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No 39

April, 2020

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Breaking News

Defence Minister cancels US Marines deployment to Darwin at this time

The 30 March announcement by the Defence Minister cancelling the United States Marines' deployment to Darwin at this time is warmly welcomed by IPAN. IPAN, WagePeace and others have been intensively lobbying the Defence Minister through letters and phone calls as well as an IPAN media release sent to all MP's and Senators and the media. IPAN has been calling for the US Marine deployment to be cancelled to prevent them bringing corona virus into Darwin and has made it clear our belief that it would be in the best interests of the people of Australia to make this cancellation permanent.

Stationing United States troops on our soil, battle-ready and practicing with our ADF for a war against the enemies of the United States, does not in fact make for our protection; indeed, it makes Australia a missile target for enemies of the United States of which there are plenty. It makes us less, not more, safe. It makes us enemies when we have none. These US Marines are not under the control of the Australian Government but remain under the control of the United States Indo-Pacific Command at all times.

The Force Posture Agreement which underpins their deployment to the NT and provides the United States military with unimpeded access to our naval ports for their ships and air-force runways for their bombers together with the other US military Bases on our soil - such as their satellite intelligence communications facility at Pine Gap and the North West Cape nuclear submarine communications station -

means Australia has forfeited sovereignty to a foreign power. Australia is perceived to be a military base for the United States in the Indo-Pacific. We have lost our independence. Australia is tied into the war plans of the United States.

A first step to reversing this situation can be by the termination of the Force Posture Agreement and making this cancellation of deployment of US Marines to Darwin, ***permanent***.

In doing so a step is made towards regaining our independence and sovereignty so the Australian people can have peaceful and mutually beneficial relations with our neighbours.

IPAN Editorial

Divert military spending to address the real threat to our health and security

We are facing a very real threat to our national security- the COVID-19 threat to our health.

This follows on the heels of the other threat to national security posed by climate change and demonstrated by the devastating bush fires of last year and early this year.

These are real as opposed to imagined threats. However our government continues to allocate \$250 billion to purchase military hardware, F35's and sub-marines and to upgrade the Tindall runway and facilities for US Bombers. All this in response to the push from the US military through the US-Australia Alliance, to prepare for war; for a fictitious and "manufactured" military threat. Yet the last defence white

paper said that no military threat to Australia could be envisaged in the foreseeable future.

The current health threat is unprecedented; a once in 100- year event says the PM. We desperately need face masks, testing kits, ventilators, greatly expanded hospital facilities and support for those workers put out of work by this crisis. IPAN urges the government to immediately re-assess spending priorities and immediately divert military spending into implementing the urgent measures necessary to combat this COVID-19 virus and safeguard the health of the Australian people.

Q: What's the difference between a mechanical ventilator used to treat #COVID19 and a bomb?
A: There is no shortage of bombs



Mechanical Ventilator
\$15,000



GBU-53/B
StormBreaker
US\$227,146

(c) @bill_owen

IPAN's Chairperson Annette Brownlie writes to the Minister for Defence:

Dear Minister

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) has indicated its opposition to the presence of USA marines in Darwin for as long as they have been there. Up until now, the reasons for our opposition have been strategic. The group has argued that the presence of the marines bestows no strategic benefit to Australia; that it actually makes the country less safe, by displaying Australia's willingness to involve itself militarily with the USA, as that nation actively confronts China.

The emergence and spread of the coronavirus gives us a further reason for communicating with you on the matter. We seek your assurance that you will do all things within your power to protect the nation from the spread of Coronavirus.

Our organisation keeps aware of current events. It is aware of restrictions on all foreign nationals arriving in Australia. As measures to limit and slow down the spread of the disease, the restrictions are viewed as entirely sensible. However, we also believe that they should be applied across the board, with no exceptions.

We were dismayed, then, to hear the Prime Minister, on Friday March 20, failing to rule out the possible arrival of US personnel, who might fly in to Alice Springs for work at Pine Gap. He appeared to indicate that this was a 'security' matter – implying that such matters can take precedence over all others (including, in this case, the health of the

nation).

READ ON

NOT THIS YEAR



NOT ANY YEAR

Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)

MEDIA RELEASE 23rd March 2020

Stop USA Troops coming to Australia-virus spreading threat

- Peace Groups urge no USA marine deployment to Darwin
- Risk of COVID-19 infection
- No exceptions for military personnel

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Helping fight COVID-19: Acts of International Solidarity



A group of 50 Cuban doctors, 15 nurses and logistic experts have arrived in Italy to help stop the spread of the coronavirus in the Lombardy region.



