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No 41

June, 2020

In this issue:

* What are the costs and consequences of Australia's involvement in U.S.-led wars? A Peoples Inquiry into the U.S.-Australia Alliance?

* IPAN Public Statement- A People's Call for Healthcare not Warfare

* Lee Rhiannon explains why she signed IPAN's Statement

* Joe Camilleri explains why he signed IPAN's Statement

* Amid and beyond COVID-19, its time to focus on healthcare not warfare- Sue Wareham

* COVID-19 Global Solidarity Manifesto- IPAN has signed; will you?

IPAN expresses dismay at re-establishment of U.S. Marine deployment to Darwin- letter to Defence Minister

* A star-spangled spanner in the works: how the US secrecy controls Australian Weapons- Brian Toohey

* Does Australia have to choose between America and China?-Henry Reynolds

* United States Foreign Policy- Venezuela- Richard Stone

* U.S. military threat against Iranian tankers: an act of international piracy that can escalate into a war - U.S. Peace Council

* A Petition to lift US blockade, embargo and sanctions against Cuba, Venezuela, DPRK and other countries

* Full steam ahead for weapons industries under the cover of COVID-19

* 3CR Community Radio Annual Appeal

* Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Vietnam Moratorium Campaign

* Out Now! The Vietnam War Moratorium, 50 years on - Jim McIlroy

* Raising Peace: WILPF & IVP & IPAN Invitation for International Day of Peace

* Rapid Public Response Arrangements to respond to threat of war

What are the costs and consequences of Australia's involvement in U.S. led wars?

A people's Inquiry into the US-Australia Alliance'



Re-affiliation fees and donations to IPAN

are needed urgently to support this Inquiry which is being organised by IPAN

The Inquiry will be launched nationally later this year to enable organisations and individuals across Australia to contribute to a national conversation about all aspects of the US-Australia Alliance, including the social, political, military and defence, economic and environmental impacts – leading to a review recommending a path to a genuinely independent foreign policy for Australia.

The Inquiry will be headed by seven experts in the areas of the Inquiry and they will be responsible for a final report with recommendations to be made public on as wide a basis as possible.

Re-affiliation of organisations and individuals with IPAN is now due.

This can be done on-line [HERE](#)

Donations can also be made [HERE](#)

Re-affiliations and donations will support IPAN in the organisation of this Inquiry. Your support is much appreciated.

Current financial affiliation is necessary for voting at the IPAN Special Meeting in July and at the AGM later this year.

A People's Call for Healthcare not Warfare.

PUBLIC NOTICE



We the undersigned, call on the Australian Government to stop funneling billions of dollars into offensive weapons for unjust U.S. led wars, and invest instead in the health and safety of people and the environment.

On 23 March 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging the world, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for a global ceasefire. The UN call highlights the disparity between the huge financial and technological resources invested in wars, and the under-funded and under-resourced public health systems desperately trying to control this deadly virus.

We call on the Australian Government to support the UN Secretary General's call.

COVID-19 has sharply exposed the dangerous and unsustainable priorities of our society. On the other hand, the vast majority of Australians are co-operating to control the virus. World-wide, there are desperate shortages in the supply of most basic safety and life saving equipment – ICU beds, ventilators, virus testing kits and personal protective equipment for front line health workers.

At the same time there are vast stockpiles of technologically advanced military weaponry worth trillions of dollars, waiting to be used in endless profit-making wars.

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Redirect military spending.

The UN call for a worldwide ceasefire means little unless foreign military forces are sent back to their home countries. To that end we call on the Australian government to bring home our military forces from battle zones in the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Philippines, and to close the Pine Gap function that supports U.S. drone warfare. Hundreds of billions of our tax dollars are used to buy military equipment largely to support the U.S. military agenda around the world.

Instead, huge expenditure is urgently needed here in Australia, for health and medical services and to address the climate crisis.

Australia's immediate priorities should be providing support for millions of people facing unemployment, homelessness and poverty during the national disasters of coronavirus, the climate crisis, drought and bushfires – rather than supporting unjust U.S. led wars.

This statement is the initiative of IPAN, the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network.

IPAN is national network of over 50 member and supporting organizations, including peace groups, trade unions, church and community organisations and individuals which works to promote independent and peaceful Australian foreign policies. The statement continues to circulate at www.ipan.org.au and we welcome further endorsements and donations towards publishing.

