DEL MEZZOGIORNO (IT), Centre Delàs d’Estudis per la Pau (ES), Centro di Documentazione del Manifesto Pacifista Internazionale-International Peace Poster Documentation Center (IT), CGIL (IT), CGT (ES), Chair of Friends for Peace Building and Conflict Prevention (CA), Chesterfield CND (GB), Cittadinanza attiva (IT), CODEPINK (US), Colectivo de acompañamiento psicosocial SanAcción (CO), Colectivo de activistas Co-inspirando (CO), Conscience Canada (CA), Convergencia de Saberes y Acción Territorial (CO), Coordinadora d’ONGD i aMS de Lleida (ES), Corruption Tracker Project (GB), Demospaz (ES), Desarma Madrid (ES), Ecologistas en Acción (ES), Ekklesia (GB), El Movimiento de Educadores por la Paz de Uruguay (UR), Envirobusiness International (AU), Equality & Civil Rights Network (GB), Escola de Cultura de Pau (ES), Escuelas de Paz (CO), European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT) (Intl), Extinction Rebellion Barcelona (ES), Foro de Asociaciones de Educación en Derechos Humanos y por la Paz (ES), Friends Peace Teams (AU), FUHEM (ES), Fundación Cultura de Paz (ES), FundiPau (ES), GAMIP (AR), Gernika Gogoratuz (ES), Global Campaign for Peace Education (US), Grup Eirene (ES), Grupo Antimilitarista de Carabanchel (ES), Grupo de NoViolencia Elaia (ES), GSsA – Groupe pour une Suisse sans armée (CH), Hamilton Coalition (CA), High Peak Green New Deal (GB), Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition (Toronto) (CA), Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (AU), Inter Alia (GR), International association for peace and development in africa (US), International No to war – No to NATO network (Intl), Italian Peace and Disarmament Network (IT), Just Peace (AU), Just Peace Queensland (AU), Joint Churches Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Program (AU), Justice Coalition (US), Juventud Rebelde Colombia (CO), Kenya Pastoralist Journalist Network (KE), Korea Peace Campaign, Veterans for Peace (US), Lafede.cat (Catalan Fereation of Global Justice Organizations) (ES), La Central Única de los trabajadores de Uruguay – PIT/CNT. 2- La Federación (UR), La Comisión de CULTURA DEL PIT/CNT (UR), Le Moteur des Cent Sans (BE), London Campaign Against Arms Trade

(GB), Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives (US), Lower Hudson Valley Advocacy Team, FCNL (US), MAPALAD KA Network (PH), Massachusetts Peace Action (US), Methodist Federation for Social Action (US), Michiana War Tax Refusers (US), MIR Movimento Internazionale della Riconciliazione (IT), Mouvement de la Paix (FR), Movement for Abolition of War (GB), Movimiento Antimilitarista Colombia (CO), Movimiento hijos e hijas por la memoria y contra la impunidad (CO), Mujeres de Negro contra la Guerra – Madrid (ES), National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (USA) (US), Nonviolence International (US), Nonviolence International Canada (CA), North East Scotland CND (GB), Norwegian Peace Council (NO), Nouveaux Droits de l’Homme Cameroun (CA), NUCLEAR FREE PHILIPPINAS (PH), Oregon Community of War Tax Resisters (US), Palestinian BDS National Committee – BNC (Intl), Partido Manggagawa Women (PH), Pax Christi International (Int), Pax Christi Canada (CA), Pax Christi Italia (IT), Pax Christi Torino (IT), Pax Christi Vlaanderen (BE), + Peace (US), Peace & Justice (Scotland) (SC), Peace Action (INT), Peace Action (US), Peace Action Maine (US), Peace Action New York State (US), Peace Action of Wisconsin (US), Peace Boat (JP), Peace Movement Aotearoa (NZ), Peace Union of Finland (FIN), Peace Women Partners (PH), Peace Wave Philippines (PH), PEACEMOMO (KR), People’s Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) (KR), Percorsi di pace (IT), Plataforma por la Desobediencia Civil (ES), Punto pace Pax Christi Catania, Italy (IT), Ramstein Kampagne (GE), Red Antimilitarista de América Latina y el Caribe (RAMALC) (Intl), REDESSCAN (ES), Rete Italiana per il Disarmo (IT), Reti di pace (IT), Rohi Foundation (US), Santiago City Kiteflying Group, Servei Civil Internacional de Catalunya – SCI (ES), School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province (US), Scientists for Global Responsibility (GB), Stop Fuelling War (FR), STOP the War Coalition Philippines (PH), SM Zone One Tondo Organization (PH), Suds (ES), Suomen rauhanpuolustajat ry (FIN), The Disarmament and Security Centre NZ, The Foundation for Justice and Development Initiatives (FJDI) (UG), The Global Sunrise Project (CA), The Irish Peace and Neutrality Alliance (IR), The Maitriyana Buddhist Community (IND), The National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth – NNOMY (US), The Peace center in Aarhus (DK), The Peace Party – Non-violence, Justice, Environment (GB), The Peace-movement of Esbjerg (DK), Tipping Point North South (GB), Toronto Association for Peace & Solidarity (CA), United for Peace and Justice (US), Uniting for Peace (GB), Uruguay del Magisterio (Trabajadores de Educación Primaria (FUM/TEP) (UR), USTEA Ecolo. Cádiz (ES), V.A.S. (VERDI AMBIENTE E SOCIETA) (IT), Veterans For Peace (US), Wage Peace (AU), Walpole Peace and Justice Group (US), War Resisters International (Intl), War Resisters League (US), Whatcom Peace & Justice Center (US), WILPF Australia Section (AUS), WILPF – Italia cc (IT), WILPF España – Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad (ES), Women Against Nuclear Power (FIN), Women for Peace and Ecology (GE), Women’s Action for New Directions (US), Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom – NZ (NZ), Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (US), Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom – Canada (CA), Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom GB (GB), World BEYOND War (Intl), World Youth Peace Organization (NG), Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (GB), Yugo sport & art association (RS), ZOTO Youth (PH), Zukunftskonvent Germany (GE)

Press release

Over 190 Civil Society Organizations from 33 different countries joined the GDAMS Appeal and demanded that governments around the world drastically reduce their military expenditures, which reached almost 2 trillion \$ in 2020, a 2.6% increase over the previous year.

- World military expenditure amounted to \$1981 billion in 2020, a 2.6% increase over the previous year.
- In 2020, the biggest spenders were the US, China, India, Russia, the UK and Saudi Arabia. Except for Saudi Arabia, they all increased their expenditure over 2019.
- Military expenditure by the 29 NATO members reached \$1103 billion, amounting to 56% of the total military spending in the world. This is an increase of 13.6% compared to 2019.

On Monday, April 26th, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) published the new figures for global military spending in 2020. The world spent \$1.98 trillion on the military during the first year of the coronavirus pandemic, a 2.6% increase over the previous year and the highest figure since the end of the Cold War.

The five biggest spenders in 2020 were the United States, China, India, Russia and the United Kingdom, which together accounted for 62 per cent of world military spending. U.S. military expenditure grew by 4.4 per cent in 2020, to \$778 billion. China (1.9 per cent), India (2.1 per cent), Russia (2.5 per cent) and the UK (2.9 per cent) all increased their military spending in 2020.

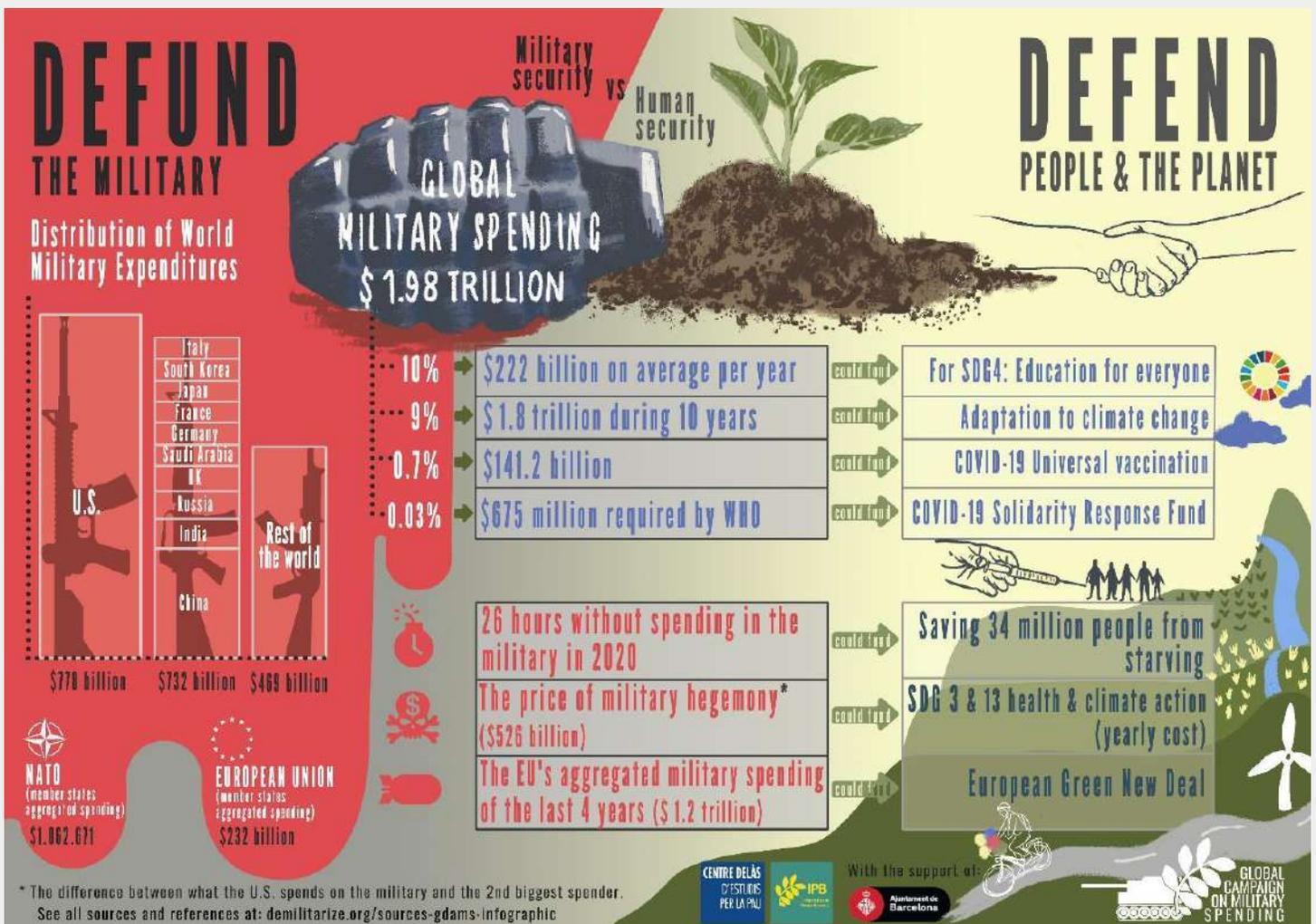
Almost all regions in the world increased their military spending, however, the U.S. remained by far the largest spender in the world, accounting for 39% of global military spending in 2020.

The aggregated military expenditures of NATO member states reached \$1103 billion, which accounts for 56% of the world's total. Nearly all members of the alliance saw their military burden rise in 2020. As a result, 12 NATO members spent 2 per cent or more of their GDP on their militaries, the Alliance's guideline spending target, compared with 9 members in 2019. France, for example, the 8th biggest spender globally, passed the 2 per cent threshold for the first time since 2009. NATO has increased its military expenditure of 13.6% over the previous year.

The aggregated spending of EU member states amounts to 233 billion, 12% of the world's total spending, and the 3rd highest after the U.S. and China.

To protest this profoundly misguided budget priorities, and in the context of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS), more than 190 civil society organizations from over 30 different countries have come together to urge governments to drastically reduce their military expenditure and make human security-oriented sectors, such as health and the environment, the priority of public policies and budgets. The COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis have generated a global consciousness on the need to invest in these sectors, however, the latest figures of military expenditure go in the opposite direction.

Infographic ‘Defund the Military – Defend the People and the Planet’



On the occasion of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending – GDAMS – and the release of new data on military spending by SIPRI (figures for 2020), our campaign has prepared this infographic, which intends to make visible the opportunity cost of global military expenditures (1.98 trillion \$). It illustrates current levels of military spending, also divided in shares, and compares them with the cost of human security-oriented programmes, including those related to the Sustainable Development Goals, the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency.

For instance, 9% of the world’s total military spending during the last 10 years could finance the adaptation to climate change the Global Commission on Adaptation proposes; a 10% reduction of the world’s military expenditures could fund education for every person on earth (SDG4); 26 hours without spending money on the military could save 34 millions people from starvation; the last 4 years of EU member states aggregated military expenditures could finance the European Green New Deal.

These are just a few comparisons, but we believe they help understand the magnitude of the squandering military spending means for our societies.

You can download this infographic in high quality [here](#).

References and sources on this [link](#).

You can also find this infographic in [Spanish](#), [Catalan](#) and [Japanese](#).



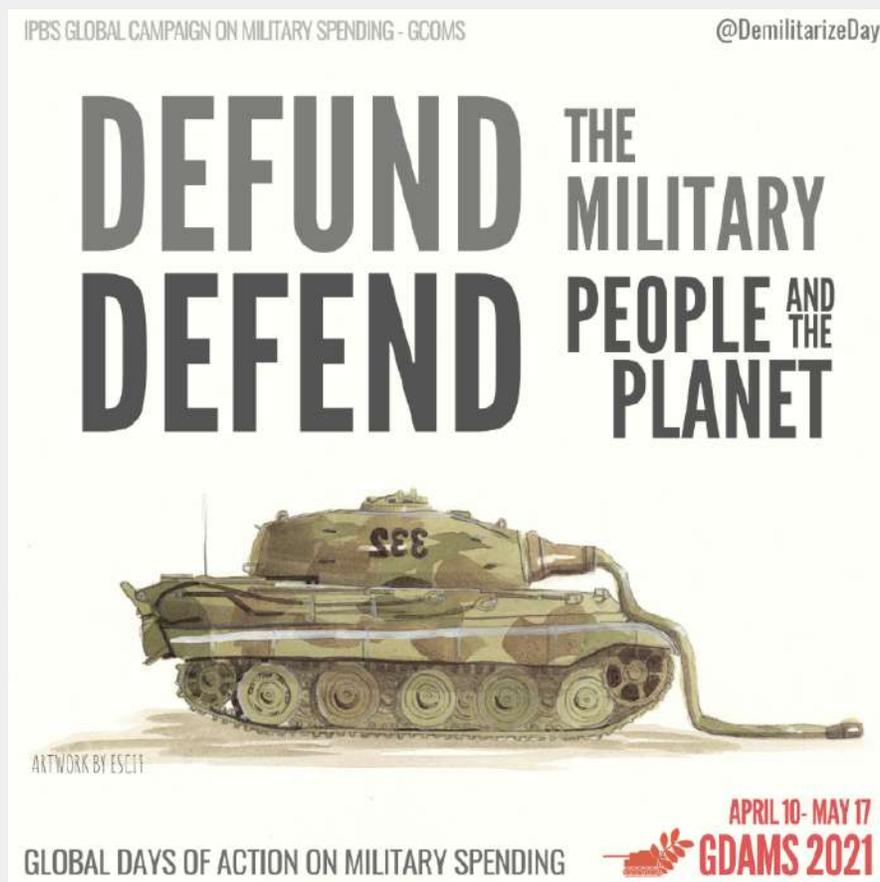
The 'Defund the Military – Defend the People and the Planet' infographic reached tens of thousands of people on social media and was shared by referential organizations such as

On social media, our infographic earned **11'798 impressions on Twitter**. Postings of the infographic by organizations such as Centre Delàs, CODEPINK, Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo and many others multiplied its impact and earned many more likes, retweets and shares than the campaign's original post.

