

# CPNN

*Culture of Peace News Network*

English bulletin December 1, 2020

## *VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR CULTURE OF PEACE*

There are now so many virtual events promoting the culture of peace that we have started **a new service at CPNN**, listing them in advance along with their registration information. We list those that are free and open to the general public. In this way, CPNN readers are able to participate in the live event.

This month we have listed an average of almost one event per day coming from all regions of the world. Here is a brief summary, organized by theme.

### **EDUCATION FOR PEACE**

A lab for nonviolent action was sponsored by the US organization Peace e Bene on **November 5, 12 and 19**.

Nonviolence: From the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter. This year's Mahatma Gandhi lecture was held online on **November 7**. The lecture now held annually for 20 years is

sponsored by the Peace Studies Program and the Centre for Peace Studies at McMaster University in Canada.

Mediation and Restorative Justice was the theme in Mexico on **November 27** at the Fifth Congress of the Federación Nacional De Colegios De Mediadores.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

with the Palestinian people. A dozen or so French organizations hosted activists for the human rights of the Palestinian people on **November 30**.

## **DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION**

“School of democracy” was the theme of a series of conferences sponsored by the UNESCO Chair in Pamplona, Spain. On **November 5**, the conference featured Agustin Ruis Robledo, Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Granada, speaking on the theme “the dceadence of parliamentarianism.” On **November 12**, Miguel Angel Simon spoke on “the rise of the extreme right.”

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Transformative economies. The World Social Forum on Transformative Ecomies held a series of five programs between **November 4 and 18** with specific examples from throughout Latin America.

“Creating a better world for future generations” was the theme of a web event on **November 21**, sponsored by the Goi Peace Foundation of Japan and featuring Dr. Jaques Attali.

## **WOMEN’S EQUALITY**

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 promoting the role of women in UN peacemaking was celebrated on its 20th birthday **November 20** in the annual Texas (USA) symposium on Women, Peace and Security.

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women was celebrated by the African Union Office of Youth Envoy on **November 25** with a number of very high-level officials from Africa and the United Nations.

## **TOLERANCE AND SOLIDARITY**

Defense of the Venezuelan elections against US imperialist interference was discussed in a forum on **November 18** sponsored by progressive organizations in the US.

## **FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION**

Youth leading the movement against racism was the subject of a webinar sponsored by the Global Campaign for Peace Education on **November 20**.

Speakers addressed various culture of peace themes in the annual Global Peace Forum of Coventry Rising on **November 11-13**.

## INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Analysis of the prospects for peace with the new US government. This was the theme of several internet conferences. Two were sponsored by the Stop the War Coalition in the UK. On **November 30**, the speaker was Jeremy Corbyn. On **November 28**, there were five speakers, including a member of parliament. A similar theme, "Anti-imperialist election; Youth fight back", was discussed on **November 21** by member organizations of the United National Antiwar Coalition in the United States. Another webinar on this subject, on **November 11** was sponsored by the International Peace Bureau

of nuclear war and global warming were discussed in a conference on **November 29** by the Canadian organizations Peace Magazine and Project Save the World.

"Pathways to reset international cooperation" was the theme of Geneva Peace Week that was held on line from **November 2-6** sponsored by the Geneva Center for Peacebuilding. A similar theme, "inspiring cooperation on behalf of the common good", was sponsored by the National Peace Academy of the United States on **November 10**.

Elimination of Nuclear Weapons was the theme of the webinar on **November 2** sponsored by Unfold Zero.

CPNN readers are encouraged to regularly consult the listings contained on **our webpage**, and to share this information with your friends and colleagues. Above all, participate. Participate! PARTICIPATE!

## HUMAN RIGHTS



France:  
Thousands protest  
against bill to curb  
filming of police

## FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Five new digital  
media platforms  
for uncensored  
news from  
Colombia

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



FAO : Strong  
support for  
innovation and  
digital  
technologies in  
Latin America and  
the Caribbean

## DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Toluca, Mexico,  
establishes more  
than 150 Peace  
Centers

## EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Burkina Faso:  
Blanche Bana  
wins the Sotigui  
Awards 2020

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY



I am Generation  
Equality: Ixchel  
Lucas, youth  
advocate for girls'  
leadership

## TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



France: Youth in  
Normandy  
Mobilize for  
Human Rights and  
the Freedom Prize

## DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Following peace  
deal, talks on  
Libya's political  
future begin

# English bulletin November 1, 2020

## *CULTURE OF PEACE FLOURISHES IN AFRICA*

Judging from the many articles from Africa in CPNN this month, the culture of peace is flourishing in Africa.

**African Union (AU).** The AU continues to provide leadership for a culture of peace throughout Africa, as **we have followed in recent years in CPNN**. This month the **joint task force on peace and security** of the AU with the United Nations held its 19th consultative meeting. The meeting discussed developments and cooperation in support to on-going electoral processes in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Guinea. The meeting also exchanged views on the situations in Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Western Sahara.

The AU Youth Envoy, in cooperation with other African organizations, has sponsored this month a series of **virtual events in five regions** to develop the leadership capacities of young African women. Breakout groups discussed economic rights and justice, sexual reproductive health and rights, climate justice, technology and innovation for feminist action, feminist movement and leadership, gender-based violence and “youth silencing the gun.”

The **African First Ladies Peace Mission (AFLPM)** plays a supportive role to the African Union as well as regional

organizations and national governments in promoting a culture of peace and preventing conflicts. This month CPNN reprints an interview with the Special Assistant to the President concerning the work of the organization.

**Côte d'Ivoire.** Leading up to the national elections in Côte d'Ivoire, many sectors are working for a culture of peace to prevent a recurrence of the violence that has marred elections in previous years. This includes the **Voice of Women**, the traditional **chiefs of Gagnoa**, young Christian and Muslim leaders convened by the **Fondation Félix Houphouët-Boigny pour la recherche de la paix** and the musical group **Les Héritiers du Zouglou**. The culture of peace has deep roots in Côte d'Ivoire, since it was in **Yamoussoukro in 1989** that the UNESCO culture of peace program was born. The **Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa** reprints each month the bulletin of CPNN.

**Guinea.** Also in Guinea to reduce violence in the pre-election period there is a mobilization of the civil society for a culture of peace. The NGO **Conseil de Réflexion pour une Guinée Nouvelle** ( CRGN) launched a campaign to guarantee an inclusive, peaceful, transparent and credible election and to sensitize and educate citizens on the culture of peace.

**Nigeria.** The candidates for governor in the forthcoming election in the state of Ondo have promised to embrace peace. They made the pledge at the signing of a **peace accord** organised by the National Peace Committee (NPC) in collaboration with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

**Senegal.** In Kedougou, near the borders of Mali and Guinea, the think tank **Timbuktu Institute-African Center for Peace Studies**

Institute is launching an the initiative called “**Resilience at the borders**” to promote the culture of peace.