Prioritise people and environment.

In spite of this difficult period of physical distancing, people are organising and helping each other and building social unity. We need to make sure we come out of these crises with a more humane, just and democratic society.

We need a society that prioritises the health, education and safety of people and the environment over war.

We need a society that builds Australia's self-reliant and diverse industries to manufacture and produce for the needs of the people, and an economy that's not based on multinational profit making.

We need a society that invests in our research scientists, the CSIRO and other public research institutions, not globalised corporations in search of profit.

We need a society that prioritises peace, justice and the health of people and the environment – an independent and peaceful Australia.

Vietnam War Moratorium 50th Anniversary, 2020

May 8 this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Moratorium when more than 150,000 Australians from many different walks of life took to the streets demanding an end to conscription and Australia's involvement in the US-led war on Vietnam. Unfortunately, not much has changed since May 1970. Australia is still in a close alliance with the United States and has continued to follow the U.S. into wars of aggression in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

For details see: ipan.org.au/vietnam-moratorium-campaign-anniversary-50th-anniversary-2020

Currently there is a danger of being drawn into a war on Iran or China.

Vietnam Moratorium commemorations will be held across Australia later in the year. The aim of the celebrations includes learning from the past and applying those lessons to the present as we continue to campaign for a truly independent Australian foreign policy.

What are the costs and consequences of Australia's involvement in US-led wars?*

A people's Inquiry into the US-Australia Alliance. This important inquiry will be launched by IPAN in the coming months.*

For details see: ipan.org.au/the-ipan-inquiry

Independent and Peaceful Australia Network

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**Published full page in The Saturday Paper, 9th
May, 2020**



IPAN's Public Statement

A People's Call for Healthcare not Warfare

**signed by 600 individuals and 40 supporting organisations
printed in The Saturday Paper on 9th May, 2020**

The statement reads:

"We the undersigned, call on the Australian Government to stop funnelling billions of dollars into offensive weapons for unjust U.S.-led wars, and invest instead in the health and safety of people and the environment.

On 23 March 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging the world, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for a global ceasefire. The UN call highlights the disparity between the huge financial and technological resources invested in wars, and the under-funded and under-resourced public health systems desperately trying to control this deadly virus.

We call on the Australian Government to support the UN Secretary

General's call.

COVID-19 has sharply exposed the dangerous and unsustainable priorities of our society. On the other hand, the vast majority of Australians are co-operating to control the virus. World-wide, there are desperate shortages in the supply of most basic safety and life saving equipment – ICU beds, ventilators, virus testing kits and personal protective equipment for front line health workers.

At the same time there are vast stockpiles of technologically advanced military weaponry worth trillions of dollars, waiting to be used in endless profit-making wars.

Redirect military spending

The UN call for a worldwide ceasefire means little unless foreign military forces are sent back to their home countries. To that end we call on the Australian government to bring home our military forces from battle zones in the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Philippines, and to close the Pine Gap function that supports U.S. drone warfare. The hundreds of billions of our tax dollars are used to buy military equipment largely to support the U.S. military agenda around the world. Instead, huge expenditure is urgently needed here in Australia, for health and medical services and to address the climate crisis. Australia's immediate priorities should be providing support for millions of people facing unemployment, homelessness and poverty during the national disasters of coronavirus, the climate crisis, drought and bushfires – rather than supporting unjust U.S. led wars.

Prioritise people and environment

In spite of this difficult period of physical distancing, people are organising and helping each other and building social unity. We need to make sure we come out of these crises with a more humane, just and democratic society.

We need a society that prioritises the health, education and safety of people and the environment over war.

We need a society that builds Australia's self-reliant and diverse industries to manufacture and produce for the needs of the people, and an economy that's not based on multinational profit making.

We need a society that invests in our research scientists, the CSIRO and other public research institutions, not globalised corporations in search of profit.

We need a society that prioritises peace, justice and the health of people and the environment - an independent and peaceful Australia.