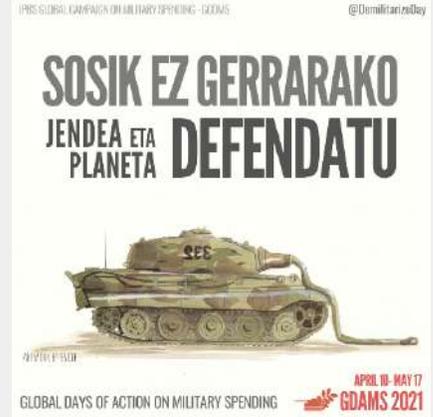
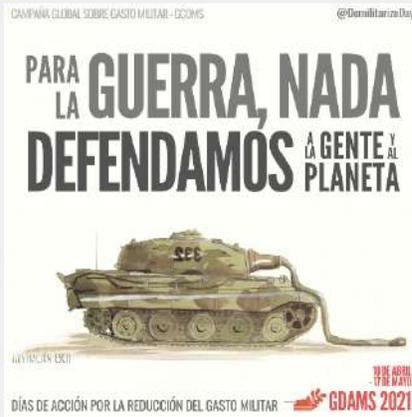
Social media pictures

These social media pictures featured the GDAMS 2021 slogans: “**Defund the Military – Defend the People and the Planet**” and “**Healthcare Not Warfare**”.

Both the tank and the soldier images were drawn by the street artist *Escif*, who gave permission for its use to GCOMS and its partners. Find out more about the artist on his [Instagram](#).



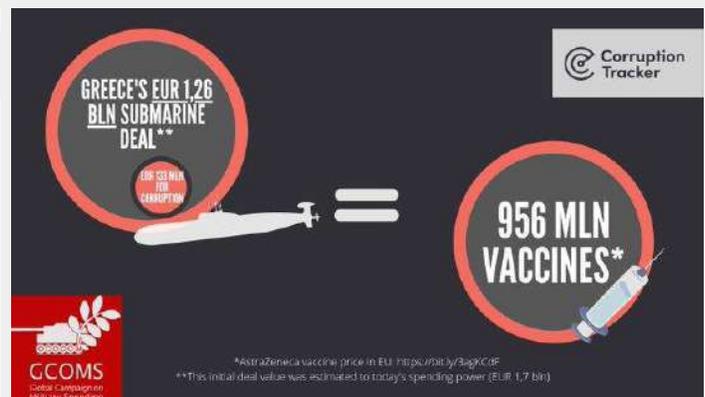
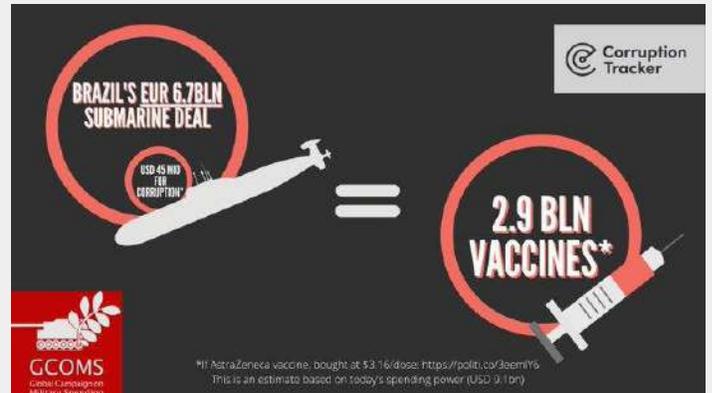
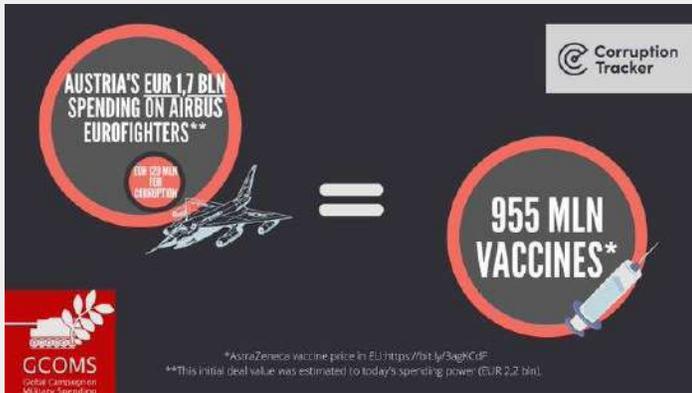
You can also download this image [here](#).
Also available in Italian, Spanish, Italian, Korean, Euskera and Catalan.



Healthcare Not Warfare Social media Pictures:







GDAMS 2021 – Actions

The year 2021 was once again marked by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, in contrast to 2020, many actions could be held outdoors. We had several actions taking place in the streets, especially in the USA for the "Tax Day" on 17 May, in the United Kingdom, where activists gathered to protest against the new budget, in South Korea and in the Philippines.

The interactive Map



GDAMS Press Conferences

Five press conferences took place on **April 26** in Seoul, Berlin, Rome, Bogotá and Barcelona and press releases were launched in various other locations, on the occasion of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) and the releasing of new data on military spending for the year 2020 by the Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Military spending reached an estimated **\$1.981 trillion** in 2020, a 2,6 percent higher than the previous year. Press conferences and releases presented a critical analysis to this exorbitant level of expenditure, especially in the context of a global pandemic and claimed for major reallocations of these resources to cover the true needs of people and ensure a just recovery for everyone.

Berlin - Press Conference

The amount of military spending in the world is a political, social, ecological, economical and ethical scandal. It reveals the continued misplaced priorities of global leaders.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, environmental emergency, and growing inequality, military spending increased by 2.6%, [from US\\$ 1.917 trillion in 2019 to \\$ 1.981 trillion – just shy of 2 trillion in 2020.](#)

This trend reveals the true priorities of governments around the world, who chose to prioritize weapons and war over the health and safety of their own populations suffering from the Coronavirus, who chose confrontation over cooperation to overcome global crises, and who continue to ignore the calls of their constituents for a new normal based in peace and environmental and social justice.

We will use the [Global Days of Action on Military Spending \(GDAMS\)](#) to make public the injustice of nearly 2 trillion dollars of spending on killing and destruction and re-imagine the alternatives.

Our efforts will culminate in the [Second IPB World Peace Congress](#) this October 15-17 in Barcelona, where we will gather both in-person and virtually to make our voices heard, (re)imagine our world, and take action for peace and justice.

Korea (PSPD) action and Press Conference

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) organised more than just a press release. An action to condemn and denounce the excesses of military spending. A good occasion to remind the world the spring of peace on the Korean Peninsula three years ago. In 2018, the leaders of South and North Korea agreed on 'disarmament in a phased manner' through the "*Panmunjeom Declaration on Peace,*



Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula”, and prepared the specific implementation plans for building military trust through the “*Agreement on the Implementation of the Historic Panmunjeom Declaration in Military Domain*”. Nevertheless, the South Korean government has continuously increased its military spending since then. On 26 of April, the day where SIPRI decided to released military expenses in the world, PSPD decided to send a powerful message: “We request: Let us use our resources to defend people and the planet, not to build up the military. Let’s cut defence spending dramatically, and use it for responding Covid-19 crisis, expanding the social safety net, resolving inequality and sustainable environment.”

Italia – IPB & RIPD Press Conference

In a year in which all the peoples of the world have suffered from the consequences of the pandemic, states have continued to spend infinitely more on weapons and militarisation than on people's needs," said Lisa Clark, IPB's international co-chair and RIPD activist. "Global is the pandemic, global is the growth in military spending, but global is also the campaign launched by IPB.

This press conference was an occasion for Lisa Clark to point out Italy's military spending. In 2020 the expenditure was 28.9 billion dollars (+7.5% compared to 2019) and also the estimates elaborated by the Mil€x Observatory with a new methodology confirm a decisive growth between 2019 and 2020, already showing a leap (+8.1%) also in relation to 2021. Forecast military spending is around 25 billion (almost two billion more) with over 7 billion euros earmarked for the purchase of new weapons systems. "Never before has it been so necessary to rethink how we live, taking humanity as a whole and our coexistence with nature as our reference. A cultural change, even more than a political one, which implies a rethinking of investments and the direction of public choices, abandoning the culture of war in order to build a culture of cooperation and true Peace” - states Sergio Bassoli, coordinator of the RIPD (Rete Italiana Pace E Disarmo) 'Steering Committee'.

Barcelona – Centre Delàs

PER A LA GUERRA, RES DEFENSEM LA GENT I EL PLANETA

Roda de premsa | Dilluns 26 Abril | 11:00h

Publicació de les dades sobre la despesa militar mundial del
SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)

ESPERANZA FERNÁNDEZ

Marea Blanca Catalunya

JORGE RIECHMANN

Professor de Filosofia a la UAM
i expert en ecologia política

ANDRÉS AMAYUELAS

Coordinadora Espanyola d'ONGD

JORDI CALVO

Coordinador del Centre Delàs d'Estudis
per la Pau i vicepresident del IPB



GCOMS

Global Campaign on
Military Spending



*Per accedir a la
videoconferència
escriure a
premsa@centredelas.org



New data published by SIPRI once again places Spain in 17th position in the ranking of countries with the highest military spending in 2020, with a figure of €17.4 billion, registering a slight decrease compared to the previous year. According to calculations by the Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau, the figure is higher and reaches 19,762 million euros, the equivalent of 55 million euros per day, data that takes into account part of the consolidated budget of the Ministry of Defence, of 10,199,000 euros, the rest of the military expenses distributed in other ministries that are not included in the defence credits (which is what NATO advises member countries to do). Jordi Calvo, coordinator of the Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau and vice-president of the IPB, has warned of the need to reduce these military expenses: "Spain has increased its military spending

in the middle of the pandemic and has decided to increase it by 2021, we are talking about an increase of close to 10%. It is worth noting that the military R&D planned for 2021 is 800 million and health R&D, earmarked for vaccines or other eventualities, is 200 million".

"The global trend towards an extreme militarisation of international relations is a reality that seems to have no end in sight. As long as this trend continues, we must sound the alarm about the decision to confront any crisis by increasing military spending as a response to possible future conflicts, a response that is increasingly securitising, even in the face of pandemics, which requires other types of measures", warned Jordi Calvo.



You can watch the full press conference (in Spanish) [here](#)

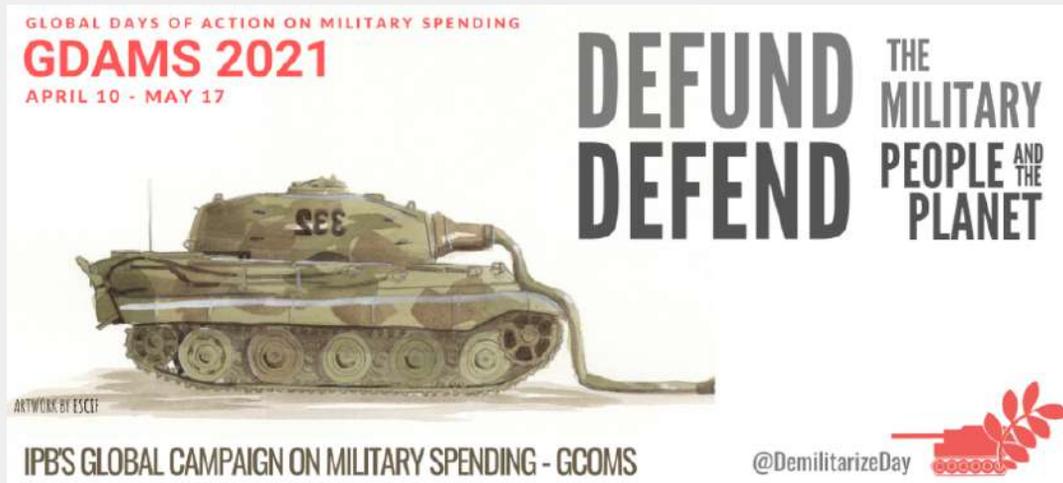
International actions

➤ GDAMS APPEAL:

APPEAL: REDUCE MILITARY SPENDING, DEFEND PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

IPB calls on [governments around the world to reduce their military expenditures!](#)

The world's oldest peace NGO, the Nobel Prize-winning IPB, demand that governments across the globe drastically reduce their military expenditures, especially those accounting for the largest shares of the world's total spending, and reallocate the freed-up resources to human and common security-oriented sectors, notably for confronting the coronavirus pandemic and the eco-social collapse we are now facing.



Please join us demanding governments around the world to reduce their military expenditures! And if you're part of a civil society organization, we would like to have it endorsing this as well.

We need to defund the military if we are to defend people and the planet.

Join the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) from April 10 to May 17. To find out more visit our [website](#). You can also read this Appeal in [Spanish](#) and [French](#).

➤ **IPB Statement:** Reaction to the Newest SIPRI Figures

The amount of military spending in the world is a political, social, ecological, economical and ethical scandal. It reveals the continued misplaced priorities of global leaders.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, environmental emergency, and growing inequality, military spending increased by 2.6%, from US\$ 1.917 trillion in 2019 to \$ 1.981 trillion – just shy of 2 trillion in 2020.

This trend reveals the true priorities of governments around the world, who chose to prioritize weapons and war over the health and safety of their own populations suffering from the Coronavirus, who chose confrontation over cooperation to overcome global crises, and who continue to ignore the calls of their constituents for a new normal based in peace and environmental and social justice.

The NATO alliance alone makes up 56% of all global military spending, the USA 37%.

If governments cannot reduce military spending during the height of a global pandemic, we cannot expect them to do so on their own. We need to strengthen our global call for a military spending reduction of 10 percent, and bring new voices into the conversation to pressure governments to make the changes that are necessary. These are the goals and priorities of the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) and we are working hard every year to amplify the voices that join the campaign.

Only by reducing military spending can we address the array of crises that we faced in 2020 and still face in 2021 and beyond: the climate catastrophe, the Covid-19 virus and fair vaccination distribution, global inequality and inequity, and threats to democracy, human rights, and worker's rights.

We will use the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) to make public the injustice of nearly 2 trillion dollars of spending on killing and destruction and re-imagine the alternatives.

Our efforts will culminate in the Second IPB World Peace Congress this October 15-17 in Barcelona, where we will gather both in-person and virtually to make our voices heard, (re)imagine our world, and take action for peace and justice.

Read the statement on the IPB website [here](#)

➤ **UNODA** statement in support of GDAMS 2021

For all of us, but especially women, the pandemic is a reminder that traditional notions of “security” that fuel the weapons industry cannot protect us from dangers and challenges we routinely face.