**Liberia.** Mariama H. Konneh, a young Liberian women’s rights advocate, has been selected to participate in the **Global Peace Chain summit 2020** in Turkey. “By transferring knowledge and skills gained from the Global Peace Chain, I hope to build a network of youth activists committed to non-violence advocacy and values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence,” she said.

**Niger.** Organized by the NGO OXFAM, an **awareness campaign** has been launched to strengthen the participation of women and young people in the various inter-community dialogue frameworks.

**Gabon.** Dedicated to the prevention and resolution of conflicts in the sub-region of Central Africa, the creation of a network of “**Young peace weavers**” in Gabon, Chad and Cameroon was recently presented by the head of the United Nations System in Gabon, Dr. Stephen Jackson.

**Burkina Faso.** “Culture of peace, prevention and management of crises; guarantees of sustainable social cohesion ”: This is the theme of the 3rd edition of the “**96 hours of the Center region,**” launched in Ouagadougou.

The flourishing of the culture of peace in Africa has been stimulated and supported by UNESCO since the 1989 Yamoussoukro conference mentioned above. The UNESCO support has, if anything, increased in recent years as detailed in **more than 40 CPNN articles.**



DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Côte d'Ivoire : The traditional chiefs of Gagnoa call for peaceful elections

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



'Democracy Has Won': Year After Right-Wing Coup Against Evo Morales, Socialist Luis Arce Declares Victory in Bolivia Election

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Montreal: Demonstration for "climate justice"

HUMAN RIGHTS



Comment by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on the Colombian Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Mexico: Courses and training to build a culture of peace

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



Mairo Al-Makura African First Ladies Peace Mission is Serious Business

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire : Young Christian and Muslim leaders take action for peace

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Red Cross : Nuclear ban: "Today is an historic day. We call on world leaders to act with courage and join the right side of

# English bulletin October 1, 2020

## *. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE .*

In our **survey of the Internet this year** we found actions for the International Day of Peace in 717 communities located throughout the world. This total is similar to **what we found last year**, although the geographical distribution was a bit different.

This year the greatest number of actions took place in Europe.

In Western Europe we found reference to actions in 274 communities. The greatest number was recorded in Belgium where 159 towns and municipalities participated in a campaign to fly the peace flag on official buildings, calling for a Belgium without nuclear weapons in a world without nuclear weapons. An article from the Italian island of Sardegna lists actions in 37 communities. In France, the Collective for 21 September coordinated and described actions in 43 communities, including marches and demonstrations, often linked to the struggle to preserve the planet from global warming.

The Collective for 21 September is composed of 35 French organizations, led by Mouvement de la Paix. Their statement declares “More than ever it is necessary to cry out loud and clear: Stop wars, Stop violence, Stop misery, Stop injustices. Together, let us act to shape peace and the development of a culture of peace through the construction of a united world, free from all weapons of mass destruction.”

In the former Soviet countries of Eastern Europe, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, we found actions in 168 communities, most of them involving the children in schools. Often the children made paper doves and wrote their wishes for peace, sometimes attaching them to balloons to fly into the sky and travel across the earth.

As was the case last year, many of the actions took place in communities across the two sides of the armed conflict in the Ukraine. One of them, in Svyatogorsk, was hosted by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church with the purpose of ending the armed conflict in the Donbass region. The Metropolitan of Svyatogorsk recalled that “Blessed are the peacemakers, says the Lord. We dare to take upon ourselves the title of peacemaking, so as not to renounce the great title of the sons of God.”

In North America we found actions in 159 communities, of which 110 were coordinated and listed on the website of the Campaign Nonviolence, “working for a new culture of nonviolence free from war war, poverty, racism and environmental destruction.” All 50 states of the United States were represented, along with the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

For example, in Philadelphia, Peace Day Philly 2020 included eleven programs over seven days – all on-line and all free – related to personal, local and global peace and justice.

Ongoing wars and recent peace accords were addressed by the day’s celebrations in the rest of the world.

In Africa, we found celebrations in 35 communities in 23 countries, many of them torn by violent conflict. In Cabo Delgado,

Mozambique, a round table discussed the contribution of local actors in the process of building sustainable peace and social cohesion in a region plagued by successive armed attacks and religious radicalism. In the city of Goma, in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, citizen movements and artists marched in the street to protest against massacres of civilians in the east of the country. Meanwhile in the DRC, seventy-five women's civil society organizations unanimously formulated a joint declaration on the establishment of peace. And the African Union held a video conference: "Youth as agents for Silencing the Guns and Shaping Peace."

In the Middle East and North Africa, we found actions in 19 communities in 10 countries and regions. In South Sudan on Peace Day September 21, which coincides with the second anniversary of the Revitalized Agreement on Conflict Resolution representatives of various faiths in Sudan of the South issued a collective statement calling for implementation of the peace agreement. In Yemen, still at war, a youth campaign calling for a ceasefire was launched with a vox pop video in which young people share their messages on peace. And from Aleppo in Syria, there is a video for the International Day of Peace in Arabic : "Living in peace is our legitimate right"!

In Latin America we found actions in 29 communities. Celebrations in Colombia were linked to commemoration of the fourth year since the signing of the peace agreement. For example, in the article from Prensa Latina, "Colombians from all over the country will march today in the context of the International Day of Peace to demand that the government comply with the Havana Agreement and put an end to violence in the country." The largest number of community celebrations came

from Mexico, another country that experiences a high level of violence.

In Asia and the Pacific we found actions in 33 communities in 13 countries. In Korea, a campaign called for an ending to the Korean War, signed by more than 350 South Korean and international civil society organizations. In the Philippines, solidarity was proclaimed with the young people of Mindanao who have been directly affected by the consequences of a conflict that is still being felt despite progress in the peace process. And in Pakistan, there were calls for the United Nations to intervene in Jammu and Kashmir where there is armed conflict with India.

A new feature of the celebrations this year was the increased importance of virtual meetings and conferences, such as that mentioned above by the African Union. A good example was the initiative Peace Weekend 2020 with the convergence of multiple online summits and music festivals including the UP Convergence, Peace One Day Live Digital Experience as well as the Shift Festival and Music Festival.

## GLOBAL



What has happened this year: International Day of Peace

## UNITED STATES AND CANADA



United States and Canada: International Day of Peace

## EUROPE



Europe: International Day of Peace

## ASIA AND PACIFIC



Asia and Pacific: International Day of Peace

## EX-SOVIET COUNTRIES



Ex-Soviet countries: International Day of Peace

## ARAB STATES AND MIDDLE EAST



Arab and Middle Eastern States: International Day of Peace

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



Latin America: International Day of Peace

## AFRICA



Africa: International Day of Peace

# English bulletin September 1, 2020

## *HOPE FOR THE US . .*

In the face of pessimistic predictions, even to the point of civil war, there are progressive mobilizations in the United States.