14 April,2020

The IPAN Statement is still open for signatures and donations

Go to: https://ipan.org.au/healthcare_not_warfare/



Lee Rhiannon explains why she signed IPAN's Statement: "Healthcare not warfare"

[VIEW HERE](#)

**Joe Camilleri explains
why he signed IPAN's
Statement:
"Healthcare not
warfare"**



[VIEW HERE](#)

Acknowledgement to Croakey

**Amid and beyond COVID-19, it's time to focus on
healthcare not warfare**

-Sue Wareham

If there's one service that most people on the planet want, it's healthcare when we need it.

Healthcare is a basic human right, and reminds us that we humans have common interests and common needs. It should be a global priority, not only now but in the post-COVID world.

And yet data released on 27 April from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) indicate a world heavily focussed on warfare, the antithesis of healthcare.

SIPRI reported that global military spending last year was \$1,917 billion, which represented the largest annual increase since 2010. On nuclear weapons alone – the capacity for us to destroy ourselves – the economic cost globally is over \$100 billion annually.

READ ON

COVID-19 Global Solidarity Manifesto

IPAN has signed; will you?

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed the urgency of changing global structures of inequity and violence. We, people around the world, will seize this historical moment. We are building solidarity at every level: local, national, global. Despite the need to physically distance, we are building mutual aid groups, community networks, and social movements. We declare this manifesto today to offer a vision of the world we are building, the world we are demanding, the world we will achieve.

1. We demand strong, universal health care systems and health care as a basic right for all humans.

2. We demand an immediate global ceasefire in all conflicts and an end to the disease of war. We demand that every nation move at least half its military spending to provide health care, housing, childcare, nutrition, education, Internet access, and other social needs so we can truly protect people's physical, psychological, and economic security, including through the closure of foreign military bases, the cessation of military exercises, and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

3. We demand that unsustainable capitalist economies, based on the fantasy of endless growth, be replaced with cooperatively based economies of care, where human life, biodiversity, and our natural resources are conserved and a universal basic income is guaranteed so that governments can work together to combat the existential threat of climate change.

4. We demand an immediate lifting of all sanctions targeting entire nations, which are impoverishing vulnerable populations and killing people by blocking access to medicines and medical supplies.

5. We demand that all workers be protected against COVID-19 and have their long-term occupational health, economic, and labor rights guaranteed.

6. We demand the full protection of all people, especially the most vulnerable, including women and other victims of intimate partner violence and child abuse, the elderly, the impoverished, prisoners and detainees, refugees and other displaced peoples, migrants regardless of immigration status, the homeless, LGBTQIA+ individuals, racial/ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, and those disability or ability challenged, among others.

7. We demand that wealthy nations live up to their responsibility to provide medical aid (including through the World Health Organization) and debt relief to save lives in countries without strong public health systems because of long histories of colonialism, neocolonialism, and other exploitation, foreign and domestic.

8. We demand that governments and corporations respect privacy and not exploit the pandemic to expand repressive measures such as surveillance, detention without trial, and restrictions on basic human rights to assembly, free expression, self-determination, and the vote.

9. We demand that when governments implement economic stimulus programs and re-open their economies they prioritize the needs of people over the interests of corporate, financial, and political elites.

In a world where the gap between rich and poor is obscene, with the world's richest 1% having more than twice the wealth of 6.9 billion people, a fundamental redistribution of wealth and power globally and within nations is imperative. Every human being must have the opportunity to live a healthy, creative, and fulfilling life, free of the ravages of poverty, exploitation, and domination.

Please sign the manifesto [HERE](https://diy.rootsaction.org/p/covid):

<https://diy.rootsaction.org/p/covid>

COVID-19 GLOBAL SOLIDARITY COALITION

www.CovidGlobalSolidarity.org - Covid19GlobalSolidarity@gmail.com

IPAN expresses dismay at re-establishment of U.S. Marine deployment to Darwin



IPAN Letter to Defence Minister, Linda Reynolds

Extracts:

Dear Minister,

“IPAN is dismayed that you have decided to re-establish the U.S. Marine deployment (2020 Marine Rotational Force – Darwin (MRF-D) to Darwin in coming weeks especially when the United States and its military forces are caught up in the COVID-19 epidemic which, in the

United States, is yet to be brought under control.

Despite your assurances that they will be “adhering to strict measures in place to protect against COVID-19”, accidents do happen. No measure is fool-proof. Why the hurry to re-establish this U.S. marine rotation to Australia with the distinct risk of introducing the virus into the NT - a territory with Indigenous communities with low immunity?