Before the pandemic, women were already over-represented in vulnerable economic sectors and bore the brunt of unpaid care and domestic work. When COVID-19 hit, the women who make up 70 per cent of the global health care workforce found themselves on the frontlines of the response—even as countless other women lost their livelihoods and took on greater household burdens.

The pandemic will push [47 million more women and girls](#) into extreme poverty. Rates of intimate partner violence—mainly perpetrated by men against women—have skyrocketed, in a horrifying “shadow pandemic” of all forms of violence against women

and girls. Millions of women now face greater risks of female genital mutilation, child marriage or preventable maternal death.

In short, the virus revealed that gender divides not only persist but are worsening, threatening decades of progress, especially if women continue to be excluded from shaping the response to the pandemic.

Recovering from the pandemic must mean strengthening women's social and economic security, including through stronger investments in health, education, and social protection systems that advance gender equality.

But the safety and well-being of everyday people has historically taken a backseat to a narrower and militarized idea of "security", one that still leads decision-makers to spend vast amounts of money to build overflowing arsenals of weapons. The United Nations Secretary-General called for a global ceasefire at the beginning of the pandemic, but most conflict parties kept fighting, and the international arms trade [remained as active](#) as at almost any point since the cold war.

Yet, all these [weapons have not brought us closer to peace](#). They have only sown distrust, eroded relations between countries, and increased global tensions.

Moving forward will require embracing a broader vision of security—one that reduces reliance on military armaments, accounts for our common humanity and recognizes women's empowerment as a critical driver of sustainable peace and development.

These ideas are not new. For instance, the United Nations has made reducing military budgets a core objective since its founding.

Nonetheless, attention to the problem has dwindled in recent decades. Bloated military budgets [held the global spotlight](#) throughout much of the cold war. But in the years since, relatively few voiced alarm as military outlays [more than doubled](#). Military expenditures in 2020 reached [USD 1,981 billion](#), which translates to approximately 252 USD per person in one year. In comparison, only USD 115.95 per person was spent on bilateral aid on average in 2018, out of which a meagre [0.2 per cent](#) went directly to women's rights organizations – a percentage that has not changed in a decade.

The pandemic has offered us a rare chance to "reset" our approach to security in a way that also advances gender equality. As two United Nations leaders working for disarmament and gender equality, we believe three things need to happen.

First, we must refuse to shy away from hard questions. Whose security is protected by modernizing or expanding weapons, like nuclear bombs, that would result in a human catastrophe, with disproportionate impact on women and girls, if used? To end our global arms addiction, decision-makers need to take a more human-centred approach to security, recognizing how countries have pursued disarmament for centuries as a way to protect themselves, look out for each other and prevent needless human suffering. This will require political will and a revitalization of diplomacy over investment in huge militaries.

Second, the voices calling for an end to rampant militarization need to be taken seriously. Many women's organizations have been pushing back against runaway military spending for more than a century, while feminist movements have been key to critically examining whether our governments' investments in strengthening security have actually had the opposite effect. They are part of a multi-generational, multi-sectoral drive for change. We must hear these messages loud and clear, and create conditions to include them in policy-making.

Third, we need action by our elected officials to stop spending so much money on weapons. If our leaders instead prioritize investments in social protections, like equal access to quality health care and education for all, they can bring us closer to achieving Global Goals, including on gender equality. Such investments must be seen for what they are: down payments to make our societies more resilient, equal and secure.

From April 10 to May 17, we will mark the tenth annual [Global Days of Action on Military Spending](#). To seize this moment, our governments should take a stand by sharing concrete commitments to begin redirecting resources towards a more peaceful and secure future that benefits us all.

This is not a utopian ideal, but an achievable necessity.

See the original statement [here](#).

➤ ONLINE WORLD CONFERENCE:

Nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament: Is it time for no-first-use policies in the USA and globally? (April 29)

The online World Conference for Nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament, organised by the Geneva centre for Security Policy, was held between 5:15 and 6:30 pm (NY time) in the context of GDAMS 2020.

Here is a description of the event: 'No-first-use' is a policy that can be adopted by a nuclear armed (or allied) state to never initiate a nuclear exchange by being the first to use nuclear weapons. China and India have declared such policies. The Soviet Union/Russia had such a policy from 1982 to 1993. There are political developments promoting the adoption of no-first-use policies by others – particularly the United States and its allies under extended nuclear deterrence, i.e. NATO/Japan/South Korea and Australia.

This webinar will explore whether such policies reduce the risk of a nuclear war and pave the way for multilateral nuclear disarmament, how such policies can be operationalised, what new initiatives are advancing such policies, and political forces and security arguments supporting or preventing their adoption.

Speakers included:

- **Mr Thomas Countryman** (USA), Chair of the Arms Control Association Board of Directors, Former United States Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Non-proliferation
- **Mr Andrey Baklitskiy** (Russia), Senior Research Fellow, Center for Advanced American Studies, Institute of International Studies, MGIMO University of the Russian Foreign Ministry
- **General Bernard Norlain** (France), Former Air Defence Commander and Air Combat Commander of the French Air Force. Vice-President of Initiatives pour le Désarmement Nucléaire
- **Lord Hannay of Chiswick** (UK), Chair, All Party Group on Global Security and Non-proliferation
- **Commander Robert Forsyth** (UK), Former Nuclear Submarine Commanding Officer, Royal Navy
- **Ms Uta Zapf** (Germany/NATO/OSCE), Former Chair of the Bundestag Subcommittee on Disarmament and Arms Control
- **Ms Yasmeen Silva** (USA), Partnerships Manager, Beyond the Bomb

You can watch the full conference [here](#).

➤ Youth Summit Against NATO (April 24)

On the 24 of April, the International Peace Bureau (IPB) organised a webinar, as the first Youth Summit Against NATO.

Here is the description: The future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) depends on young people. NATO Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg, said that “young people have the greatest stake in NATO’s future” during the NATO 2030 Youth Summit held in November last year. The new agenda of the transatlantic alliance called “NATO 2030” seeks to indoctrinate younger generations into the false narrative of militarized security that the alliance has promoted for decades. The first Youth Summit Against NATO will gather young leaders from the peace movement to share their thoughts about resisting NATO and the implications this nuclear-armed alliance will have for their future.

The poster features a dark blue background with a world map. At the top left is the logo for 'WORLD BEYOND WAR YOUTH NETWORKS'. The main title 'YOUTH SUMMIT AGAINST NATO' is in large white letters, with the date and time 'April 24th, 2021 - 11h00 ET/17h00 CEST' below it. A 'Speakers' section lists four individuals with their photos and titles: Lucas Wirl (Germany, Co-Chair, No to War - No to Nato), Dirk Hoogenkamp (Netherlands, NVMP - Artsen voor Vrede, European Student Representative of IPPNW), Vanessa Lanteigne (Canada, National Coordinator, Canadian Voice of Women), and Lucy Tiller (United Kingdom, Youth and Student, Campaigning for Nuclear Disarmament). A 'LIVE' badge is present. Registration information includes 'Register at https://www.ipb.org/' and 'ZOOM MEETING' with a Zoom icon.

Speakers included:

- **Angelo Cardona**, International Peace Bureau, Advisory Board World Beyond War (Colombia).
- **Dirk Hoogenkamp**, NVMP-Artsen voor Vrede, European student representative to the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) (Netherlands).
- **Lucy Tiller**, Youth and Student, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (UK)
- **Lucas Wirl**, Co-Chair, No to War-No to NATO (Germany).
- **Vanessa Lanteigne**, National Coordinator, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (Canada).

You can watch the full conference [here](#)

➤ **ENAAT (European Network Against Arms Trade) calls MEPs to save EU peace project and reject Defence Fund**

Will EU parliamentarians save or end the European peace project?

Brussels, 29 April 2021

Today, Members of the European Parliament will hold final vote on the European Defence Fund (EDF), which will divert €8 billion of the EU budget (2021-2027) to fund the Research and Development (R&D) of new or enhanced weaponry and military technology. It is the first time that EU money will be used for military purposes, although this is prohibited by European treaties.

EU funding for military R&D has been agreed after concerted lobbying by the arms industry, to be the main beneficiary from these multi-billion subsidies. Two pilot programmes are already under way and diverting half a billion euros from the last EU budget (2014-2020) to subsidise armament companies and military research centres across the EU, at the expense of civilian programmes.

“[According to our findings](#), the four major military powers in Europe (France, Italy, Spain and Germany) and the eight companies that advised the EC to create this funding are now the major beneficiaries of it”, says **Wendela de Vries, coordinator at Stop Wapenhandel (NL)**.

The EU Defence Fund will exacerbate military spending and the global arms race

[In 2020 the world military expenditure reached almost US\\$2 trillion](#), and the EU is third in the world: “the EU 27 increased their military spending by 4.6% over 2019, to €204.2 billion. The EDF is an add-on to these expenditures, and Member States committed to further increase their national spending under PESCO” continues **Jordi Calvo, senior researcher and coordinator at Centre Delas (SP)**.

Moreover, “creating new market opportunities across the Union and beyond” forms part of the EDF award criteria. “In other words, it will subsidise arms dealers to develop new weapons and military technology for EU use and export, in a context of weakening export control practices” explains **Francesco Vignarca, Campaigns coordinator at Rete Pace & Disarmo (IT)**.

The EU Defence Fund is a threat to a democratic Union

Under exemption rules, the EDF will be carried through ‘implementing acts’ instead of ‘delegated acts’. “This means that the EP will hardly have a say as to how the Fund will be implemented by the Commission and Member States in the next seven years. And the security interest argument is regularly used to bypass EU transparency rules. It is a dangerous precedent which undermines EU democratic control” states **Laëticia Sédou, Project officer at ENAAT**.

The EU Defence Fund is a threat to peace and International Law

Projects funded under the EDF will focus on unmanned systems, artificial intelligence and other disruptive technologies ‘that will radically change the way to conduct war’. The impact on the field of such ‘enhanced weaponry’ is a matter of concern for International Law experts. “Yet current ethical reviews, when they exist at all, do not comply with the international obligation to consider how these technologies could undermine International Law. And the European Ombudsman recently [expressed](#)

[concern about the lack of transparency of the Commission in this matter](#)”, according to **Bram Vranken**, researcher at **Vredesactie** (BE).



It is claimed that turning the EU into a ‘hard power’ would strengthen its ‘soft power’. “The reality is that with the EDF, Europe is preparing for war; developing the EU ‘hard power’ will rather marginalise peaceful alternatives and discredit its peace work in the field” concludes **Tony Fortin**, researcher at **l’Observatoire des armements** (FR).

The EU should remain as an alternative to the global military power hegemonies; instead, it should invest its resources into promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts and addressing their root-causes, such as climate change and unequal distribution of wealth and power.



ENAAT calls on Euro-parliamentarians to save the European peace project and reject the Defence Fund.

Originally published [here](#)
PDF in [English](#) or [French](#)

➤ SIPRI joins GDAMS on their social media

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) referenced GDAMS when releasing their new figures on military expenditure on [Twitter](#):

“Total military spending accounted for 2.4% of GDP in 2020. What is the average military burden by region?”

- Americas: 1.5%
- Africa: 1.8%
- Asia and Oceania: 1.8%
- Europe: 1.8%
- Middle East: 4.9%.

Download the [Fact Sheet](#). #GDAMS”

➤ Arms Tracker shared GDAMS Infographic

“If you want to know more about the cost of military expenditures look at this infographic from [@DemilitarizeDay](#) illustrating what these resources could fund if they were reallocated to human security-oriented programmes to confront the #COVID19 pandemic and the climate emergency”

➤ Global Justice shared the GDAMS message on social media

In the midst of a global pandemic, the UK government is:

- cutting the aid budget
- blocking equitable vaccine access
- ramping up military spending

#DefundTheMilitary #HealthcareNotWarfare

➤ Stop Fuelling War joined GCOMS and shared infographic

Stop Fueling war posted on social media:

“If you want to know more about the cost of military expenditures look at this infographic from @DemilitarizeDay illustrating what these resources could fund if they were reallocated to human security-oriented programmes to confront the #COVID19 pandemic and the climate emergency.”

➤ **Reaching Critical Will**

Reaching Critical Will, the Disarmament Programme of WILPF, joined GDAMS and shared the ‘Defund the military – Defend people & the planet’ infographic on their social media.

➤ **IPPNW**

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) shared GDAMS materials on their social networks.

➤ **War Resisters International**

War Resisters International supported GDAMS online and shared its materials and statement on their social media.

“According to @SIPRI, during the 1st year of the #COVID19 pandemic the world spent almost 2 trillion \$ in the military, a 2.6% increase over 2019. How did that make us any safer? We need to #DefundTheMilitary if we are to defend people & the planet. Join our storm today! #GDAMS.”

➤ **AEPF (Asia-Europe People's Forum)**

AEPF, through its cluster of Peace and Security, supported the campaign for one more year, being GCOMS one of the main campaigns of the group.

GCOMS WORKSHOP AT THE ASIA-EUROPE PEOPLE’S FORUM - Defund the Military · Defend People and the Planet

ASIA EUROPE PEOPLE'S FORUM FOR A JUST, PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD **AEPF 13** 17 - 24 MAY 2021 **PEACE & SECURITY CLUSTER**

COLIN ARCHER
IPB-GCOMS
UK

MERI JOYCE
Peace Boat
Japan

BINA NEPRAM
IPB / Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network
India

FRANCESCO VIGNARCA
Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo
Italy

LAETITIA SEDOU
ENAAAT
Brussels

REINER BRAUN
IPB / No to NATO
Germany

MATT FAWCETT
GCOMS UK Coalition
United Kingdom

STEFAN NIEUWINCKEL
Pax Christi Vlaanderen
Belgium

YOUNGHA LEE
PSPD
S Korea

KAREN KING
Stop Fueling War
France

**DEFUND the MILITARY
DEFEND the PEOPLE & the PLANET**

May 17 • Monday • 12:30-2:00pm CET

4:00pm India; 5:30pm Vietnam; 6:30pm Phils/Mongolia; 7:30pm Japan/Korea; 8:30pm Australia; 6:30am US East

Register at: <https://aepf.info/aepf-13-programme/>

Workshop Co-Organizers:

Invited Speakers came from both regions of Asia and Europe, being most of them members of the Global Campaign on Military Spending. Speakers included researchers, academics, activists and representatives of organizations and social movements involved in peace and disarmament work, and particularly in monitoring and analyzing military spending in different countries and studying the implications of the rise of military spending globally.

This session offered a space for these peace activists and experts to share campaign strategies and good practices in regards to military spending, with a particular focus on Europe and Asia. It included an analysis and perspectives from different GCOMS members and collaborators from the 2 continents, also serving as a closing for the 2021 Global Days of Action on Military Spending -GDAMS.