The Russian army began flying medical help to Italy to battle COVID-19, a goodwill gesture labeled 'From Russia with Love'.



China to share all its information on Corona Virus with the United States

China and the US should "unite to fight" the deadly coronavirus pandemic, President Xi Jinping said in a call with Donald Trump, as he called for the US to improve relations.

He also called for the two countries to work together to tackle the virus and said Beijing "wishes to continue sharing all information and experience with the US", according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Unity, solidarity, caring and respecting each other

- some Australian community responses to the corona virus crisis

In Australia many grass roots community networks of tens of thousands of members have sprung up spontaneously on social media to connect people and communities with each other and organise mutual support and solidarity. The mutual solidarity networks have built extensive resource information data base and organising financial and material assistance for people in isolation, food deliveries, taking dogs for walks, sending birthday messages to children, leaving toys at the front of the house, cooking food, exchanging information and providing updated medical and health information, and holding discussions about actions people can take collectively, eg. freeze on rents and mortgages, increasing pensions, looking after stood down workers and their families.

Questions are asked about the underfunded public health system, shortages of medical and health equipment - masks, ventilators,

putting theirs and their families' health and lives at risk.

These on-line community solidarity groups include Westside Melbourne Corona Virus, Northside Melbourne Corona Virus, The Kindness Pandemic Network and many others across the country.

One facebook group in Brisbane to obtain groceries etc for people who are unable to get out of their houses is 4103/4104 COVID-19 Mutual Aid (the postcodes for the area).

Some from SA are: Anti-Poverty Network (SA) (as part of their member-support work); Love Your Neighbour South Australia (exchange of scarce items and social support); The Pear (local exchange of scarce items).

Migrant organisations with other community groups have set up food and financial support networks for stood down migrant workers on temporary visas isolated with no families here for support. Before the shut down some restaurants were offering free meals to pensioners and the unemployed.

Submitted by members of IPAN coordinating committee



Independent and Peaceful Australia Network

MEDIA RELEASE

27 March 2020

Fight Virus not Wars, UN Urges

- **UN calls for Immediate Global Ceasefire on Major Wars**
- **End the Sickness of War and Fight the Disease that Ravages**

[READ ON](#)



Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations

Outstaying our welcome in Iraq

-Alison Broinowski

20th March 2020

As US installations in Iraq come under increasing attack, the message that they are no longer needed is clear. Camp Taji near Baghdad, where a few hundred Australians are still based, has been hit by missiles in recent days. How much longer before they get out?

A founding American myth is that the US is not an imperial power. But it has an empire, in 80 countries, of 800 or so military, naval, air, and intelligence bases which, once established, are very hard for host governments to dislodge. Afghanistan and Iran have discovered that Australians deployed in those countries are much the same.

READ ON

[IPAN Petition](#)

No War on Iran

Bring our troops in Iraq home now

Please sign and pass on via your contacts & social media- its on the way to 1,500 signatures; help it get there.

[SIGN HERE](#)

**Wage Peace attended this HSBC bank to say NO!
to Australian weapons exports which will create
more warfare in the Middle East.**



HSBC is a bank that does harm. It invests in harming people. HSBC and EOS are partners in war-crime and [#WarCrimesMatter](#) Sign this

petition now <http://bit.ly/NoArms4Yemen> HSBC invests money in the Australian company Electro Optic Systems. EOS sells arms to Saudi Arabia and UAE. Both countries have been involved in war crimes in the 5 year long war in Yemen, bombing civilians and civilian infrastructure. Bombing civilians is a war crime. HSBC invests money in an Australian company that sells arms to Saudi Arabia. Electro Optic Systems (EOS) sells a lethal missile fire system R400s to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. There is proof via photos of their products at Sydney airport. Both countries EOS sell to have been involved in war crimes in Yemen, bombing civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Bombing civilians is a war crime.

Sign this petition now <http://bit.ly/NoArms4Yemen> and join www.wagepeaceau.org to stay up to date

Pope Francis, to the U.S. Congress, Sept. 24, 2015

“Here we have to ask ourselves, why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade.”

**MILITARY
SPENDING
COSTS US
THE EARTH**

ARTWORK BY ESCIE



@DemilitarizeDay

Global Campaign on Military Spending



Gem invites you to ICAN's Monthly web-meet: April

action!