.....

Rather than preparing for war, as the hurried redeployment of the MRF-D implies, Australia should be re-considering its entire military stance. IPAN urges the Australian Government to take up this opportunity that the COVID-19 pandemic has provided. “

For complete letter [READ ON](#)

SMH 25th May 2020

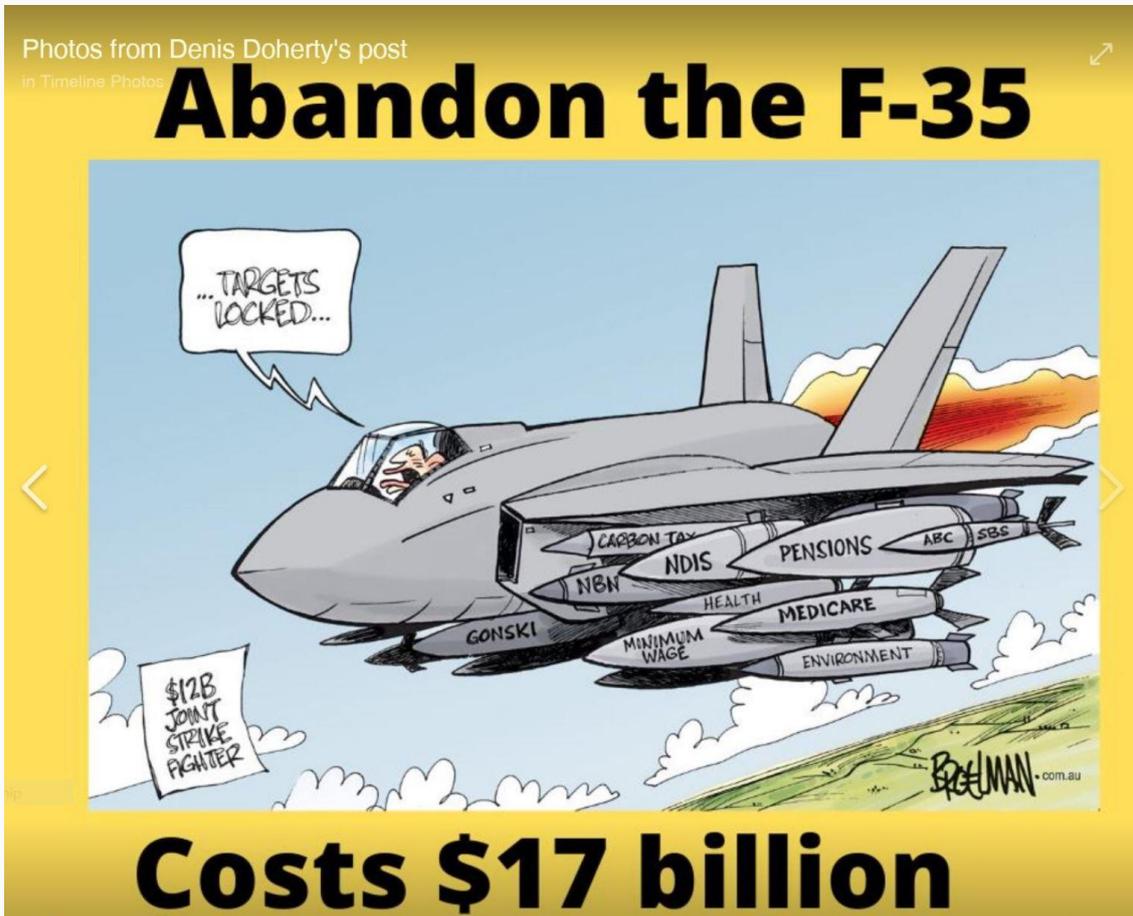
A star-spangled spanner in the works: how US secrecy controls Australian weapons

By Brian Toohey

The loss of Australian sovereignty within the American alliance is rarely raised amid the current alarm about whether the US is a reliable ally. Successive prime ministers have given the US a de facto veto over whether Australia can use its own weapons systems to defend itself.

At the same time, they have allowed Australian forces to become so tightly integrated into the Pentagon's that it presumes Australia will automatically participate in a horrendous new American war, even when it's an illegal act of aggression like the invasion of Iraq.