The general objectives of this workshop were:

- To raise awareness and change the discourse regarding military spending and security
- To promote major reallocations of military expenditure to human



security-oriented sectors

The specific objectives were:

- To strengthen collaboration and synergies among

campaign members

- To exchange strategies and good practices among activists from different countries

Moderators:

Cora Fabros (AEPF & IPB) + Quique Sanchez (IPB/GCOMS & Centre Delàs)

Speakers included:

1. Colin Archer - Former IPB secretary general and GCOMS founder (United Kingdom)
2. Meri Joyce - Peace Boat (Japan)
3. Bina Nepram – IPB Council member & founder of Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network (India)
4. Francesco Vignarca – Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo (Italy)
5. Laetitia Sedou – European Network Against the Arms Trade - ENAAT (EU)
6. Reiner Braun – IPB Director General · Germany + No to NATO Network (Germany)
7. Matt Fawcett - GCOMS UK Coalition (UK)
8. Stefan Nieuwinckel – Director of Pax Christi Vlaanderen (Belgium)
9. Youngah Lee - People's Solidarity for a Participatory Democracy - PSPD (S Korea)
10. Karen King - Stop Fueling War (France)

Colin Archer, at our [@_AEPF](#) workshop: "In short: Educate - mobilise - reach out to other partners - use media -pressurise political parties - lobby politicians... and then do it all again!"

You can watch this conference here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmwhwLjPdzg&t=14s>

Africa

CAMEROON

➤ Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme Cameroon (NDH) joined GDAMS.

NDH shared the GDAMS statement and materials through their network and via online.

NDH, as an organisation partner of GCOMS, organised a photo campaign to ask Cameroon government to reallocate the money.

This social media campaign aims to show that military spending is not the priority for the country and its people. Every day during the GDAMS, NDH posted a picture to ask for a public resource as a better spending than military spending.



➤ **Nigeria**

The World Youth Peace Organisation endorsed and shared the GDAMS appeal. More info [here](#)

➤ **Uganda**

The Foundation for Justice and Development Initiatives (FJDI) endorses GDAMS appeal. [More info here](#)

➤ **Democratic Republic of Congo**

The Amani-Institute ASBL endorsed the GDAMS appeal and shared it through its network.

ASIA & PACIFIC

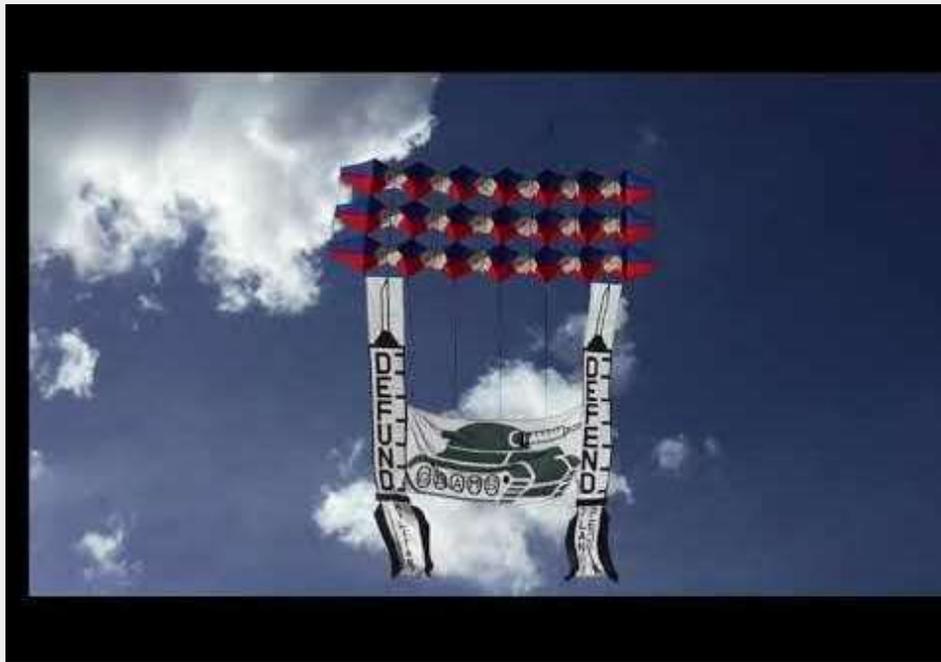
PHILIPPINES

➤ **Actions by Stop the War Coalition Philippines**

Stop the War Coalition Philippines endorsed GDAMS appeal and shared it on social media. They also organised a social media campaign on Facebook, asking people to realise a video demanding the government to reallocate money to more important sectors. You can see the campaign here:

<https://www.facebook.com/STOPtheWARphils/>

Kite flying in Santiago City, Isabela, Philippines, on May 9, 2021, in support of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending - GDAMS. Led by Delfin F. Pilonos Jr., promoted by Stop the War Coalition Philippines. The kite reads "Defund the Military, Defend People and the Planet".



You can see the video they produced [here](#).

NEW ZEALAND AOTEAROA

➤ Peace Movement Aotearoa

Peace Movement Aotearoa endorsed GDAMS appeal and shared it on social media. They organised a discussion on the 26 of April to talk about the new global military spending figures on the day they are released, the implications for peoples and planet, and issues around military spending in Aotearoa New Zealand in advance of the Budget 2021.

GDAMS 2021 Global Day of Action on Military Spending

Has the global pandemic had an impact on military spending? Join us on Monday 26 April to find out

DEFUND THE MILITARY
DEFEND PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

Aotearoa New Zealand Campaign on Military Spending
<http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/gdams.htm>



AUSTRALIA

➤ IPAN Statement: IT'S TIME for a Fossil Fuel Free Future – NOT WAR

We, the undersigned, call for a major change in government priorities in the coming 2021 budget.

The writing is on the wall that we in Australia and countries around the world, urgently require a radical transformation of industry, transport and energy to avoid the worst of the climate crisis. With that transformation will come great opportunities for sustainable industry and ethical jobs.

Our government instead is pushing negative job creation through the manufacture of military equipment which both benefits the big weapons corporations as well as being sold to countries allegedly committing war crimes, such as Saudi Arabia.

We call on our government to prioritize spending in the upcoming budget on the transition to clean energy technologies, and stop funding arms corporations and businesses.

➤ BRISBANE

On May 13th in Brisbane, Just Peace Queensland organised a vigil with a banner with the logo and slogan of GDAMS.



JAPAN

➤ Gensuikyo (Japan Council against A & H Bombs) shared an article with GDAMS infographics

Article by Quique Sánchez, GCOMS officer in Barcelona, on Gensuikyo's April newsletter. This piece introduced the GDAMS 2021 to Gensuikyo's followers and activists, asking them to turn their eyes especially on the link between Japanese demand for nuclear abolition and the growing military expenditure of Japan for massive purchase of US fighter jets/weapon systems and building US military bases in Okinawa.

You can read the article [here](#)

➤ Peace Boat

This year, the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS), organized by the Global Campaign on Military Spending, a year-round international campaign promoted by the International Peace Bureau took place from 12 April -17 May. The Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released the data for global military spending on April 26. World military expenditure was 1981 billion USD in 2020, an increase of 2.6 per

cent from 2019 in real terms. Since clear records began in 1988, there has been a steady overall increase. The five biggest spenders in 2020 were the United States, China, India, Russia and the United Kingdom, which together accounted for 62 per cent of world military spending. Japan is at number 9 in the world and the second largest military spender in East Asia in 2020, behind China.



Various organizations around the world organized awareness raising events during GDAMS to highlight how much had been spent on the military worldwide. Peace Boat as a International Steering Group Member of GCOMS, also took part in the campaign. An event was organized in Japan specifically to raise awareness particularly of Japan’s military spending, entitled “Japan's military spending is 5.3 trillion yen?!- how do we protect people and the planet?” It was a hybrid event with the first half featuring an online presentation on global and Japanese military spending. The second half was a small in-person workshop held in the Peace Boat in Japan with Peace Boat volunteers. The whole event was broadcast on Facebook, [Youtube](#) and to the Peace Boat Online Community - OCEAN- which was launched during the pandemic. Viewers were invited to comment live during the event.

In spite of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, a clause in the national Constitution of Japan outlawing war as a means to settle international disputes involving the state, Japan's “defense” spending in 2020 was 49.1 billion USD / 5.3 trillion yen. This is an increase of 1.1% from the previous year, and defense spending has increased for the eighth consecutive year since the beginning of the second Abe administration, and has reached a record high for the sixth consecutive year. At 1% of GDP, Japan’s military burden in 2020 reached the self-imposed limit that the Japanese cabinet set in 1976. Japan last reached this limit in 2015. As well as looking at the figures released by SIPRI

for Japan, Peace Boat staff member, Karen Hallows, who gave the presentation explained that the Japanese government approved in December a record defense budget for fiscal 2021 totaling 5.34 trillion yen. The draft budget is up 0.5 percent from fiscal 2020, including expenses connected to hosting the US' military bases.



The event highlighted that the issue of military spending is important because an increase in militarisation means increased possibility of armed conflict but also it is a question of priorities for public money. Many of the security threats facing our world including the current COVID-19 pandemic cannot be resolved through increased arms. The presentation showed examples from the GDAMS campaign about alternatives for global military spending. 222 billion USD every year could be used to implement SDG4 and provide education for everyone. 1.8 trillion USD over 10 years for climate change adaptation and finally 141.2 billion USD for universal COVID-19 vaccine. Looking at the situation in Japan, Karen showed how some of the money used for the military could be used to deal with COVID-19. Converting JS Izumo (DDH-183), a helicopter carrier into a light aircraft carrier costs 3.1 billion yen. Purchasing from the US 6 stealth fighter F-35Bs operated by the ship from the US is 79.3 billion yen. A total of 82.4 billion yen. With this amount of money, more than 130 PCR testing centers can be set up nationwide. The land-based missile interception system Aegis Ashore cost 12.9 billion yen. With this amount, we can increase the number of helpers who care for the elderly by 4,000.

Following the online presentation on military spending, Sumiko Hatakeyama led a small in-person workshop and discussion on military spending with Peace Boat volunteers at

the Peace Boat Center in Tokyo. The young participants expressed their surprise at the high level of spending and engaged in a lively discussion about how that money could be spent. Concluding the workshop, the youth volunteers wrote their ideas for prioritising the money on pieces of paper. These included rural regeneration, maternal health and child care and a 'planet revival project'.



Peace Boat staff also took part in the GDAMS selfie campaign, showing their priorities on how the 1981 billion USD military budget could be better spent. Ideas from staff members included education, support for the homeless, medical care and climate action. Global Military spending was also included in an event on Military Artificial Intelligence in a Study Session that was organized as part of Peace Boat’s regular online educational programme while the ship is unable to sail.

Peace Boat staff member, Meri Joyce, joined the [closing event](#) for GDAMS which was held at the Asia Europe People’s Forum. Meri speaking on behalf of Peace Boat shared the situation in Japan in regards to military spending explaining that most of Peace Boat’s work is focused on raising awareness in Japan because most people are not aware of how much Japan spends on ‘defence’ because of the image of a peaceful country with Article 9. Meri explained that at the same time, Japan is going through the

third state of emergency connected with the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meri explained that it is not unrelated that Okinawa, which is home to most of the US bases in Japan, also has the highest COVID-19 infection rate in the country.

SOUTH KOREA

➤ Street actions by PSPD

Besides the press conference, PSPD prepared a colorful street action.



EUROPE

GERMANY

➤ STOPP AIR BASE RAMSTEIN

Organized by the campaign *Stopp Air Base Ramstein*, the international “No to War – no to NATO” network, the International Peace Bureau with the support of GCOMS.

As part of the Days of Action against Military Spending (GCOMS), where protests took place all over the world, the Stop Ramstein Air Base campaign protested against worldwide military bases and drone warfare with a bicycle marathon on 30 April and 1 May. Despite night-time curfews and further restrictions on the right to assemble due to hygiene regulations, the Stop Ramstein Air Base campaign demonstrated against the airbase and war. With colourfully decorated bicycles and peace flags, about 85 activists circled Ramstein Air Base over the two days.



➤ Vigil "Close AFRICOM & EUCOM - for a policy of peace" at Stuttgart

Organised by Gesellschaft Kultur des Friedens during GCOMS. Vigil against military expenditure but also with the purpose to ask for the closing of AFRICOM & EUCOM in Stuttgart.

Internationaler Aktionstag gegen Militärbasen, Kommando-zentralen & Rüstungsstandorte

Kundgebung und Mahnwache:
"AFRICOM & EUCOM schließen - für eine Politik des Friedens"

Freitag, 30. April 2021 • 15 Uhr
Haupteingang US-Africom in Stuttgart
Möhringen, Plieninger Str. 289

Mit:
Dieter Reicherter ehem. vorsitzender Richter am Landgericht Stuttgart
Heike Hänsel MdP
Faisal Osman Friedensaktivist Somalia
Sarah Bies Friedens & Klimaaktivistin
Henning Zierock GRK
sowie weitere Beiträge von Friedensinitiativen

Überall auf der Welt finden am 30. April 2021 Protestaktionen im Rahmen der Tage gegen Aufrüstung (GCOMS) statt. In über 150 Veranstaltungen und Aktionen in mehr als 30 Ländern wird gegen die weitere geheimte Aufrüstung protestiert werden. 2 Billionen Dollar pro Jahr für Rüstung, für Drohnen, Panzer und Militärstandorte und gleichzeitig hungern Millionen Kinder, die Gesundheitssysteme sind marode und Schulen verfallen. Das Nele zu Krieg und Rüstung verbindet diese Aktionen. An diesem Tag wollen wir mediale Verbindungen zwischen den verschiedenen Schauplätzen in Ramstein, Berlin und Stuttgart, AFRICOM herstellen, Informationen austauschen und auch eine Solidaritätsbrücke zu den Anti-BasenaktivistInnen in Okinawa und Süd-Korea herstellen. In Stuttgart gibt es 2 US-Kommandozentralen, das EUCOM (S-Vaihingen) und das AFRICOM (S-Möhringen), von denen US-Großmanöver wie Defender21 und weltweite Drohnenmorde koordiniert werden, die Grundgesetz- und Völkerrechtswidrig sind. Deshalb fordern wir die Schließung dieser Standorte zur Nutzung für zivile Zwecke, wie z.B. Sozialwohnungen und Kultureinrichtungen.

Die Aktion findet unter den aktuellen Pandemiestimmungen statt.
Kontakt: Gesellschaft Kultur des Friedens, Weißenhof Stuttgart, Charlosterplatz 17
E-Mail: info@kulturdesfriedens.de



➤ **Demonstration at Menwith Hill US spybase**

Supporters of the Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign and Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) gathered at the main gates of Menwith Hill on 30th of April 2021 to mark the International Day of Action Against Foreign Military Bases.



Menwith Hill on the North York Moors outside Harrogate, is one of a network of high-tech US bases spread around the world, gathering military, political and economic information related to it by information-gathering satellites.

Its huge domes housing antennae and equipment which relays information to the Pentagon are a striking feature of the skyline.

Like many other bases in this country, it is said – on the entrance notice boards – to be a Royal Air Force base but is actually occupied by around 1,000 US military and civilian personnel. Members of Parliament have been refused access to the base, which is guarded by the Ministry of Defence Police and CND points out that the world's military powers, particularly the US, operate more than 1,000 bases worldwide, often outside the control of the countries which host them.

MHAC co-ordinator Sarah Swift said: “Menwith Hill provides information for the targeting of drones which kill innocent civilians. It is involved in missile defence, ramping up the possibility of an accidental nuclear war. It was involved in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan”, and added: “The United States objects to surveillance of its own citizens, yet Menwith Hill is enabling surveillance of civilians across the world.”