ICAN Monthly web-meet: April action!

Listen, learn, discuss and activate! This event is the first in a series of monthly webinars for anyone interested in the campaign for Australia to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

There are many ways we can continue to organise and affect change, while staying safe and adapting to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Coronavirus won't stop nuclear weapons and neither will it stop the campaign. Let us respond with an outbreak of creative resistance!

The first monthly web-meet will discuss the global ICAN Cities Appeal and how we can bring more local councils on board. This is an informal online get-together and an opportunity to ask questions and discuss strategy.

REGISTER

Mon, Apr 20 at 6pm to Mon, Jul 20 at 8pm

Online

Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations 20th March 2020

Four Corners Program on Australian Alleged War Crimes in Afghanistan Raises Wider Questions

- James O'Neill



 The footage aired by Four Corners shows an SAS soldier killing Dad Mohammad as he appears to cower in a wheat field.

Australia is still waiting for an honest appraisal of its involvement in other countries wars of choice, almost invariably carried out for other than the officially professed reasons.

On Monday, 16 March 2020 the ABC broadcast an exposure on its Four Corners program about alleged war crimes in Afghanistan committed by Australian special forces soldiers.

The ABC is to be commended for bringing this issue before the public. In the course of the program we were told that the alleged war crimes had been under investigation for a period of four years. There was no explanation as to why the inquiry was taking so long, although its very links and the relative secrecy surrounding the inquiry does invite the cynical conclusion that there is no pressure being applied to bring the

READ ON

US Hybrid War on Venezuela Heats Up

By Leonardo Flores

March 16, 2020 "Information Clearing House" -

The first quarter of 2020 has seen the Trump administration escalate its rhetoric against Venezuela. At the State of the Union, President Trump promised to “smash” and destroy the Venezuelan government. This was followed by a renewed threat of a naval blockade on the country, which is an act of war under U.S. and international law. Then the State Department eagerly noted that the “Monroe Doctrine 2.0” will be “fleshed out in the weeks and months to come,” while declaring “maximum-pressure March” against Venezuela.

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BETWEEN A COUPLE OF ROCKY OUTPOSTS

AND A HARD PLACE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION:

UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY IN

CRISIS, 2020

- Richard Stone

A couple of media releases about US foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region have revealed just how dysfunctional the White House and Pentagon have become in recent times; following all the characteristics of befuddled and confused thinking, US-led military

planners appear to have finally acknowledged their strategically-placed facilities are a genuine target for adversaries.

The planning, at a time when the US is desperately attempting to reduce its military budget, would appear to fly in the face of reason; that is, if those responsible for the planning actually possess that faculty within their mind-sets.

READ ON



All functions have been cancelled because of COVID-19 until further notice hopefully later this year. When these are scheduled IPAN's Voice will then provide details of functions being held around Australia to remember the successful anti-war campaign led by the Vietnam Moratorium 50 years ago and also provide articles on the campaign to end that war and to end conscription for it.

RAPID Public Response Arrangements to any imminent major military conflict, invasion or war

In the event of an imminent major military conflict, military invasion or war actually breaking out, IPAN organisations in the following states, urge everyone to rally :

In Melbourne, outside the State Library in Swanston St, Melbourne, from 5pm that evening- bring banners and placards - family and friends

In Adelaide, on Parliament Steps at 4.30 pm that evening – bring banners and placards – family and friends.

In Newcastle, at the Clocktower, Hamilton, 4.30pm that evening- bring banners and placards and tell family and friends

In Canberra, on the median strip at the corner of London Circuit and Northbourne Ave.

In Brisbane, at King George Square, 5 pm

Voice is produced and edited by the Media Group of the IPAN co-ordinating committee. It is produced for IPAN affiliates to:

**provide a medium for communication of their campaigns and activities*

**provide a medium for discussion of issues central to IPAN's objectives*

**provide affiliates with details of co-ordinating committee activities, media releases, lobbying activities and other actions taken on behalf of IPAN*

** provide information on issues/events relating to IPAN's objectives*

Contributions to Voice, in information or comment, should be emailed to :

ipan.australia@gmail.com and limited, if possible to 200 words.

The Media Group takes editorial responsibility for choice of content and is responsible to the IPAN co-ordinating committee. **Disclaimer:** Voice publishes a range of articles which reflect the broad movement for an independent and peaceful Australia but not all articles will necessarily reflect IPAN's position."

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