READ ON



With acknowledgement to P & I -20 May 2020

Does Australia have to choose between America and China?

by Henry Reynolds

In his Lowy lecture delivered in Sydney last October Prime Minister Scott Morrison declared that 'Australia does not have to choose between the United States and China.'

It was such a commonplace comment that it passed without notice. It had been articulated by assorted Australian leaders many times before. But now seven months later it seems to belong to a different era. So much has changed, the pandemic to begin with. But equally important are developments in American politics.

.....

So does Australia have to choose between America and China? Clearly not. The decision has already been made for us. For many years it has been the height of our strategic planning to lash ourselves as tightly as possible to the Imperial mast and to then stop thinking. And if you are joined at the hip with a great power, as Malcolm Turnbull phrased it, there is almost no room to manoeuvre or to change direction. The American alliance has always been oversold to the electorate and so little thought has been given to alternative ways of acting in the world of nation states that we have nowhere else to go. For complete article [READ ON](#)

United States Foreign Policy – Venezuela

Richard Stone - May 2020

In early May a group of nearly sixty combatants left Colombia in two boats to stage Operation Gideon a covert operation in neighbouring Venezuela. They were led by Operation Commander Antonio Sequea and two US citizens. Organised by the Florida-based Silvercorp private security company, the group had trained in rebel camps in Colombia.

(1) It was commonly thought the group had the specific aim of

assassinating President Nicholas Maduro, as a prelude to halting the Bolivarian Revolution.

The US have long aimed hostilities toward the Bolivarian Revolution which they regard as a threat to 'US interests' in the southern half of the Americas and elsewhere and their traditional hegemonic positions.

For Complete article [READ ON](#)

U.S. military threat against Iranian tankers: an act of international piracy that can escalate into a war

U.S. Peace Council- 23rd May 2020

Iran's daring decision to dispatch five oil tankers carrying the much-needed fuel for the struggling people of Venezuela is a definitive challenge to U.S. government's illegal policy of unilateral economic sanctions and its naval blockade of Venezuela. Iran's action has created a decisive test of the Trump administration's willingness to continue its violations of international law and the UN Charter by taking military action against Iranian tankers.

The U.S. Peace Council strongly condemns any military actions against the Iranian tankers and calls upon and the Trump administration and the U.S. government to put an end to its violations of the UN Charter immediately.

READ ON



LA SOLIDARIDAD Filipino Solidarity with the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean

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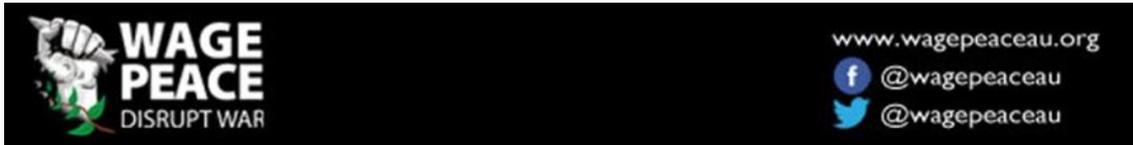
A Petition to Lift US blockade, embargo and sanctions on Cuba, Venezuela, DPRK and Other Countries

Sanctions, embargoes and blockades are imposed by the U.S. on Cuba, Venezuela, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and other countries. It is unjust and illegal, tantamount to genocide, for the US and its cohorts to impose economic sanctions on countries just because they refuse subservience to imperialist policies and are determined to struggle for their sovereign right to self-determination. It is a crime against humanity for the US, especially during these perilous times of corona virus crisis, to weaponize sanctions, risking millions of lives, to pursue its unwavering regime change policy in those countries.

We enjoin various organizations, leaders and individuals who respect the sovereign rights of peoples and countries to please SIGN the petition to Lift US Blockade, Embargo and Sanctions on Cuba,

Venezuela, DPRK and Other Countries!

To sign, click [HERE](#)



Full Steam Ahead for Weapons Industries Under the Cover of Covid

Not all of you follow Wage Peace on Facebook so we've put together a summary of important developments since the fires.