You can find the whole article [here](#)

➤ Women In Black, London

As part of GDAMS, Women In Black organised a vigil at the Edith Cavell statue in central London in order to demand a reduction on military spending around the world.

They took the opportunity to remind that in the UK “in the midst of the COVID pandemic we have seen:

- A £24 billion increase in the UK military budget
- Nuclear weapons cap increased by 44%
- Aid to the world's poorest cut by 30%



In addition to the vigil, Women In Black endorsed GDAMS appeal and shared it on social media.

➤ **Vigil for action against military spending in Keighley on 1st May**

The socially-distanced event, which took place outside the bus station, was organised by Keighley Peace Justice and the Environment Network. Mollie Binns, a member of the network and of Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said: “I believe in peace – we need peace. It is a precious thing.

“We need to think about mother earth and taking care of her.” She was also critical of Government plans to increase the UK’s overall cap on the number of nuclear warheads to 260 – the figure was due to fall to 180 under previous proposals.

“The Government needs to be re-educated so it can begin contributing towards a more caring, peaceful world.”

Network colleague Sylvia Boyes said: “Despite the universal acceptance that the pandemic and climate change are existential threats, we have seen a pay freeze for frontline workers and a vast increase in the military budget. Does this reflect our priorities in the kind of society we want?”

Originally published [here](#)



➤ **Share the World’s Resources online campaign**

Share the World’s resources (STWR's) as part of its campaign for Article 25, organised an online talk on 25th of April.

Article 25 proclaims the right of everyone to adequate food, housing, healthcare and social security. But still today, millions of people subsist without sufficient means for survival. Even in the wealthiest nations, we are witnessing a dramatic rise in levels of

hunger, deprivation, social exclusion and economic inequality due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Furthermore, a petition “Divert military spending to global covid relief!” was launched online. The purpose is to demand that our governments redirect a portion of military expenditures into a global fund for addressing the critical needs of the poor, with the United Nations to initiate and oversee this process. A strong video message to support the petition.

You can find the video [here](#)

➤ Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) is a UK-based organisation working to end the international arms trade. During GDAMS, a campaign to email members of parliament was organised. This is the message of this campaign:

“Despite the unprecedented economic challenges, the UK faced in 2020, UK spending on the military continued to rise. Figures released on the 26 April 2021 showed a 2.9% increase for 2020, but sadly this was just the beginning.

In 2021 the military budget will increase by over 10%, the largest increase in over 70 years, costing an additional £24 billion by the end of this Parliament. This can’t go on.

If we really are to ‘build back better’ we need a radical change of priorities, building security by investing in vital health and public services, not cold-war weaponry.

To build effective opposition in Parliament to this dangerous new arms race, we need to know where MPs stand. Please write to your MP and help build a picture of our allies on this issue.”

You can find the link [here](#).



In Scotland “A Manifesto for Peace” was written to be sent to candidates. Also, by CAAT and Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Pax Christi Scotland.

You can find the link [here](#).

An invitation was sent to the candidate to take part in a webinar with Questions & answers. This webinar took place on 26 of April, the day SIPRI released its figures about military spending.

“Over the next 4 years, the UK will spend 8 times more on the military than it will on tackling the climate crisis. #DefundTheMilitary Defend people and planet. #HealthcareNotWarfare Share if you agree.” @GCOMS_UK@DemilitarizeDay

➤ **STOP THE WAR COALITION - Conference**

The 17th of April, a webinar took place online with major figures in the militant peace movements. This 3-hour conference entitled “THREATS OF WAR: BRITAIN’S NEW GLOBAL ROLE” was held before the release of SIPRI’s figures. The discussion was about Great Britain’s behaviour as a threat of war.



You can find the whole conference [here](#).

➤ Campaign for Nuclear Disarmaments (CND) – webinar

On 26th of April, a webinar was held by CND to discuss “the shocking announcement that the government wants a 40% increase in nuclear warheads but will only give a 1% pay rise to nurses.”

Speakers:

- Kate Hudson (General Secretary of the CND)
- Danielle Tiplady (nurse and Royal College of Nursing activist),
- Dr John Puntis (co-chair of Keep our NHS Public) and
- Matt Fawcett (Global Campaign on Military Spending UK coordinator).

You can watch this webinar again [here](#).

➤ Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)

CND called to action on GDAMS through a campaign: “**Nurses Not Nukes**”

Kate Hudson, as General secretary of the CND, points out the amount of money spent on military and the lack of consideration for human need with the poor allocation for healthcare.

Nurses Not Nukes is a response to the shocking announcement that the government wants a 40% increase in nuclear warheads but will only give a 1% pay rise to nurses. How can it justify funds for more nuclear weapons, but not to pay nurses the wages they deserve?

As part of this campaign, the aim of the webinar is to give a voice to a nurse (Danielle Tiplady, nurse and Royal College of Nursing activist). To hear someone that is directly affected by this budget announcement. At this webinar were also invited Dr John Puntis (co-chair of Keep our NHS Public) and Matt Fawcett (Global Campaign on Military Spending UK coordinator).

You can find the webinar [here](#).

➤ Yorkshire CND

Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament joined GDAMS by sharing



its infographic and endorsed its appeal to ask governments to reduce military spending.

➤ **Scottish CND**

Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament join GDAMS on social media, sharing the Defund the military GDAMS UK picture.

➤ **Pax Christi**

Pax Christi joined GDAMS by endorsing its appeal to ask governments to reduce military spending and tweeted #DefundTheMilitary and #HealthcareNotWarfare.

➤ **Abingdon Peace Group endorsed GDAMS appeal**

Abingdon Peace Group joined GDAMS by endorsing its appeal to ask governments to reduce military spending and shared the tweet #DefundTheMilitary and #HealthcareNotWarfare.

➤ **Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) - Online Campaign**

CAAT reacted to the release of new data on military spending by SIPRI, “the new data shows a 6th consecutive year of increase in world military spending, by 2.6% in real terms, reaching a total of \$1,981 billion in 2020 – very nearly \$2 trillion, and the figure is in any case a conservative estimate. That’s 20 times what rich countries promised to spend each year (but haven’t delivered) on international



climate finance to help poor countries reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the climate crisis.”

As CAAT and others have argued, this increased militarisation will do nothing to address the real security needs of people in the UK and worldwide.

See also the [article](#) by CAAT on the occasion of GDAMS.

This is a climate crisis. Yet over the next 4 years, the UK government has promised

**£24bn
for the climate**

VS

**£188bn
for the
military**

#DefundTheMilitary

caat.org.uk

➤ **Movement for the Abolition of War**

Movement for the Abolition of War joined GDAMS by sharing its statement on [Facebook](#) and published GCOMS video on its profile.

➤ Online campaigning by the GCOMS-UK Coalition

You can check their profile [here](#).



ITALY

➤ Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo

In addition to the press conference for the release of the SIPRI military expenditure figures, Rete Italiana per il Disarmo endorsed GDAMS appeal and shared it through social media.

Press conference [here](#).

TV interview (RAI News 24) to Francesco Vignarca, on the necessity to reduce military spending. Watch it [here](#).

➤ Campaign for moratorium on new weapons' expenditure in 2021. "They've chosen weapons"

Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo, together with Sbilanciamoci! demanded a moratorium on new weapons' expenditure in 2021, urging the Italian Government to reallocate the expected funding for new weapons in 2021 to Health and Education in order to better deal with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and asking the public "What defends you better". As this didn't achieve its purpose, the campaign adapted its message, showing how the government had chosen weapons over healthcare services. More information [here](#).



➤ MILEX Observatory 2021 Update

MILEX observatory will released an update about italian military expenditures.
More info [here](#)

SPAIN

➤ Centre Delas of Peace Studies: GDAMS infographics and online actions

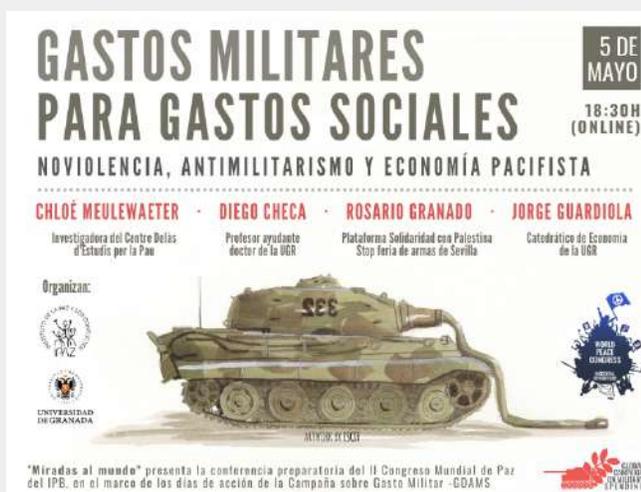
In addition to the press conference for the release of the SIPRI military expenditure figures, Centre Delàs endorsed and [shared](#) the GDAMS appeal, and prepared and shared [translated infographics](#) (to Spanish and Catalan) and reflections on military spending within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spain, bringing attention to the vast opportunity costs of military outlays and to human security-based alternatives.

➤ Webinar by IPAZ Granada: Military expenditure for social expenditure

The 5th of May, IPAZ and the University of Granada organised a webinar entitled: “Gastos Militares para Gastos Sociales”. The aim of this webinar was to discuss military expenditures with the concept of opportunity cost.

The speakers were:

- Chloé Meulewaeter, researcher for centre Delàs de Estudios por la Paz
- Diego Checa, professor university of Grenada
- Rosario Granado, Plataforma Solidaridad con Palestina, Stop feria de armas de Sevilla
- Jorge Guardiola, Catedrático de Economía (Granada University)



➤ Webinar "La nueva base militar en Córdoba. Un nuevo paso en la militarización de Andalucía"

The 6 of May, another webinar took place online. The discussion was about the new military base in Cordoba (Spain). Organised by Córdoba por la Paz, the two speakers invited were:

- Chloé Meulewaeter, researcher for centre Delàs de Estudios por la Paz
- Carmen Calzado, activista de Ecologistas en Acción Andalucía.

You can find the link [here](#) (in Spanish)

➤ **Antimilitaristas Madrid**

Antimilitaristas Madrid joined GDAMS by sharing its statement through social networks.

➤ **Asociación Española de Investigación para la Paz (AIPAZ)**

Asociación Española de Investigación para la Paz (AIPAZ) joined GDAMS by sharing its statement through social network.

➤ **Fundación Cultura de Paz**

Fundación Cultura de Paz joined GDAMS by sharing its statement through social networks.

➤ **International Conference on Culture and Peace**

Gernika Gogoratuz, is a peace research institute. Every year the institute organises commemorative days for the bombing of Gernika (Basque country) on 26 April 1937. This year marks the 84th anniversary of the bombings. For several days, conferences were held on different themes. Gernika Gogoratuz opens a space for dialogue to deepen in epistemological frameworks that contribute to the construction of sustainable alternatives with life. You can find videos and information on their [website](#).



These days of commemoration took place during the military expenditure campaign (GCOMS). Gernika Gogoratuz shared GDAMS appeal on his [website](#).

➤ **GREENPEACE SPAIN**

GREENPEACE Madrid joined GDAMS by sharing its statement through social networks. Greenpeace España wrote an article named “Seguridad humana: más hospitales y menos tanques”. This article referenced SIPRI and GDAMS 2021 and shared the appeal.

You can find the article [here](#) by Javi Raboso.

➤ **UNIPAU**

UNIPAU joined GDAMS by sharing its statement through social networks.

➤ **USTEA**

Unión de Sindicatos de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores en Andalucía endorsed GDAMS appeal and produced an article on military spending: “*USTEA por el trasvase de gasto militar a gasto civil. GDAMS 2021*” (Spanish). This article refers to the campaign and the concept of opportunity cost. You can find it [here](#).

➤ **Espazo aberto antimilitar shared GDAMS materials**

The Galician group shared the GDAMS infographic prepared by Centre Delàs at their [website](#) and used it as a way to encourage people to do tax resistance.

➤ **Lafede.cat-organitzacions per a la justícia global**

Lafede.cat-organitzacions per a la justícia global joined GDAMS by sharing its statement through social networks.

➤ **Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos Andalucía (APDHA CADIZ)**

Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos Andalucía (APDHA CADIZ) joined GDAMS by sharing its statement through social network. APDHA wrote an article ([here](#)) about the campaign and with others organizations (USTEA, Ecologistas en Acción y MOC-ELAIA) they coordinated a photo campaign.



➤ Antifascist Coordination Group of Sevilla

Demostration at Placio San Telmo on April 17 to protest military expeditures and the Palestinian genocide.

Coordinadora Antifascista de Sevilla @c_antifasvq · May 14

Acto de Protesta contra el genocidio en Palestina y por la reducción del gasto militar 📣📣

🕒 Lunes 17 - 19:00h

📍 Palacio de San Telmo

PARA FINES SOCIALES

Escif

STOP

ACTO DE PROTESTA @DemilitarizeDay

PARA LA GUERRA, NADA DEFENDAMOS LA GENTE AL PLANETA

Lunes, 17 de mayo. 19:00 h.
Palacio de San Telmo (Sevilla)

DÍAS DE ACCIÓN POR LA REDUCCIÓN DEL GASTO MILITAR **GDAMS 2021**

Palestina

Acto de Protesta

Basta de Genocidio

Palestina Libertad Justicia

➤ The Pantera Rossa Social centre and library shared the GDAMS message and image on its social media.

En 2020 el gasto militar mundial aumentó a 1,981 mil millones de \$. Por la seguridad humana, firma https://bit.ly/OFGM_SeguridadHumana y haz [#objeciónfiscal](#) en tu declaración de la renta

<https://lapanterarossa.net/noticias/objecion-fiscal-al-gasto-militar-por-la-reivindicacion-d-e-la-seguridad-humana> [#ParaLaGuerraNada](#) [#GastosMilitaresParaFinesSociales](#)

➤ Tax Resistance Campaign by SIOF

The SIOF (Fiscal Objection Information Service for Military Expenditures) organised a campaign from the 7th of April till the 30th of Julio to protest against military expenditures. This organisation produced a special infographic in Catalan and a guide to make a tax objection.

More info on SIOF's website <http://objecciofiscal.org/> and find the manifest [here](#).





FINLAND

➤ GDAMS Online Actions by Sadankomitea (Committee of 100)

Sadankomitea supported GDAMS 2021 campaign by sharing links on his website (and social media) and calling for a reduction in military spending to reinvest in human security.

Find Sadankomitea's website [here](#).

BELGIUM

➤ Vrede Vzw: Online Actions

Vrede Vzw supported GDAMS 2021 campaign by sharing the campaign's infographic on its social networks and calling for a reduction in military spending to reinvest in healthcare and human security. Vrede Vzw published GDAMS appeal on his website.

Visit their website [here](#)

NORTH AMERICA

USA

➤ **Eugene** (Oregon), April 15th saw Tax Day actions not seen in years. Well at least in 2 years. Across the United States actions have taken place. In the USA, the 15th of April represents the deadline for filing your tax return. As a tradition, War Tax Resisters and those concerned about militarism organize actions in their communities to educate that nearly half of the federal income taxes are devoted to war!



➤ **Boston** (Massachusetts), this year, the deadline for filing your tax return has been extended to 17 May. So, there were not only demonstrations on 15 April. Most organisations mobilised on 17 May as well. During this day, 17 activists spoke “to demand that our tax dollars go towards the people and the planet, and not towards the profits of the wealthy and corporations”. You can find the video of the event [here](#).