**Unionization** . The public approval rating for unions has climbed to nearly its highest level in fifty years. There has also been a **surge of unionization** among adjunct professors, grad students, digital and print journalists, museum workers, nurses, cannabis store workers, and nonprofit employees.

**Colleges and Universities** .. Search for Common Ground has partnered with Soliya and Tiger 21 to implement **an orientation program** for first-year students that will facilitate intra-campus dialogue and build trust, respect, and constructive coexistence across differences.

**Black Lives Matter** .. The movement continues to mobilize, most recently in professional sports. **Players of the Women's National Basketball Association** are wearing t-shirts to support a progressive Congressional candidate opposing a team owner who opposes racial equality.

**Youth climate activists** .. A teen-age activist from the US has launched an international nonprofit organization, **Climate Cardinals** with over 5,000 volunteers translating climate

information into more than 100 languages and dialects. The average age of the volunteers is 16!

**International Day of Peace** .. **Campaign Nonviolence** has already listed over 3500 actions planned for the national week of actions the third week of September around the International Day of Peace – “to take to the streets against violence and injustice, and to carry on Dr. King’s vision of what we could become—a new culture of nonviolence”

**Peace movement** .. The **United National AntiWar Coalition**, which unites a broad spectrum of American peace organizations, has issued a “Call to Action”:

- \* Demanding justice and accountability against racist killer cops!\*
- \* For economic justice in response to the economic collapse.
- \* In defense of migrants rounded up and deported!
- \* In solidarity with LGBTQ+ and disabled people
- \* Against endless wars, sanctions and occupations

**Peace on the ballot** .. New Haveners will vote on a **referendum**, proposed by the city’s peace commission and unanimously endorsed by the city’s Board of Alders on the following question: “Shall Congress prepare for health and climate crises by transferring funds from the military budget to cities for human needs, jobs and an environmentally sustainable economy?”



**Progressive political agenda** .: Addressing the Democratic National Convention, **Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** called for a mass people's movement working to establish

- \* 21st century social, economic, and human rights, including guaranteed health care, higher \* education, living wages, and labor rights for all people in the United States;

- \* a movement striving to recognize and repair the wounds of racial injustice, colonization, misogyny, and homophobia, and to propose and build reimagined systems of immigration

- \* and foreign policy that turn away from the violence and xenophobia of our past;

- \* a movement that realizes the unsustainable brutality of an economy that rewards explosive inequalities of wealth for the few at the expense of long-term stability for the many.”

Hopefully, in future editions of the bulletin, we will be able to report that these progressive mobilizations in the United States are able to provide a “soft landing” for **the crash of the American empire**.

## HUMAN RIGHTS



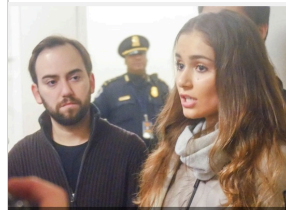
Plan for Campaign Nonviolence Action Week, September 19-27, 2020

## FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



USA: Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's remarks to the 2020 Democratic National Convention

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



First Person: Turning 'apathetic people into climate activists'; a young person's view

## DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Colombia: Details of the Non-Violence Secretariat to be created by the Mayor's Office of Medellín

## EDUCATION FOR PEACE



For colleges in the United States: First Year Connect

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY



International Alert Programme on Women, Peace and Security in Nigeria

## TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Palestine: 15 lessons from 15 years of BDS

## DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



US: The United National AntiWar Coalition – Call to Action

# English bulletin August 1, 2020

## *. SOME GOOD NEWS . .*

There is a lot of bad news this month as people suffer from the spread of the pandemic, unemployment, famine, and **even the threat of civil war**. However, we can also find some good news.

### **In the U.S:**

The **U.S. Conference of Mayors** has announced its 2020 Vision for America: a call to action. Among the 12 priorities are protecting and promoting human and civil rights and “fixing our immigration system” as well as “tackling climate change by accelerating the use of clean energy”.

The **Progressive Caucus of the United States Congress** announced its opposition to the Pentagon’s “wasteful and bloated” budget proposal. They have proposed an amendment that would reduce the proposed Pentagon budget by 10% and redirect savings toward health care, housing and education in poor communities.

### **In France :**

The recent results of **local elections in France** are celebrated as an “Incredible Green Wave” and a “mandate to act for climate and social justice.” According to one observer, “Much of the important

work done by the Greens is at the municipal level. This is where they demonstrate that they can rule. And this in turn shapes the national landscape. ”

Subsequent to their electoral victory, **mayors and ecologists on the French Left** met in the city of Tours to develop a national network for sharing ideas and building common projects. Ecology was widely discussed during this meeting, with the issues of 5G, clean transport, the development of bicycle networks, ecological transition and waste treatment. Beyond the environmental issue, elected officials also worked on the city’s policies in terms of youth and precarious employment, integration of working-class communities, reception of refugees, housing and a social and solidarity economy.

### **In Latin America :**

The city government of **Guadalajara, Mexico** has established an online diploma in Culture of Peace, to address to build peace in the neighborhoods and within the civil society.”

Colombia hosted the **2nd Latin American Congress of Restorative Justice**. According to one of the speakers, “The culture of peace presupposes profound changes in two spheres , in the sphere of justice where it is necessary to guarantee rights, and in the political sphere where it is also necessary to transform the pattern of power domination.”

The **International Folklore Festival** will take place virtually, hosted by the association Abrasoffa in Brazil, on 22 and 23 August under the slogan “Folklore unites us and the world – dance for peace.”

'HipHop Week' was celebrated virtually in Cali, Colombia. The theme is "to make Hip Hop visible as a culture of peace, a culture with a political stance and in turn that can unite us as hiphoppers and as elements of culture, because we converge djs, graffiti artists, rappers and others."

### **At the United Nations :**

**UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed** addressed "Women Rise for All," a virtual gathering of influential women from across different regions, sectors and generations, to examine how their leadership is shaping pandemic response and recovery that benefits all people. "Even in the midst of this devastating crisis, there is an opportunity to build a better world that works for all. That will only be possible when we recognize the value of women front and centre, together leading the way and rising for all."

**UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** delivered a major address for Nelson Mandela International Day, calling for a New Social Contract for a New Era. "We stand together, or we fall apart. Today, in demonstrations for racial equality... in campaigns against hate speech... in the struggles of people claiming their rights and standing up for future generations... we see the beginnings of a new movement. This movement rejects inequality and division, and unites young people, civil society, the private sector, cities, regions and others behind policies for peace, our planet, justice and human rights for all. It is already making a difference. . . . We are at breaking point. But we know which side of history we are on."