1. We see the continued roll out of "defence" industry plans and the announcement of \$4bn worth of early payments for contracts.
2. Military industry gained itself a cell at the South Australia Covid Taskforce; And a 'working group' in the Federal Covid Taskforce.
3. Austal, ship builders in Western Australia gained an order of 6 Navy patrol boats as a "stimulus". Defence Industry godfather, WA Governor Kim Beazley and Defence Minister Linda Reynolds are both from Western Australia. Reynolds has recently said she is "spruiker-in-chief" for the so called 'defence' industries.
4. The US military arrival in Darwin postponed for just 8 weeks: arriving at the start of June.
5. There was a tenuous ceasefire in Yemen. Predictably a huge surge in covid-related deaths has now followed there. The Saudi-US bombing of infrastructure (a war crime) had already resulted in a starving population and now a failed health care

system. Australian companies such as EOS have been targeting Saudi Arabia to buy weapons exports. Australian Anti Bases encourages you to contact Marise Payne's office (02) 9687 8755 foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au and ask them to cancel the licences issued to nations which continue human rights violations: Saudi Arabia, Indonesia.

Three weapons trade events were postponed. Land2020 (Brisbane) and Avalon (Melbourne) and the Indo Pacific Maritime Expo (Sydney) will all be reset a year later than usual.



When 3CR was opened for broadcasting in 1976, it was dedicated to serving the cause of a more democratic and independent Australia and to giving the many denied access to the media, a voice. Over forty years later it still supports this cause and regularly provides opportunities for IPAN and affiliates to broadcast their message and so continues to support IPAN's campaign for an independent and peaceful Australia.

3CR is an truly independent community radio station and maintains its independence through listener donations, organisation donations and a huge team of volunteers. ***3CR deserves your financial support.***

Donate online at www.3cr.org.au/donate or call 03 9419 8377

Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Vietnam Moratorium Campaign



IPAN PODCASTS on the Vietnam War and the Moratorium Campaign

This first IPAN Podcast outlines the background history of the Vietnam war including the defeat of the French colonialists, the American invasion and Australia's involvement.

This second IPAN Podcast covers the Australian anti-war and anti-conscription movement and the successful Vietnam Moratorium Campaign

[LISTEN HERE](#)



**For more on the Vietnam Moratorium Campaign 50 years
celebration click green button on IPAN's web page:**

ipan.org.au

Acknowledgement to Green Left Weekly, 30th April 2020

Out Now! The Vietnam War Moratorium, 50 years on

By Jim McIlroy

Fifty years ago, on May 8, 1970, one of the greatest mass mobilisations in Australian history took place — the first Vietnam Moratorium against the country's involvement in the murderous United States-led invasion of Indochina.

An estimated 200,000 people took part in rallies and marches in capital cities and country towns around Australia on that day. This total includes about 100,000 in Melbourne, 30,000 in Sydney and up to 10,000 in some other major centres, with sizeable rallies in dozens of regional towns.

The Vietnam Moratorium, which took its name from huge anti-war rallies in the US in 1969, was a turning point in the long campaign to force the then-federal Liberal-Country Party government to withdraw troops from Vietnam.

READ ON



RAISING PEACE

WILPF & IVP & IPAN

September 20/21, 2020

Invitation and date claimer

International Volunteers for Peace (IVP) and The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF, NSW) both celebrate their centenaries this year. They have joined with the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), to hold a series of events to mark those centenaries and draw attention to the United Nations International Day of Peace (21 September).

UN Secretary General Guterres has said "The fury of the (COVID-19) virus illustrates the folly of war". However, all levels of Australian government remain conspicuously indifferent to the IDP.

In contrast, WILPF(NSW), IVP and IPAN plan a celebration of successful peace initiatives that includes a Peace Fair on Sunday September 20, when all groups with an interest in peace, in any of its manifestations, are invited to set up a display or stall. This will be an opportunity for new connections to be made and new initiatives to arise.

This is a 'date claimer' intended to kindle your interest. If your group would like to get involved, to book a space or to collaborate with planning, please make contact soon. A suitable venue has been provisionally booked.

Pending coronavirus updates, planning is going ahead.

WILPF contact Margot Pearson (wilpf.nsw@wilpf.org.au)
IVP contact Rita Warleigh (rita.warleigh@gmail.com)
IPAN contact Nick Deane (homishdu@yahoo.com.au)



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

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