More information [here](#).

➤ **New York**, despite the bad



weather, a lot of people were in New York on Tax Day to demand those taxes not be used to finance wars. Organised by War Resisters League. More information [here](#).

**TAXES
FOR
PEACE**

MONDAY
MAY 17
"Tax Day" for 2021

3:00 pm
MILITARY RECRUITING STATION
Times Square 43rd St. & Broadway

3:30 pm
March to General Post Office

4:00 pm
GPO/Moynihan Train Hall
Eighth Ave. btwn 32nd & 33rd Sts.

**NOT
FOR
WAR!**

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS: NYC War Resisters League, Veterans for Peace/Chapter 34, Brooklyn For Peace, Peace Action New York State, Granny Peace Brigade, Peace Action of Staten Island, Manhattan Project for a Nuclear Free World, Catholic Worker, Kairos Community

NYC WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE • nycWRL@nycwarresisters.org • 718-768-7306 • nycwarresisters.org

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE MATERIALS WHAT YOU CAN DO

Leaflet with this flyer year-round and on Tax Day, May 17, 2021, and during the Global Days of Action on Military Spending, April 13-May 9, demilitarize.org, and year round.

Get involved in WRL's organizing and education work: nonviolent direct action training, counter-military recruitment, internationalist work, and more. Visit WRL's membership handbook at warresisters.org/joinwrl. Find resources to challenge militarism, curb police and border patrol power, strengthen nonviolent action and lift up community resilience!

Write elected officials letters-to-the-editor, and posts online. Send and share copies of this flyer. Explain your budget priorities for a better world.

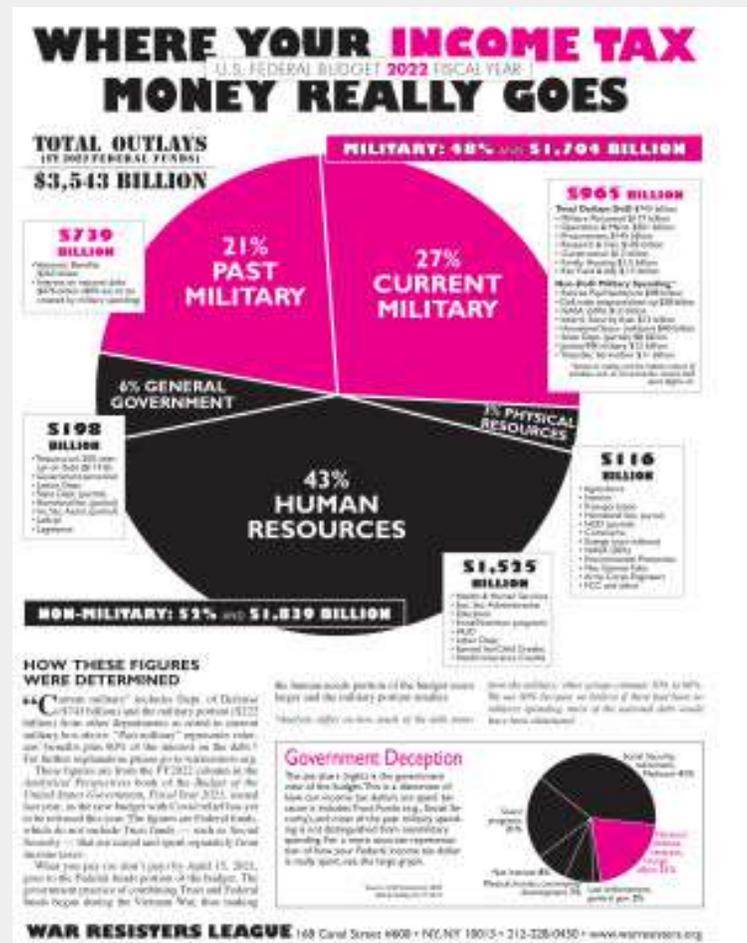
Divest from war! Refuse to pay all or part of your federal income tax. Though illegal, thousands of people openly participate in this form of protest. Whatever you choose to refuse—\$1, \$10, 48% or 100%—send a letter to elected officials and tell them why. Contact us for information or referral to a counselor near you. Contribute resisted tax money to groups that work for the common good.

For more about refusing to pay for war, brochures, and other resources, contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, (800) 269-7464 or see nwtrcc.org.

➤ **+Peace**

+Peace has created a series of social media materials with the slogans “Healthcare Not Warfare” and “Move The Money”, with different colours and formats for Twitter and Instagram, and on a pdf poster-size.

Check them out and download them at their website.



➤ **Washington**

A rally vigil was organised in front of the White house.

A fake tank with the inscription Healthcare Not Warfare took place.

An opportunity for people to speak out against US military spending on Tax Day.



Rally to Demilitarize the Budget!

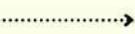
8 May, Noon - 3PM



12 - 1:15 PM



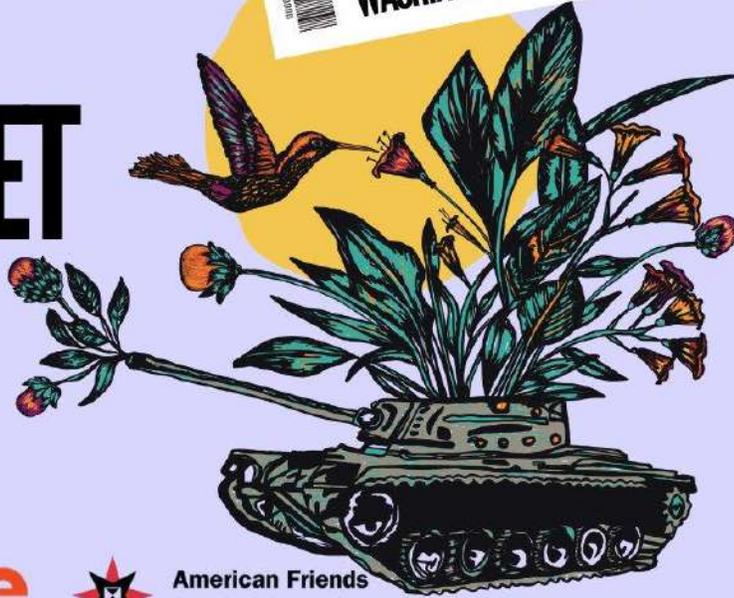
1:30 PM



2:00 - 3 PM

RALLY TO DEMILITARIZE THE BUDGET

8 MAY 2021 - NOON-3PM
WASHINGTON, DC - NATIONAL MALL



[FB.ME/E/218PQSYQE](https://fb.me/E/218PQSYQE)



Organizations in the US Condemn United States' Ranking in Global Military Spending

“Once again, the United States tops one of the world’s most infamous rankings lists—top military spenders. In 2020, the United States’ spending on the military and nuclear weapons made up 39% of the global total, according to an annual report released today by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. This is the third year in a row that the United States’ spending has increased.

As 38 organizations that work in the United States, we are continually disappointed by the members of Congress and presidents that choose to purchase weapons and wage warfare at the expense of our communities and our children’s futures.

Our political leaders’ militaristic foreign policy choices and blatant disregard for the domestic needs of taxpayers have fueled the growth of the bloated Pentagon budget year after year. In 2020, our nation faced crises ranging from a pandemic to disastrous wildfires, evidencing the urgent need for investment in public health and climate change instead of F-35 warplanes and new nuclear weapons. The misallocation of our resources into militarized spending has weakened our nation’s ability to respond to the things that affect people’s day-to-day wellbeing.

Even as it becomes increasingly apparent that militarized spending isn’t the answer to today’s global problems, the Biden administration proposed increasing the 2022 discretionary defense budget to a whopping \$753 billion. Members of Congress must do better. We call on them to significantly decrease spending on the military and nuclear weapons for FY2022 and to reallocate that money into true national priorities like public health, diplomacy, infrastructure, and addressing climate change.”

National Organizations:



+Peace Alliance of Baptists, American Friends Service Committee, Beyond the Bomb, CODEPINK, Campaign for Peace Disarmament and Common Security, Center for International Policy, Christian Peacemaker Teams, Climate Crisis and Militarism Project of Veterans for Peace, Coalition on Human Needs, Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces DC Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, DC Peace Team, Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, East Lansing, University United Methodist Church, InterReligious Task Force on Central American and Colombia (IRTF Cleveland), LP Indivisible, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Massachusetts Peace Action, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies, Outrider Foundation, Passionist Solidarity Network, Pax Christi USA, Peace Action New York State, Peace Education Center Pennsylvania, Council of Churches Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, RootsAction.org, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas – Justice Team, The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society, Washington Office on Latin America, Win Without War, Women’s Action for New Directions, World BEYOND War, World Beyond War – Florida Chapters

You can download this statement [here](#).

"In 2020, our nation faced crises ranging from a pandemic to disastrous wildfires, evidencing the urgent need for investment in public health and climate change instead of F-35 warplanes and new nuclear weapons."

-38 organizations reacting to news that the U.S. made up 39% of global military spending in 2020



➤ **Webinar: Investing in Cures Before Missiles**

On May 17, a webinar was organised by World Beyond War and Women Against War. The aim was to discuss the increase in military and especially nuclear spending. To gather ideas on how to use state money in a more intelligent way than the permanent danger of nuclearization.

You can find the webinar [here](#).

Speakers:

- David Swanson, Executive Director of World BEYOND War, facilitated discussion. (Moderator)
- Kevin Martin, President of National Peace Action and the Peace Action Education Fund
- Dr. Lawrence S. Wittner, historian, author of *Confronting the Bomb: a Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement*
- Maureen Baillargeon Aumand, member of the Pathways to Peace Committee of Women Against War

➤ **Webinar: Militarism & Climate change: Disaster in progress**

On 29th of April took place a webinar to discuss militarism and climate change. Both anti-war and climate movements are fighting for justice and life for all people on a liveable planet. It's increasingly clear that we can't have one without the other. No climate justice, no peace, no planet. This was the strong message of this webinar. This event was hosted by World BEYOND War and Science for Peace.

- Clayton Thomas-Müller — Member of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, senior campaign specialist with 350.org and a campaigner, film director, media producer, organizer, facilitator, public speaker and author.
- El Jones — Award-winning spoken word poet, educator, journalist, and a community activist living in African Nova Scotia. She was the fifth Poet Laureate of Halifax.
- Jaggi Singh — Independent journalist and community organizer, actively involved in anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian, anti-colonial organizing and projects for two decades.

- Kasha Sequoia Slavner — Award-winning Gen-Z documentary filmmaker, currently shooting 1.5 Degrees of Peace, a documentary film to inspire a unified movement for peace and climate justice.

You can find the full video [here](#).

➤ **A Tax Day like no Other!**

On April 15, Peace Action Maine organised a special day with this slogan: Pressing for our budget priorities amid pandemic, economic and climate crises and new Cold Wars. Many activities were organised during the day. Different protagonists spoke.

You can find Peace Action Maine youtube channel [here](#).

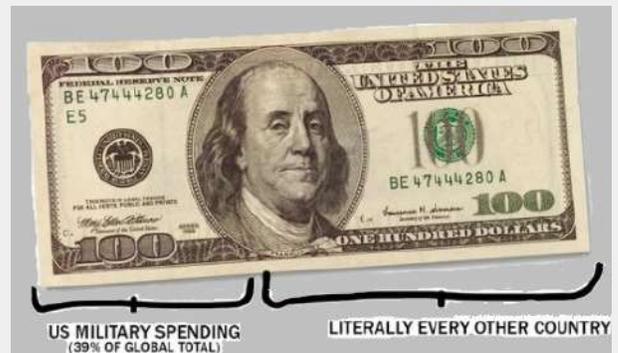
As a virtual action organised and supported by Organized by: Massachusetts Peace Action, Massachusetts Alliance of HUD Tenants, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, New England War Tax Resistance, American Friends Service Committee – Northeast Region, Peace Action Maine, Peace Action New York State, Chicago Area Peace Action, CodePink Women for Peace, ME Veterans for Peace, Maryland United for Peace and Justice (list in formation).

➤ **National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee**

National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee joined GDAMS by endorsing its appeal to ask governments to reduce military spending and tweeted #HealthcareNotWarfare.

➤ **American Friends Service Committee**

American Friends Service Committee joined GDAMS by endorsing its appeal to ask governments to reduce military spending and shared its tweets.



➤ **Quaker Roots: resisting the arms trade**

Quaker Roots: resisting the arms trade endorsed GDAMS appeal and shared its infographic through social media.

➤ Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders endorsed GDAMS appeal and shared this message on twitter:

According to @SIPRI, during the 1st year of the #COVID19 pandemic the world spent almost 2 trillion \$ in the military, a 2.6% increase over 2019. How did that make us any safer? We need to #DefundTheMilitary if we are to defend people & the planet. Join our storm today! #GDAMS.

Women International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) – US

Take action to MOVE THAT MONEY! - MOVE THE MONEY CAMPAIGN

WILPF's campaign has two demands: to the United Nations Security Council, to extend the current global ceasefire, and to the US Congress, to cut all military spending by 50% and move the money to fund human needs.

In order to do so WILPF prepared an online guide:

- Guide #5: "Your Tax Dollars at Work in the Middle East"
- Guide #8: "National Military Spending and Your Town"
- Guide #9: "Moving money out of the military budget into programs to benefit poor people"
- Guide #12: "Letters to Leaders and Resolutions about Treaties and Reducing the Military Budget"

Find the whole guide [here](#).

SOUTH AMERICA

Chile

➤ Serpaj

Serpaj (el servicio paz y justicia) endorsed GDAMS appeal and shared it to social media. Like every year, Serpaj took part in the annual campaign against military spending. Part of the original message by Serpaj:

“En Serpaj Chile estamos convencidos que es momento de situar como transversal la protección a los derechos humanos en la agenda nacional. Es necesario tomar conciencia respecto de cómo ha sido justificada la enorme inversión de recursos públicos en gasto militar, aludiendo a una falsa noción de seguridad completamente distante de las necesidades de las personas, de sus derechos y de los servicios esenciales para su concreción. Las acciones de desmilitarización, enmarcadas en un cambio de paradigma y con un enfoque de Cultura de la Paz y de Educación en Derechos Humanos, constituye un camino esencial para la construcción de un país más justo, democrático, pacífico y sostenible, transición tan necesaria hoy en Chile.”

“At Serpaj Chile we are convinced that it is time to place the protection of human rights as a cross-cutting issue on the national agenda. It is necessary to become aware of how the enormous investment of public resources in military spending has been justified, alluding to a false notion of security that is completely distant from the needs of the people, their rights and the essential services for their realisation. Demilitarisation actions, framed in a change of paradigm and with a Culture of Peace and Human Rights Education approach, constitute an essential path for the construction of a more just, democratic, peaceful and sustainable country, a transition that is so necessary in Chile today.”

More info [here](#).

SERPAJ CHILE
Servicio Paz y Justicia

Desfinanciar el Gasto Militar
DEFENDER
a las personas
y al planeta

A pesar de la crisis sanitaria y social, en 2020 el gasto militar creció hasta los **1,981 billones** de dólares, un incremento del 2,6% respecto al 2019.