## HUMAN RIGHTS



UN Secretary-General: Tackling Inequality: A New Social Contract for a New Era

## FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Third edition of the Paris Peace Forum

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Russia: Ambassadors of Specially Protected Natural Territories

## DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Mayors and Ecologists on the Left in France: A "tour de force"

## EDUCATION FOR PEACE



More than 29 thousand people registered in the Second International Montessori Congress, a free virtual event

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY



United Nations: 'Women Rise for All' to shape leadership in pandemic response and recovery

## TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Adolescents in Cuba delve into the culture of peace

## DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



US: Progressive Caucus Announces Opposition to 'Wasteful, Bloated' \$740 Billion Pentagon Budget Proposal

# English bulletin July 1, 2020

## *. THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM .*

This was a month of the reactivated struggle against racism.

It started in the United States with an uprising described as a “collective gasp for life” by the **Poor People’s Campaign** which continues the struggle for justice led by Martin Luther King, Jr. Their phrase refers to the last words of George Floyd,” choked and killed by a white police officer “viscerally reminiscent of the lynching photographs that were used to terrorize African-Americans for decades in this nation.”

Excessive force by the police, condemned by fundamental international human rights law and standards, is commonplace in the United States according to **a recent study**.

As described by Reuters, “tens of thousands of demonstrators amassed **in Washington and other U.S. cities** on Saturday [June 6] demanding an end to racism and brutality by law enforcement.” ““It feels like I get to be a part of history and a part of the group of people who are trying to change the world for everyone,” said one of the demonstrators.

Thousands took to the streets **in European and Asian cities** demonstrating in support of the U.S. protests against police

brutality, including London, Hamburg, Paris, Berlin, Brisbane, Sydney, Tokyo, Seoul and Bangkok,

The demonstrations **in Australia** linked the protest to the racist treatment of the aboriginal people in their country, where 432 aboriginals have died in police custody since 1991 without a single conviction. The racism is especially evident in the destruction of Aboriginal heritage sites for development projects. “The NSW Office of the Environment and Heritage shows that between June 2012 and June 2013 there were over 99 applications for the destruction of Aboriginal heritage sites for development purposes – all of which were approved.”

Central to the demonstrations has been the movement of **Black Lives Matter**, started in 2013 by three radical Black organizers — Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi — in response to the acquittal of the murderer of 17 year old Trayvon Martin. Their project is now a member-led global network of more than 40 chapters that organize and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes.

As described by **historian Robiin D. G. Kelley**, in addition to Black Lives Matter, there have been many organizing efforts that have built a base for today’s protests. “These include people like Melina Abdullah, Charlene Carruthers of Black Youth Project 100, all the scholar activists who have been working on this question — Barbara Ransby, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Angela Davis, Ruth Wilson Gilmore — and then, before that, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Copwatch, Dignity and Power, Critical Resistance, the African American Policy Forum. These were initiatives on the ground who did all this political education, all this organizing work — We Charge Genocide, Dream Defenders, the



Rising Majority, Black Organizing for Leadership and Dignity, and also groups like SURJ, you know, [Showing] Up for Racial Justice, which deals with white racism.

Kelly concludes his interview with “And the real question now is whether or not this can be sustained.”

One of the means to sustain the movement is the mobilization in many U.S. communities and organizations to celebrate [Juneteenth](#), the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation of Abraham Lincoln to put an end to slavery. It is now recognized in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

In the view of noted activist [Cornel West](#) , it is important to make the connection between U.S. violence abroad and at home. “When you sow the seeds of greed — domestically, inequality; globally, imperial tentacles, 800 military units abroad, violence and AFRICOM in Africa, supporting various regimes, dictatorial ones in Asia and so forth — there is a connection between the seeds that you sow of violence externally and internally.”

For more on the connection of racism to the culture of war, externally and internally, along with its historical roots, see this month’s [blog for the culture of peace](#).

## HUMAN RIGHTS



‘A part of history’:  
Calm prevails over  
D.C.’s biggest  
George Floyd  
protest

## FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Decolonising  
peace journalism  
– and putting it to  
work in East Africa

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Feeding the  
people in times of  
Pandemic: The  
Food Sovereignty  
Approach in  
Nicaragua

## DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



“Listening as  
governance”, by  
Amartya Sen

## EDUCATION FOR PEACE



USA: Historian  
Robin D.G. Kelley:  
Years of Racial  
Justice Organizing  
Laid Groundwork  
for Today’s  
Uprising

## WOMEN’S EQUALITY



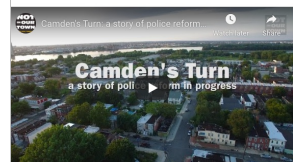
Philippines:  
Women’s  
leadership in the  
time of pandemic

## TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



USA: An uprising  
is a collective  
gasp for life

## DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Film From USA:  
Camden’s Turn: A  
Story of Police  
Reform in  
Progress

# English bulletin June 1, 2020

## *. LINK GLOBAL, EAT LOCAL . .*

As we have seen in this bulletin in recent months, the global health and economic crisis has inspired many to envisage and prepare for radical change believing that “another world is possible.”

This month we feature two aspects of this movement: 1) towards local food production and consumption, known as food sovereignty; and 2) global linkage of activists via webinars and online courses and conferences. Hence a new variation on the old slogan that we should “Think global, act local.”

### **Food sovereignty**

As pointed out by [The People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty](#) , the disconnect between food supply and demand has never been this huge. While almost a billion people around the world sleep hungry at night, tons of food are wasted across fields caused by transportation and market bottlenecks. Every year, a third of the world’s food – amounting to as much as USD 1.2 trillion – is lost or goes to waste. With today’s pandemic, lockdowns and supply chain failures have put this problem into overdrive. To meet this crisis, The People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty, has issued 9 demands, including priority to local food production and local

markets. One of their demands is to lift sanctions and cease all military aggressions which are exacerbated the crisis of hunger.

Another coalition, the [Planetary Coalition](#), also based in Asia and including partners around the world, calls for “a new earth Democracy” with a wide range of actions including “local biodiverse food systems.” They remind us that “Contrary to what we are made to believe, it is not globalisation that protects people from famines, which it produces and aggravates, but peoples food sovereignty, where people at the community level have the right to produce, choose and consume adequate, healthy and nutritious food, under fair price agreements for local production and exchange.”

A leader in the food sovereignty movement has long been the international peasant’s movement [La Via Campesina](#), a global coalition of 182 organisations in 81 countries. Now they remind us that “As the world reels under the fallout of a pandemic, now is the time to start building an equal, just and liberal society that embraces food sovereignty and solidarity.”

The [North African Network for Food Sovereignty](#) has put forward a series of demands and urgent measures in response to the health emergency including support to subsistence farming activities, subsistence stockbreeding, and coastal subsistence. As well as encouraging the consumption of their products through the creation of direct markets and fighting illegal and monopoly speculation.

The [Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa](#) is working to establish food sovereignty and agroecology as a key policy response to the climate crisis that is negatively impacting Africa. “Agroecology is a reverse response rejecting the industrial monoculture agriculture

that contributes more than 90% of greenhouse gas emissions, degrades the environment, depletes biodiversity, erodes diverse cultures, and only feeds less than 30 percent of the world population.”

In the United States there is a rebirth of the **Food Sovereignty Movement**. This is illustrated by the increased use of urban farms and gardens in the city of **Detroit** and the program Seeds and Sheep by the **Navajo Nation** in Utah.

Examples from France, Thailand and Singapore are cited in the article “**Grow your own: Urban farming flourishes in coronavirus lockdowns.**”

## **Webinars, online courses and conferences**

Increasingly, conferences are taking the form of Webinars so that people can take part from around the world.

The world conference “**No Nukes, Climate Justice, Peace**” originally scheduled for New York City in April was held instead online with up to 500 people joined by Internet and with simultaneous live streaming so anyone could join by listening in simultaneously or later on a YouTube publication. The conference was sponsored by hundreds of leading nuclear disarmament, peace, climate and justice organizations. Speakers came from the United States, Japan, Germany, Costa Rica, Iran and Australia.

The Webinar “**Youth Actions for Climate, Nuclear Disarmament and Sustainable Development**” was held on May 14 and 19 sponsored by Abolition 2000 Youth Network, World Future Council, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and

Disarmament and the Basel Peace Office. Speakers came from Switzerland, United States, Canada, Kenya, Morocco, Czech Republic, Philippines, Bangladesh, South Korea and Japan.

The Webinar “[How Young People Can Lead Climate Change Action](#)”, sponsored by the International Youth Foundation took place in November 2019 and was made available as a video this month on a website called Youthlead.

Nonviolence International has a weekly Webinar series. “[Young Women Fighting for Our Planet](#)” took place on April 22 and the video is available online via Facebook. Speakers are from Kenya, United Arab emirates, Canada and South Korea.


[Campaign Nonviolence](#) is holding a Weekly Nonviolence Community Course online for six weeks from May 28 through July 2. There are places for 50 participants. Advanced registration is required.

[Movimiento por la Paz](#) (Spain) is holding an online course “Five paths for peace” beginning on May 18, with places for 20 participants filled in order of registration.

Finally, here at the Culture of Peace News Network, Mirian Castello, based in Brazil, is hosting a [weekly Webinar interviewing activists for a culture of peace](#). Registration is open for people around the world to access the webinar live and submit their questions to the person interviewed. The first three interviews are now available as online videos.

Now we see that the technology is available and is being used for the “global movement for a culture of peace . . . promoted through

sharing of information” that was envisaged in 1999 by the **United Nations Declaration and Programme of Action**.

<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b></p>  <p>Earth Day Communiqué – 22nd April 2020 Making Peace with the Earth</p>	<p><b>FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION</b></p>  <p>If Culture of War was a human choice and invention, what if we choose a culture of peace?</p>	<p><b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p>  <p>Amnesty International: Ignored by COVID-19 responses, refugees face starvation</p>	<p><b>DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION</b></p>  <p>Mexico: Universities of ANUIES to share best practices on culture of peace</p>
<p><b>EDUCATION FOR PEACE</b></p>  <p>Campaign Nonviolence: Weekly Nonviolence Online Community Course</p>	<p><b>WOMEN'S EQUALITY</b></p>  <p>Webinar and Video: Young Women Fighting for Our Planet</p>	<p><b>TOLERANCE &amp; SOLIDARITY</b></p>  <p>The New World Citizen Laboratory, Yali Gabon and PAYNCoP Gabon join forces to raise awareness about Covid 19</p>	<p><b>DISARMAMENT &amp; SECURITY</b></p>  <p>Global military expenditure sees largest annual increase in a decade—says SIPRI</p>

# English bulletin May 1, 2020

## *. CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD .*

In the month since we wrote in our bulletin that “the medical and economic crisis associated with the coronavirus can be seen as an opportunity as well as a calamity,” many analysts have taken this position and proposed how we can move forward. This includes proposals regarding all aspects of the culture of peace:

**Disarmament and Security:** **Three former Royal Navy Commanders** of the United Kingdom sent a letter to parliament saying that the 2 billion pounds a year spent on nuclear submarines cannot be justified and the money should be used for health care. The activist **David Swanson** in the United States proposes that the American Department of Defense should be converted from military operations and should work for universal financial and medical security. Reacting to the latest American threat of war, that against Venezuela, it is said that “**the US should fight COVID, not Venezuela**” and that “President Trump has no business deploying US military assets **threatening Venezuela.**”

Readers will recall that last month we published similar calls from the **International Peace Bureau** and the **Peace Pledge Union** to convert military budgets to money for health care, and the call by UN Secretary-General for **a global ceasefire.**



**Solidarity:** Around the world, people have responded to the crisis with actions of local solidarity to care for those who are vulnerable to the pandemic. A good example comes to us from the **youth of Gabon** who are providing water stations for the people living in poor areas. As expressed by the organization **Tamara**, in Portugal “the crisis represents a great opportunity, in addition to all its challenges: now, we have the opportunity to join forces worldwide to achieve a shared goal, develop social cohesion, set up decentralized structures, a solidarity economy – a genuine reboot”

**Democratic participation:** The Moroccan professor **Abdelmoughit Benmassoud Tredano** states that the economic crisis has only just begun. He repeats the call for solidarity: “at the individual, group and national level, individualism is outdated and solidarity is needed instead.” “This certainly implies rethinking the organization of the world on all levels . . . the organization of the world by regional groups must be adopted because no single state can stand alone, unless it is an entire continent.” According to the Council of Europe, in many countries, the lead is being taken by cities rather than the state. They provide the example of **Raseborg in Finland**.

**Women’s equality:** **Nazra Feminist Studies** of Egypt proposes that we adopt the feminist values “such as joining forces in times of fear, loss and build, collective responsibility and action towards our survival, international cooperation and collectiveness in order to understand and identify ways to overcome this crisis.”

In the short term **sustainable development** has been set back by the pandemic, but according to the **World Economic Forum**, “now is the time to start redirecting the \$5.2 trillion spent on fossil-fuel subsidies every year toward green infrastructure, reforestation,

and investments in a more circular, shared, regenerative, low-carbon economy.”