ARTWORK BY ESCIF

+info demilitarize.org
ipb.org
sipri.org

2021 CAMPAÑA ANUAL POR LA DESMILITARIZACIÓN

serpajchile.cl

Desfinanciar el Gasto Militar

DEFENDER

2021

CAMPAÑA ANUAL POR LA DESMILITARIZACIÓN

a las personas

y al planeta

En plena crisis sanitaria y social, el **Ministerio de Defensa en 2020** ejecutó un presupuesto **mucho mayor** que aquellos enfocados en la **protección y desarrollo humano, social y medioambiental.**

Según cifras de SIPRI, el gasto militar de Chile en 2020 fue el

1,9% PIB anual

Naciones Unidas recomienda no superar el 1%, y sobre el 2% se considera una tasa de un país militarizado.

\$1.709.131 MM
MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA

\$1.333.211 MM MINISTERIO DE JUSTICIA Y DERECHOS HUMANOS	\$526.620 MM MIN. DE DESARROLLO SOCIAL Y FAMILIA
\$348.557 MM MIN. DE CIENCIA, TECNOLOGÍA E INNOVACIÓN	\$169.620 MM MIN. DE LAS CULTURAS, ARTES Y PATRIMONIO
\$59.437 MM MINISTERIO DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE	\$58.446 MM MIN. DE LA MUJER Y EQUIDAD DE GÉNERO

Fuente: presupuestoabierto.gob.cl (Cifras en pesos)

— SEGURIDAD MILITAR
+ SEGURIDAD HUMANA

En 2020 el gasto militar mundial alcanzó los

1,981 billones de dólares

Chile fue el cuarto país con mayor gasto militar en Latinoamérica.

Brasil US 19.736 millones	Colombia US 9.216 millones	México US 6.116 millones	Chile US 4.601 millones
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Fuente: sipri.org (Cifras en dólares) - Las cifras no incluyen datos de Venezuela

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serpajchile.cl

+info demilitarize.org
ipb.org
sipri.org

PERU

➤ Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH)

Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH) endorsed GDAMS appeal and shared it through social media.

COLOMBIA

➤ **Military spending reductions at the Colombian Parliament.**

According to the report, Colombia ranked 26th among the countries with the highest military spending in the world. In addition, it does make it the fourth country in the Americas with the largest military spending, it ranks it second in Latin America.

Faced with this situation the opposition in the lead of Iván Cepeda and María José Pizarro said and pointed out that cutting a part of that budget and using it on some issues that are currently urgent in Colombia could help handling the crisis, it is why they joined the global campaign against military spending (GCOMS).



Therefore, as part of the campaign, 33 congressmen and Angelo Cardona of the International Peace Bureau asked President Iván Duque that instead of spending one billion pesos on weapons, that money be used for health personnel and to buy vaccines against COVID-19.

"This campaign makes sense at any time but especially in pandemic conditions, we cannot continue to manufacture and trade weapons instead of saving lives," said Senator Ivan Cepeda. This is not the first year that the representatives have joined the campaign, since last year they even asked the government, together with 28 other parliamentarians, to reduce and transfer one trillion pesos to be invested in the hospital system, to which the ministry committed to allocate 100 billion pesos. This year, together with 33 representatives, they renewed the request to the national government in order to address the crisis the country is experiencing. "The reorientation of part of this military investment towards the strengthening of the health system could help save lives. The National Government must establish priorities putting the health of the population first", he stressed.

Congresspeople

The Covid crisis was particularly violent in Colombia. On 28 April, the president announced a tax reform that sent thousands of Colombians into the streets. In this tense climate, representatives protested against the state's spending. Representative María José Pizarro pointed out that it is not clear whether the Government is betting on an integral peace policy or on a policy that continues the war. "For example, the lives of social leaders have not been efficiently protected and they continue to fall repeatedly. So far this year there have been 31 massacres with 113 deaths. This shows that all the investment in security has not served to protect people and communities", said the representative. She added that "a hospital is more important than a war tank, those are the lessons that this pandemic should have taught us, we should be building a pact for the fundamentals". This declaration was made at the end of March.



➤ **Argentina**

GAMIP joined GDAMS by sharing its statement through social networks. GAMIP endorsed GDAMS appeal.

Articles, op-eds and media

Op-ed by Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngucka, Executive Director of UN Women.

Originally published [here](#).

For all of us, but especially women, the pandemic is a reminder that traditional notions of “security” that fuel the weapons industry cannot protect us from dangers and challenges we routinely face.

Before the pandemic, women were already over-represented in vulnerable economic sectors and bore the brunt of unpaid care and domestic work. When COVID-19 hit, the women who make up 70 per cent of the global health care workforce found themselves on the frontlines of the response—even as countless other women lost their livelihoods and took on greater household burdens.

The pandemic will push [47 million more women and girls](#) into extreme poverty. Rates of intimate partner violence—mainly perpetrated by men against women—have skyrocketed, in a horrifying “shadow pandemic” of all forms of violence against women and girls. Millions of women now face greater risks of female genital mutilation, child marriage or preventable maternal death.

In short, the virus revealed that gender divides not only persist but are worsening, threatening decades of progress, especially if women continue to be [excluded](#) from shaping the response to the pandemic.

Recovering from the pandemic must mean strengthening women’s social and economic [security](#), including through stronger investments in health, education, and social protection systems that advance gender equality.

But the safety and well-being of everyday people has historically taken a backseat to a narrower and militarized idea of “security”, one that still leads decision-makers to spend vast amounts of money to build overflowing arsenals of weapons. The United Nations Secretary-General called for a global ceasefire at the beginning of the pandemic, but most conflict parties kept fighting, and the international arms trade [remained as active](#) as at almost any point since the cold war.



Yet, all these [weapons have not brought us closer to peace](#). They have only sown distrust, eroded relations between countries, and increased global tensions.

Moving forward will require embracing a broader vision of security—one that reduces reliance on military armaments, accounts for our common humanity and recognizes women’s empowerment as a critical driver of sustainable peace and development.

These ideas are not new. For instance, the United Nations has made reducing military budgets a core objective since its founding.

Nonetheless, attention to the problem has dwindled in recent decades. Bloated military budgets [held the global spotlight](#) throughout much of the cold war. But in the years since, relatively few voiced alarm as military outlays [more than doubled](#). Military expenditures in 2020 reached [USD 1,981 billion](#), which translates to approximately 252 USD per person in one year. In comparison, only USD 115.95 per person was spent on bilateral aid on average in 2018, out of which a meagre [0.2 per cent](#) went directly to women’s rights organizations – a percentage that has not changed in a decade.

The pandemic has offered us a rare chance to “reset” our approach to security in a way that also advances gender equality. As two United Nations leaders working for disarmament and gender equality, we believe three things need to happen.

First, we must refuse to shy away from hard questions. Whose security is protected by modernizing or expanding weapons, like nuclear bombs, that would result in a human catastrophe, with disproportionate impact on women and girls, if used? To end our global arms addiction, decision-makers need to take a more human-centred approach to security, recognizing how countries have pursued disarmament for centuries as a way to protect themselves, look out for each other and prevent needless human suffering. This will require political will and a revitalization of diplomacy over investment in huge militaries.

Second, the voices calling for an end to rampant militarization need to be taken seriously. Many women’s organizations have been pushing back against runaway military spending for more than a century, while feminist movements have been key to critically examining whether our governments’ investments in strengthening security have actually had the opposite effect. They are part of a [multi-generational, multi-sectoral drive for change](#). We must hear these messages loud and clear, and [create conditions](#) to include them in policy-making.

Third, we need action by our elected officials to stop spending so much money on weapons. If our leaders instead prioritize investments in social protections, like equal access to quality health care and education for all, they can bring us closer to achieving

[Global Goals](#), including on gender equality. Such investments must be seen for what they are: down payments to make our societies more resilient, equal and secure.

From April 10 to May 17, we will mark the tenth annual [Global Days of Action on Military Spending](#). To seize this moment, our governments should take a stand by sharing concrete commitments to begin redirecting resources towards a more peaceful and secure future that benefits us all.

This is not a utopian ideal, but an achievable necessity.

Redirection and Keeping Track of the People We Owe - Chrissy Kirchhoefer (NWTRCC)

“April 15th saw Tax Day actions not seen in years. Well at least in 2 years. After Tax Day spread into 3 months in 2020 to finally conclude on July 15th last year, people were eager to come out on April 15th in order to join in a long tradition of holding that day as a stand out day to raise the issue of military spending in the US. War Tax Resisters and those concerned about militarism organize actions in their communities to educate that nearly half of the federal income taxes are devoted to war. April 15th also serves as a day of action to build upon community by investing our energy and resources towards human needs through individual and communal redirection ceremonies. This year continued to see a mix of online gatherings and in person actions. You can find a list of actions posted at NWTRCC website under [Tax Day Actions](#) as well as [international actions mapped out](#) on the [Global Days Against Military Spending](#). The group in Eugene, Oregon has been bringing out a banner that they have made that is to scale of cost comparisons of human needs to bloated military spending. You can [watch a short video they shared describing their action](#).”

Read the full article [here](#).

Breaking Through the Addiction to Weapons - (WILPF)

On 26 May, WILPF Sections from around the world organised a free webinar exploring recent developments in militarisation in their countries, and feminist alternatives to military spending.

Moderated by Katrin Geyer of Reaching Critical Will, WILPF’s disarmament programme, the webinar featured speakers from WILPF Sections in Aotearoa, Australia, Germany, Italy, and Japan. Interpretation was available in English, German, Italian, and Japanese.

“Taking place in the midst of a devastating wave of militarist violence in Colombia and Palestine, and on the heels of a new report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) revealing that global military expenditure rose to nearly \$2 trillion in 2020, the webinar

will highlight the devastating impacts of militarism on people, communities, and the planet – including the disproportionate impacts of conflict on the world’s most marginalised populations. Building on the momentum of the recent month-long [Global Days of Action on Military Spending](#), the speakers will also offer recommendations for “[moving the money](#)” from militarism – including spending on research, arms development and sales, and military bases – to investments in public infrastructure and the environment.”

Read the full article [here](#).

Watch the webinar [here](#).

ENAAT calls MEPs to save EU peace project and reject Defence Fund - Laëtitia Sédou (ENAAT)

“EU funding for military R&D has been agreed after concerted lobbying by the arms industry, to be the main beneficiary from these multi-billion subsidies. Two pilot programmes are already under way and diverting half a billion euros from the last EU budget (2014-2020) to subsidise armament companies and military research centres across the EU, at the expense of civilian programmes. “[According to our findings](#), the four major military powers in Europe (France, Italy, Spain and Germany) and the eight companies that advised the EC to create this funding are now the major beneficiaries of it”, says Wendela de Vries, coordinator at Stop Wapenhandel (NL).

The EU Defence Fund will exacerbate military spending and the global arms race.

[In 2020 the world military expenditure reached almost US\\$2 trillion](#), and EU is third in the world: “the EU 27 increased their military spending by 4.6% over 2019, to €204.2 billion. The EDF is an add-on to these expenditures, and Member States committed to further increase their national spending under PESCO ” continues Jordi Calvo, senior researcher and coordinator at Centre Delas (SP).

Moreover, “creating new market opportunities across the Union and beyond” forms part of the EDF award criteria. “In other words, it will subsidise arms dealers to develop new weapons and military technology for EU use and export, in a context of weakening export control practices” explains Francesco Vignarca, Campaigns coordinator at Rete Pace & Disarmo (IT).”

Read the full article [here](#).

Global Military Spending Grew to Nearly \$2 Trillion in 2020 Despite Pandemic - Kenny Stancil (Common Dreams)

“Global military expenditure in 2020—estimated to have reached \$1.98 trillion—was 2.6% higher than in 2019 and 9.3% higher than in 2011, according to SIPRI’s new report (pdf). A 2020 bump in military budgets was observed in Africa (5.1%), Europe (4.0%), the Americas (3.9%),

and Asia and Oceania (2.5%). The Middle East was the only regional exception, where there was a 6.5% decrease in military spending in the 11 countries for which data is available.

SIPRI researcher Diego Lopes da Silva told AFP that last year's growth in world military expenditure, which coincided with a 4.4% decline in global gross domestic product, was unexpected.

"Because of the pandemic, one would think military spending would decrease," he said. "But it's possible to conclude with some certainty that Covid-19 did not have a significant impact on global military spending, in 2020 at least."

In this article, SIPRI Tweet was shared with #GDAMS

Read the full article [here](#).

Calls for Necessary Cuts to 2022 Military Budget - Maryknoll

"On April 26, MOGC joined with 37 U.S. advocacy organizations in a [statement](#) calling on Congress to "significantly decrease spending on the military and nuclear weapons for FY2022 and to reallocate that money into true national priorities like public health, diplomacy, infrastructure, and addressing climate change."

The statement comes as part of the annual [Global Days of Action on Military Spending](#) April 10 to May 17, and coincides with the release of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) annual [report](#) on world military expenditures, according to which the United States spent more in 2020 than any other country in the world – a whopping 39% of all global military expenditures, more than the next twelve countries combined – once again topping "one of the world's most infamous ranking lists."

Read the full article [here](#).

WILPF Spain: "¡PARA LA GUERRA NADA! WILPF ESPAÑA SE UNE AL LLAMAMIENTO DE LA CAMPAÑA GLOBAL SOBRE EL GASTO MILITAR (GCOMS)"

WILPF Spain published GDAMS appeal the 26th of April on its website. A text with SIPRI's references was added as well.

Read it [here](#) (in Spanish)

La paralización del gasto en armas durante un día permitiría salvar a 34 millones de personas del hambre – Danilo Albin (Público)

"El ministerio de Defensa considera que hacen falta nuevos misiles, y gastará más de 43 millones de euros para conseguirlos. Así se ratificó en el Consejo de Ministros de esta semana, celebrado el mismo día de las elecciones madrileñas. Mientras el Consejo de Ministros daba su

visto bueno a esta compra de material letal, en el Centro Delàs de Estudios por la Paz ultimaban detalles de una comparativa impactante: si España y otros países [redujesen su gasto](#) en armamento, se podrían aumentar las partidas para necesidades sociales y sanitarias de primer orden en plena pandemia.

En el marco de los Días de Acción Global contra el Gasto Militar que organizan [distintos movimientos pacifistas y antimilitaristas](#) a nivel mundial, sus promotores han dado a conocer un conjunto de cifras que dibujan precisamente esa realidad. El estudio refleja así "los niveles actuales de gasto militar" y realiza una comparación "con el coste de programas orientados a la seguridad humana, incluidos aquellos relacionados con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), la pandemia de la Covid-19 y la emergencia climática".