**Education for peace:** In a [recent webinar](#) by the International Institute on Peace Education and Global Campaign for Peace Education, educators from the USA, Austria, Puerto Rico, South Africa, China, Nigeria, Philippines, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and South Korea shared how they are responding to the pandemic and associated systemic violence and injustices.

“How **human rights** can help protect us from COVID-19” is the title of an article from [Amnesty International](#), stressing the need to protect the human rights to health, access to information, employment, housing, water, sanitation and freedom from discrimination.

**Free flow of information.** According to the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#), the global crisis has pushed us further into a digital world. There has been a leap in teleworking and online conferencing, but only 20% of the population in the least developed countries use the internet, so the world needs a coordinated multilateral response to deal with the challenge of digitalization.

Of course, the eight aspects of the culture of peace are all inter-related and need to be addressed in coordination. This is seen in the following analyses.

Mazin Qumsiyeh sends us a global call from [Palestine Action for the Planet](#) which calls for democratization of the United Nations, reorganization of development priorities, drastic reduction in military spending, defense of democratic participation, global

solidarity and restoration of ecological balance (“We humans must recognize ourselves as part of nature and live in harmony with it”).




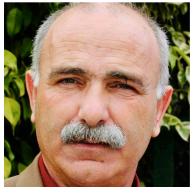
William Astore, a retired lieutenant colonel (USAF) and professor of history, gives us **seven suggestions** “to change America” [and, we may add, “to change the world”]. The first is to reduce military spending and the next two are to reduce the 800 US military bases around the world and to abandon the plan for waging two major foreign wars at the same time. He calls for a Works Progress Administration to rebuild America’s infrastructure and reinvigorate our culture (like that of President Roosevelt during the depression). He calls for “an end to fear-mongering and warmongering, and to recognize as true heroes not warriors and sports stars, but rather those who are on the frontlines against the coronavirus. And “finally, we must extend our love to encompass nature, our planet.”

Nobel Peace Laureate **Mairead Maguire** reminds us that “If this virus has done anything, it has reminded us that we are only human and very vulnerable; we need each other to survive and thrive. If anything, this virus hopefully will cement the opinion that we are All One, brothers and sisters; what affects one affects all. . . . Government policies of sanctions, militarism, nuclear weapons and war must be radically replaced by government policies that put their citizen’s health – both physical and mental – on top of the political agenda. . . . Capitalism does not work, the system is broken, and we are all challenged to build a system of real democracy that works for everyone.

Another Nobel Peace Laureate, **Mikhail Gorbachev**, calls for a “radical rethinking of international politics . . . Is it not clear by now that wars and the arms race cannot solve today’s global problems? War is a defeat, a failure of politics! . . . We need to

demilitarize world affairs, international politics and political thinking and reallocate funds from military purposes to the purposes serving human security. We need to rethink the very concept of security. Above all else, security should mean providing food, water, which is already in short supply, a clean environment and, as top priority, caring for people’s health.”

Finally, here at CPNN, we are providing additional tools and proposals in [our blog](#) to chart the way forward, to take advantage of the crisis to reform the world’s governance structure and make the transition from the culture of war to a culture of peace.

<p>WOMEN’S EQUALITY</p>  <p>From Nazra for Feminist Studies (Egypt): A Letter of Solidarity; Together, We Stand in Solidarity.. To Build</p>	<p>FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION</p>  <p>Coronavirus reveals need to bridge the digital divide</p>	<p>HUMAN RIGHTS</p>  <p>Amnesty International: How human rights can help protect us from COVID-19</p>	<p>DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION</p>  <p>Covid-19: A new organization of the world is essential (Moroccan university professor)</p>
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## EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Peace Education and the Pandemic: Global Perspectives (video now available)

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Could COVID-19 give rise to a greener global future?

## TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



PAYNCoP Gabon and Engineers Without Borders join forces to fight COVID 19

## DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Threatening Military Intervention in Venezuela During a Pandemic?

## English bulletin April 1, 2020

### . OVERCOMING THE CRISIS TOGETHER . .

Viewed from the perspective of the culture of peace, the medical and economic crisis associated with the coronavirus can be seen as an opportunity as well as a calamity.

As discussed in the blog [Has the crash arrived?](#), it may provide us with the opportunity to make the transition from the culture of war to a culture of peace? The scenario was foreseen in the novella [I have seen the promised land](#) written in 2008 which foresaw a global economic crash in the year 2020, opening the possibility for this radical transformation.

Recent articles in CPNN point out how we can overcome the crisis together by working in the various domains of the culture of peace.

**DISARMAMENT.** [The International Peace Bureau](#) has issued a statement demanding world leaders to put disarmament and peace back in the center of policy making. “Without it, we are handicapping our fight against future health pandemics, to eradicate poverty, hunger, to provide education and healthcare for all, as well as the realization of the SDG 2030 goals.”

Similarly the organization [Peace Pledge Union](#) says “In this crisis, everyone needs support from others, some especially so. This costs money. The government can still divert funds away from multi-million pound weapons and NATO training exercises. Let’s fund things that will really help to make us safe. You can’t nuke a virus.”

[UN General Antonio Guterres](#) has called for ceasefires in the wars that are raging around the world, saying “The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war. . . . It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives.”

**SOLIDARITY.** In this time of suffering and fear, we can learn from the wisdom of indigenous peoples as described in the article coming from the [Mixe people of Mexico](#), a people who have known the ravages of epidemics ever since they were brought to the Americas from Europe. “The communal care that saved the life of [my grandmother Luisa] made it possible

**EQUALITY OF WOMEN.** [The women of Mexico](#) are giving us a good example of solidarity which can serve as a model for future mobilizations. Echoing the cry, ‘A day without us’, millions of Mexicans participated March 9 in a National Women’s strike sparked by the wave of outrage over femicides and expanded to a long list of demands of the feminist agenda. The strike was organized to follow by one day the annual mobilization for [International Women’s Day](#) which was celebrated around the world.

**DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION.** As emphasized in the statement of the [International Peace Bureau](#), “We know from the history of our own organization and many of our member organizations that in such crises, democracy must be defended above all else, and it must be defended against increasingly authoritarian states.”. During the last great depression, in the 1930’s, democracy was replaced by dictatorships in Germany, Italy and Spain, leading to civil wars and the Second World War. How can this be avoided? [Robert J. Burrows](#), specialist in nonviolent action, provides us with a nonviolent strategy including a list of specific strategic goals “to defend humanity against a political/military coup conducted by the global elite.”

The [director of Pace e Bene](#), a peace organization familiar to CPNN readers because of their extensive mobilizations around the International Day of Peace, tells us that the COVID-19 is a messenger calling us resolutely to join a “planetary movement that is emerging.” The greatest social movement in human history is coming. Each of us is called to join it. It is a global movement, a movement of movements. It is learning from the history of movements that has been accelerating over the past century. It is rooted in the blood and tears of millions who have spent their lives throughout history clamoring for justice, working for peace, laboring for a world that works for everyone. This movement will not appear by magic. It requires hard work and “acting our way into thinking.” It will be deeply nonviolent—saying No to injustice and Yes to the humanity of all, including the humanity of our opponents.

Yes, it depends on our actions now to determine

that I can today share the dying words of my great-grandfather during a previous epidemic: the individual good is the collective good.

Cuba has shown us a good example of solidarity in the face of the global pandemic. “The same humanitarian and internationalist spirit that led Cuba to allow the [infected cruise ship] Braemar to dock has also led the tiny country to send doctors to assist Haiti after that nation’s devastating 2010 earthquake, fight Ebola in West Africa in 2014, and, most recently, help Italy’s overwhelmed health system amid the coronavirus pandemic.”

whether the crisis becomes an opportunity or a disaster. CPNN will continue to publish news of these actions as they develop. Readers are encouraged to please [send us reports](#).

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



IPB Statement: Call to the G20 to Invest in Healthcare Instead of Militarization

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Federico Mayor pays tribute to Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

HUMAN RIGHTS



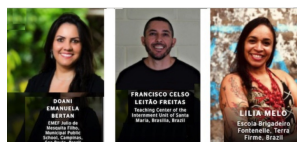
International Criminal Court Offers Hope to Afghanistan’s Victims

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Defending Humanity Against the Elite Coup

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



“Education Nobel”, Global Teachers’ Prize includes three Brazilian teachers.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The Most Successful Air Pollution Treaty You’ve Never Heard Of

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Love and Nonviolence in the Time of Coronavirus

WOMEN’S EQUALITY



International Women’s Day 2020

© April 1, 2020

## English bulletin March 1, 2020

### . CITIES TAKE THE LEAD . .

**Nuclear disarmament.** New York City is becoming the most recent city to plan for divestment of their funds from the nuclear weapons industry. **Public hearings** in the city on January 28 heard from a wide range of speakers in favor of this action. Speakers included the global campaign, Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, Mayors for Peace, **young people from Peace Boat** and a representative from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. Participants at the hearing expressed their love of the city and strong unwillingness to see New York, or any other place on the Earth, to be exposed to the threat of irreversible destruction that nuclear weapons poses.

Hundreds of cities have joined the **cities appeal of ICAN** calling for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. The appeal states: “Our city/town is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this Threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore, we warmly welcome the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations in 2017, and we call on our national government to join it.”

The Appeal is also supported by Mayors for Peace with its network of 7675 cities in 163 countries around the world. The most recent city to support the appeal, on January 27, was **Oxford in the UK**.

**Sustainable development.** UN Habitat recently sponsored the **Tenth World Urban Forum** to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed by world leaders in 2015. At the meeting, which took place in Abu Dhabi from 8-13 February, the 13,000 participants recognized that “an increasingly urbanized world is a ‘transformative force’ that can be harnessed and steered to boost sustainable development.” Among the organizations of cities taking part in the Forum was **ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability)**, a network of cities in over 100 countries, with global experts in 22 offices.

At the World Urban Forum, the **Global Parliament of Mayors** presented a project called the Virtual Parliament, an online tool to connect with Mayors around the world, to debate and vote on political issues and to exchange experiences. For example, it has supported an action of the US congress of Mayors against gun violence.

**Reducing international tensions.** The organization of **International Cities of Peace** reports that the first City of Peace on the Korean peninsula was established February 5 near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Pocheon. A major celebration was held at City Hall where Mayor Park signed a Proclamation as a crowd of media, dignitaries, and over 100 citizens packed the hall. Pocheon has the potential to help make the dream of Reunification of South and North Korea come true in order to benefit citizens of both countries.

**Urban violence.** A new initiative, the **Strong Cities Network (SCN)**, is working with a **broad coalition** to reduce urban violence. According to the SCN, “Today, 83% of deadly violence occurs outside of conflict zones, with the majority of this violence concentrated in cities.” Their report highlights successful initiatives in Glasgow (Scotland), Oakland (California), and cities in Ecuador.

Tackling urban violence is also the priority of the **World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace**, which is a project of the United Cities and Local Governments. Previous forums were held in Madrid in 2017 and 2018. The next one will take place this coming October in Mexico City to construct “solutions that promote urban environments capable of eliminating expressions of violence.”

According to the **Strong Cities Network**, “Nation states have dominated the global political arena for centuries, but with more than half of the world’s population today residing in cities, it may be time to rethink who should be at the table when it comes to decisions on how we can reduce violence.” The same could be said with regard to nuclear disarmament, sustainable development and the reduction of international tensions.



HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION

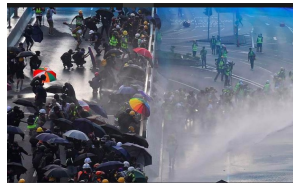
DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Strong Cities Network: Reducing violence is not impossible, and cities are proving this



Peace promotion in the Sahel: The best award-winning radio productions



Amnesty International: New generation of young activists lead fight against worsening repression in Asia



New York City hearings pave the way for nuclear weapons divestment

EDUCATION FOR PEACE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



For Bob Marley's 75th Birthday, Ziggy Marley Reflects On His Father's Legacy



The Wet'suwet'en Fight Against New Pipeline Spreads Across Canada with Blockades & Occupations



Switzerland: Lutheran World Federation marks World Interfaith Harmony Week



Devoted to discovery: seven women scientists who have shaped our world

© March 1, 2020

## English bulletin February 1, 2020

### MILITARY SWALLOWS UP THE AMERICAN BUDGET

Usually this bulletin puts the emphasis on positive actions that promote the culture of peace. But this month, it seems that the most important events were negative, and we need to look at them in detail.

In particular, the principal center of the American empire, the budget of the United States, is being almost completely swallowed up by military spending. Last month, the US congress, both Republicans and Democrats voted to adopt a **military budget of \$738 billion dollars**.

As shown by a recent analysis, the **military portion of the budget** is even higher than reported because much of it is hidden from the eyes of the public. According to the analysis, the US government has spent a staggering \$5.4 trillion on its post-9/11 war on terror, with an additional \$1 trillion due for veterans' care in the future. That's an average of \$23.7 billion monthly for the past 228 months.

Every indication says that this spending will continue.

Following the recent drone strike by the US military that killed Iran's most powerful general, the big US defense companies Lockheed Martin and Raytheon scored **huge military contracts** worth \$1.93 billion and \$758 million respectively.

As reported in the CPNN article, "Traditionally, defense stocks tend to outperform the market during periods of budget growth," "shares of defense companies outperform the broader market in the six months after a crisis event in the Middle East."

One can easily see that this is driven by a huge military-industrial-complex, which is perhaps better described as a "military-industrial-congressional complex."

There is no indication of a political solution in the United States. Senators and representatives in the US tend to receive big campaign contributions from the companies and individuals that profit from military contracts, and this is necessary because their election campaigns are very costly. The vote for the military budget was 377-48 with 188 Democrats joining with 189 Republicans.

And not a single **candidate for President** in this year's election campaign has proposed an alternative budget. It seems that the military budget is politically "untouchable."

Where does this lead? Rather than trying to analyze the historical significance of these events here, I refer the reader to my blog for this month: "**Why the bloated military budget threatens to bring down the American empire.**"

#### DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



'Atrocious': 188 Democrats Join GOP to Hand Trump \$738 Billion Military Budget That Includes 'Space Force'

#### FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



A Brutal Violation of Press Freedom': Glenn Greenwald Targeted With Investigation by Brazilian Government After Reporting on Corruption

#### HUMAN RIGHTS



Tens of thousands march in southern India to protest citizenship law

#### DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Peru: Electoral peace promoted in 4 native languages

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EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Lebanon: Interview with Ogarit Younan (prize for conflict prevention and peace)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Greta Thunberg Addresses Global Elite at Davos: Our House Is Still on Fire

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Burkina Faso: Struggle against radicalization: Imams and preachers strengthen their knowledge

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



UNWomen: In lead up to Generation Equality Forum, Action Coalition themes announced

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© February 1, 2020

## English bulletin January 1, 2020

### . THE STRUGGLE AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING .

The world went to Madrid last month in the hope that the countries of the world would finally take serious action to stop global warming.

An example came to us from [Lok Raj Joshi in Nepal](#).

He writes that “a government team from Nepal led by the Minister for Forests and Environment, Shakti Bahadur Basnet, is taking part in COP-25. . . . Nepal is going to propose formulating a plan for coping with the adverse conditions resulting from global warming. Nepal is also lobbying for the Green Climate Fund. Highly affected countries like Nepal are entitled to receive it as compensation from the responsible countries that are releasing large quantity of carbon into the atmosphere.”

Lok explains that “climate change is an urgent matter for Nepalese people. First, its northern region is comprised of the snow-covered Himalaya mountains . . . . The region of the Terai which supplies food to the rest of the country depends on water from the north. This relationship makes the adverse effects of global warming even more complex, more intense and more widespread creating a vicious cycle of disasters in Nepal. Second, agriculture and tourism based on natural beauties including the Himalayas, rivers, glaciers, lakes, jungles and wild animals are the major sources of income for Nepal. Hydroelectricity is the most potential area that is expected to contribute to realization of the Nepalese dream of prosperity. Unfortunately, these all have been the first targets of global warming.”

Environmental activists came to Madrid from around the world to urge action, especially young people (See CPNN, [A Global Youth Movement ?](#) ) The 500,000 people who marched in Madrid were addressed by [Greta Thunberg](#) who told them “We have been striking for over a year, and basically nothing has happened . . . . The climate crisis is still being ignored by those in power, and we cannot go on like this.”

Many of those coming to Madrid were [representatives of indigenous peoples](#) who are especially threatened by climate change. Tom Goldtooth, executive director

But those who came to Madrid, and the rest of the world, were to be disappointed by the results of the COP25 conference, as they were after [previous COP conferences](#). In 2009, the rich countries pledged to mobilize \$100 billion a year by 2020 for the United Nations Green Climate Fund. But only \$3.5 billion has been committed out of [\\$10.3 billion pledged](#). Now not only is Trump attempting to withdraw the United States from the Paris agreement, but last year, he straight-up canceled \$2 billion in promised climate aid to poor countries.

At the end of this year’s conference, [civil society groups](#) including the Center for Biological Diversity, Oil Change International, and Friends of the Earth said, the deal that had been hammered out by the parties included an agenda brought by big polluters “straight to the halls of the U.N.” with the help of countries “historically most responsible for the climate crisis.” The deal as it stands would “condemn those on the frontlines of the climate crisis, while hiding the crimes of polluters . . . . And it would lead to increased inequality with no increase in ambition, no real emissions reductions, and no pathway to 1.5 [degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.]”

“I’ve been attending these climate negotiations since they first started in 1991,” said [Alden Meyer](#), director of strategy for the Union of Concerned Scientists, told the BBC. “But never have I seen the almost total disconnect we’ve seen here at COP25 in Madrid between what the science requires and the people of the world demand, and what the climate negotiations are delivering in terms of meaningful action.”

The issue of military pollution does not even make it onto the agenda of the COP. According to the [study cited by the International Peace Bureau](#), “The US military is not only the most funded army in the world, it is also “one of the largest polluters in history, consuming more liquid fuels and emitting more climate-changing gases than most medium-sized countries”. The Department of Defence’s daily consumption alone is greater than the total national consumption of countries like Sweden, Switzerland or Chile.”

of the Indigenous Environmental Network, put it this way: “We’re here to stand in support of the people of Chile. We’re here to support the people of Colombia and Ecuador and Brazil who are fighting climate capitalism. We have to stand together with the people of the streets and of the forests and the land and the oceans, fighting neoliberalism, fighting imperialism. We’re fighting against the United States and its white supremacy, militarization. We have to look at these things and stand together in solidarity with the people.” CPNN readers might recall Tom Goldtooth from the [Peru Climate Summit of 2014](#).

However, the relation of militarism and pollution is increasingly on the agenda of the global movements for peace and the environment. As we wrote in the November bulletin: The Pope’s proposal “that the money spent for these works of death should be devoted to human development and the struggle for the climate corresponds to the slogan adopted by the 160 or so organizations of the Collective “[En marche pour la paix](#)” which called for September 21 (International Day of Peace) to march for peace, climate, social justice and nuclear disarmament.”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



[In Final Hours, COP 25 Denounced as ‘Utter Failure’ as Deal Is Stripped of Ambition and US Refuses to Accept Liability for Climate Crisis](#)



[Groundswell of support for WikiLeaks publisher Julian Assange](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS



[PAYNCoP Gabon Pleads for Youth Involvement in the National Commission for Human Rights](#)

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



[International Cities of Peace in China](#)

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



[Xalapa, Mexico: International Film Festival for a Culture of Peace](#)

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



[Bolivia: Post-Coup Update](#)

TOLERANCE & SOLIDAIRTY



[UN commemorates International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People](#)

WOMEN’S EQUALITY



[The world went orange: Putting a spotlight on ending violence against women](#)

🕒 January 1, 2020