Read the full article [here](#) (in Spanish)

Article at Avvenire on the need to reduce military spending

Il caso Yemen, le manovre contro la legge 185, un sondaggio rivelatore

EXPORT DI ARMI, LE REGOLE SONO GIUSTE E I CITTADINI LO HANNO BEN CHIARO

GIORGIO BERETTA E FRANCESCO VIGNARCA

Il sondaggio d'opinione di Greenpeace pubblicato ieri in anteprima da "Avvenire" fotografa un *sentiment* nazionale che le forze politiche dovrebbero considerare con attenzione. I cittadini dei quattro principali Paesi produttori di sistemi militari nell'Unione Europea - Francia, Germania, Italia e Spagna - contestano fortemente le politiche di esportazione di armamenti dei loro governi. Il punto più critico per due italiani su tre è la considerazione che il Governo non tenga sufficientemente conto dei principi morali ed etici quando autorizza l'export militare. Non solo: tre intervistati su quattro ritengono che l'Italia non dovrebbe partecipare a progetti europei per nuovi sistemi militari se le armi prodotte in ambito comunitario dovessero poi essere vendute a Stati dittatoriali, che conducono guerre o che violano i diritti umani.

Non sembrano essere dello stesso parere diversi "think tank" e opinionisti del settore della difesa, che stanno facendo fronte comune con alcuni parlamentari ed esponenti militari nel chiedere di rivedere le norme in vigore allo scopo di facilitare le esportazioni di armamenti e la «competitività» della nostra industria militare.

Il *casus belli* è la revoca decisa dal governo Conte di sei licenze di "bombe e missili" destinate ad Arabia Saudita e Emirati Arabi Uniti. Licenze che, ai sensi della Legge 185 del 1990, non avrebbero nemmeno dovuto essere rilasciate in quanto emesse quando era già stato documentato, anche da organismi delle Nazioni Unite, come proprio le bombe italiane fossero state utilizzate nei raid aerei sauditi su abitanti civili. Operazioni bollate nel Rapporto Onu come «possibili crimini di guerra». Affermazioni gravi e preoccupanti anche per il nostro Paese: il diritto internazionale prevede specifiche condanne a chi fornisce armamenti a chi viola le convenzioni internazionali e il diritto umanitario. Senza dimenticare che il Trattato Ats sul Commercio di armi, ratificato all'unanimità dal Parlamento, prevede lo stop anche in caso di semplice "rischio" di violazioni. Sono concetti cui dovrebbe porre attenzione soprattutto

chi, come il Ministero della Difesa, ha il compito di valutare la conformità normativa delle tipologie di armamenti inviate all'estero. Colpisce perciò che il capo di stato maggiore, generale Vecchiarelli, nell'ambito della Relazione governativa sulla Legge 185/90 appena inviata al Parlamento abbia voluto rimarcare «come le recenti restrizioni imposte alle esportazioni verso l'Arabia Saudita e gli Emirati Arabi Uniti, avendo suscitato perplessità presso le Autorità locali, possano configurare un potenziale rischio di natura economica per tutto il volume dell'export nazionale generalista verso i citati Paesi». È singolare che la Difesa, che ha come compito il rispetto delle norme preposte alla salvaguardia della nostra sicurezza, intervenga per evidenziare ipotetici «rischi di natura economica». Si potrebbero citare cinque solenni risoluzioni votate ad ampia maggioranza dal Parlamento europeo. Ci limitiamo a ricordare la recente sentenza del Tar del Lazio che ha rigettato il ricorso della Rvm Italia contro la revoca delle licenze, ribadendo che «risultano ampiamente circostanziati e seri i rischi che gli ordigni oggetto delle autorizzazioni rilasciate da Uama (Autorità Nazionale per le esportazioni, ndr) possano colpire la popolazione civile yemenita, in contrasto con i chiari principi della disciplina nazionale e internazionale». Giudizi simili a quelli del gip di Roma che ha stabilito la continuazione dell'indagine penale sulle licenze concesse a guerra iniziata, evidenziando che nessuna altra preoccupazione «può giustificare una consapevole, deliberata violazione di norme che vietano l'esportazione di armi verso Paesi responsabili di gravi crimini di guerra e contro popolazioni civili».

La 185/90, voluta oltre trenta anni fa dalla società civile laica e cattolica, garantisce già le nostre aziende militari permettendo di esportare armamenti secondo le norme internazionali. È una legge che va applicata rigorosamente e non certo stravolta per presunte necessità dell'industria di «penetrare i mercati esteri». Oggi sappiamo che la maggioranza dei cittadini lo pretende.

Beretta è analista di Opal Brescia e Rete italiana Pace e Disarmo Vignarca è coordinatore Campagne Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo

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domenica 9 maggio

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**RETE ITALIANA
PACE E DISARMO**

Other references to GDAMS on media outlets

Press:

Common Dreams; (**U.S.A**)

Público; El Salto Diario; Tercera información; Llibertat.cat; Ara Balears; Greenpeace blog; Naiz; Antimilitaristas Madrid (**Spain**)

Estreme Conseguenze; Avvenire; Opinione (**Italia**)

TV: TV3; Àpunt; 324 (Spain)

TV interview (RAI News 24, Italy) to Francesco Vignarca, on the necessity to reduce military spending. Watch it [here](#).

Radio: Catalunya Ràdio; La Vox Populi; Radio Pimienta; Radio Guiniguada; Radio Cable; Ràdio Estel; Radio Barrio

#MoveTheMoney Instagram Filter

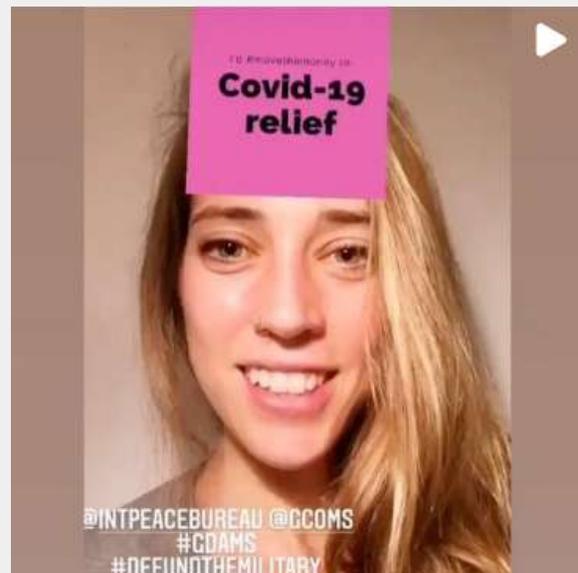
Once again, GDAMS included an online campaign to spread the word on pacifism and social justice and raise awareness on the crucial issue of military spending.

With the purpose of creating public awareness about the outrageous amount of money dedicated to military spending each year, we encouraged people to send their alternatives to the military sector they think should receive these public funding instead.

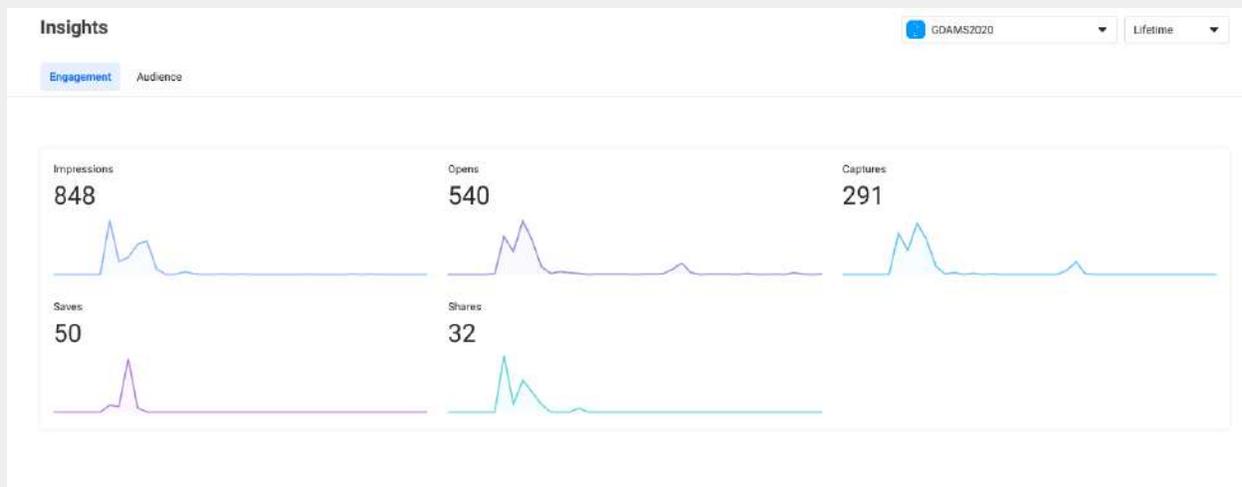
You can still see and use this filter in [this link](#)

Participants published their pictures in their own social media, tagging the campaign on Twitter, Facebook (@DemilitarizeDay), and Instagram (@gcoms), using some of the campaign's hashtags:

#MoveTheMoney #Demilitarize #GDAMS
#GCOMS #Disarmament #DivestFromWar
#PeaceNotWar #FundPeaceNotWar
#WeWantPeace #NoMoney4ArmsDealers
#WelfareNotWarfare #BuildPeaceNotWalls



The filter performed reasonably well with 291 captures.



Coordination Team + ISC

Since 2017, the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) has been coordinated by Centre Delàs for Peace Studies and by IPB's office in Barcelona (Spain). The coordination team is formed by officers, researchers and volunteers of both organizations and works in coordination with IPB's Berlin and Geneva offices and with its own International Steering Committee.

The International Steering Committee (ISC) is formed by some IPB officers and Board and Council members and by the most active GCOMS partners. The GCOMS steering committee meets online periodically to coordinate actions, especially during the GDAMS period.

Its members are:

- Angelo Cardona, **IPB Youth Network**
- Amela Skiljan, Germany, **International Peace Bureau**
- Corazon Fabros, Philippines, **Stop the War! Coalition**
- Cyrille Rolande, Cameroon, **Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme**
- Dave Webb, UK, **Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)**

- Denis Doherty, Australia, **Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)**
- Edwina Hughes, New Zealand, **Peace Movement Aotearoa**
- Francesco Vignarca, Italy, **Rete Italiana per il Disarmo**
- Jordi Calvo, Spain, **Centre Delàs of Peace Studies / IPB Barcelona**
- Joseph Gerson, U.S.A., **American Friends Service Committee**
- Lee Youngah, S. Korea, **People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy**
- Moses Adedeji, Nigeria, **Trees on earth Nigeria**
- Nathalie Gauchet, France, **Mouvement de la Paix**
- Pere Brunet, Spain, **Centre Delàs of Peace Studies**
- Quique Sánchez, Spain, **Centre Delàs of Peace Studies / IPB Barcelona**
- Reiner Braun, Germany, **International Peace Bureau**
- Rika Watanabe and Rico Ishii Robertson, Japan, **Peace Boat**
- Sean Conner, Germany, **International Peace Bureau**
- Tori Bateman, U.S.A., **American Friends Service Committee**

Partners and collaborators 2021

- Acción Colectiva de Objetores y Objetoras de Conciencia
- Action des Citoyens pour le Désarmement Nucleaire
- African Hungarian Union
- Agir Pour La Paix
- Alianza Social Continental
- ALTERNATIVA ANTIMILITARISTA-MOC
- American Friends Service Committee
- Andalusian Association for Human Rights (APDHA)
- APRED Participative Institute for the Progress of Peace
- Asamblea Antimilitarista
- Association Suisse Birmanie
- Australian Peace Committee
- Auckland Peace Action
- Austin Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation
- Bake-Ekintza Antimilitarista Taldea
- Basel Peace Office
- Beati I Construttori di Pace
- Better World Info
- Bunge la Mwananchi
- Campaign Against Arms Trade
- Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
- Catalan Federation of Organizations for Global Justice – LaFede
- Center for Bangladesh Studies
- Center of Feminist Foreign Policy

- Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies
- Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau
- Ceasefire.ca
- ChangeMaker – Society for Social and Economic Development
- Church Center for the United Nations
- Coalition for Constitution Implementation
- CODEPINK: Women for Peace
- Community Alliance of Lane County
- Conscience and Peace Tax International
- Conscience Canada
- Control Arms Foundation of India
- Desarma Madrid
- Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security
- European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (ECBO)
- Frauen fuer den Frieden Schweiz (Women for Peace Switzerland)
- FundiPau (Foundation for Peace)
- Global Campaign for Peace Education
- Global Days of Listening
- Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space
- Golden Bay Quackers
- Granny Peace Brigade Philadelphia
- Honolulu Friends Meeting
- Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)
- Instituto de la Paz y los Conflictos (IPAZ)
- Instituto Latinoamericano por la Paz y la Ciudadanía -ILAPyC
- Inter Alia
- International Association Of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA)
- International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
- International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES)
- Insumissia
- Just Peace Queensland
- Kenya Pastoralist Journalist Network
- Maine War Tax Resistance Resource Center
- Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network
- Massachusetts Peace Action
- Massachusetts People's Budget Campaign
- Mouvement de la Paix
- Marrickville Peace Group
- Milwaukee War Tax Resistance
- Mouvement Chrétien pour la Paix
- Mujeres por la Paz
- National Campaign to End the Korean War
- The National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY)
- National Priorities Project
- National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee
- Netzwerk Friedenssteuer
- New Priorities Campaign (NPC)
- New Priorities Network
- Northern California War Tax Resistance / People's Life Fund
- Norges Fredslag
- Norges Fredsråd
- Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme – Cameroun

- Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace
- Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
- Nuclear Resister
- Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance
- Observatory of International Organizations and Globalization (PADOP)
- On Earth Peace
- Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament
- Pax Christi International
- Pax Christi New Orleans
- Pax Christi Wallonie Bruxelles
- Pacem in Terris / Peace on Earth
- Peace Action
- Peace Action Wellington
- Peace and Justice (former Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre)
- Peace Boat
- Peacebus.com
- Peace Jam
- PeaceMajority Report
- Peace Movement Aotearoa
- PeaceNetwork
- Peace Resource Center of San Diego
- PeaceWorks
- People for Nuclear Disarmament
- People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy
- Pioneer Valley War Tax Resistance
- Prague vision
- Quakers in Nelson
- Rauhanliitto – Peace Union of Finland
- Reaching Critical Will
- Red Antimilitarista Noviolenta de Andalucia
- Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo
- Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Cente
- Rural Development and Youth Training Institute
- Sadankomitea
- School of the Americas Watch
- Science for Peace
- Servicio de Paz y Justicia en América Latina
- Stop Fuelling War (France)
- Stop the War! Coalition (Philippines)
- Strategic Concept for Removal of Arms and Proliferation
- Servicio Paz y Justicia (SERPAJ)
- Suaram
- Tipping Point North South
- Trees on Earth Development Foundation
- UNFOLD ZERO
- United for Peace & Justice
- Universitat Jaume I (UJI)
- USAction
- Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation
- Vrede.be
- Walpole Peace & Justice Group

- War Resisters' International
- War Resisters League
- Win Without War
- Women Against War
- Women In Black
- Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) – Australian Section
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) – Sierra Leone
- World Without Wars and Violence

To add your organisation's name to the list of partners, please write to us at:
coordination.gcoms@ipb.org

We want to express our most sincere gratitude to all partners, collaborators, sympathizers and friends who contributed to GDAMS 2021.

All of your actions, despite the hardship of these times, are proof of the strong commitment to peace and disarmament of our worldwide social movement.

Thank you, and see you next year!



Global Campaign on Military Spending
International Peace Bureau
Demilitarize.org



GCOMS is coordinated by Centre Delàs of Peace Studies and IPB's office in Barcelona, which count with financial support from the Global Justice and International Cooperation Department of Barcelona's City Council

With the support of:

