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No 43

August, 2020

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**IPAN calls on Defence Minister to stop U.S.
Marines entering Darwin**



US marines have been arriving in the Northern Territory since June. (Supplied: Department Of Defence)

Dear Minister,

IPAN is dismayed at your decision to continue to accept US Marines into Darwin. As we informed you in our letter to you of 27th May, 2020 the acceptance of foreign troops from a country with high levels of infection with coronavirus presents the residents of the Northern Territory with serious health risks. Despite your assurances that strict measures are in place to prevent US Marines bringing the virus into Australia, already one case has occurred. We understand the Marines are coming via Okinawa and have an outbreak there with over 60 Marines infected with the virus.

For complete letter [READ ON](#)

The infographic features a background of several missiles launching from the ground, with their trails extending into a blue sky with stars. On the right side, there is a portrait of Scott Morrison. The text is arranged in several sections: a quote at the top, a 'MISSILE FACTS' section with a missile image and cost information, an 'OTHER FACTS' section with a silhouette of a person and spending/increase data, and another quote on the right.

“ The simple truth is, even as we stare down the COVID pandemic at home, we need to also prepare for a post COVID world that is poorer, more dangerous and more disorderly.”

SCOTT MORRISON

MISSILE FACTS

- AGM-158C Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASM)
- Buying from the United States Navy
- They're a significant upgrade from our current AGM-84 air-launched Harpoon anti-ship missile, which was introduced in the early 1980s.

\$800m
ESTIMATED COST

■ Missile has a range of more than 370km, (previous range was 124km)

OTHER FACTS

Australia investing **\$270B** over next decade (compared to \$195B planned in decade to 2025-26)

Increase ADF by **800** people

800 people, comprised of **650** Navy, **50** Army and **100** Air Force

“ The risk of miscalculation – and even conflict – is heightening. Regional military modernisation is occurring at an unprecedented rate.”

SCOTT MORRISON

Independent and Peaceful Australia Network

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3 July 2020

Increase in Military Expenditure Unjustified and Destabilising

- **The Australian Government's increase in military expenditure is pure fear-mongering and compromises urgent social needs.**
- **The objective to project significant military power far from Australia's shores only contributes to regional instability while undermining our security and peaceful relations with our neighbours.**

The Morrison Government's decision to spend \$575 billion on the Defence budget over the next ten years to 2029-30, including \$279 billion in defence capabilities, is of great concern to the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN).

READ ON

Canberra Times 25th July, 2020

Defence Spending isn't the way to make Australians more secure

-Margaret Beavis

Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg has announced measures for community support in the coming months, we also need to consider Australia's priorities in the long term.

Government provisions during COVID-19 have been welcomed across the political spectrum. But serious concerns have been raised about

how Australia will repay the debt.

Meanwhile, just before the Eden-Monaro byelection, it was announced Australia's military budget will continue to rapidly expand, totalling \$575 billion (more than double the announced \$275 billion) over the coming decade.

Australia's budget is not a magic pudding. The choices we make have major impacts on many people's lives.

Why is our burgeoning military budget sacrosanct? Why is there so little public debate about this massive budget expenditure? Are opposition politicians simply too scared to be labelled "weak"? Is it actually making us more secure?

READ ON

Letter to Editor: Published in Canberra Times

Coalition government's fear peddling will send us to war

-Kathryn Kelly

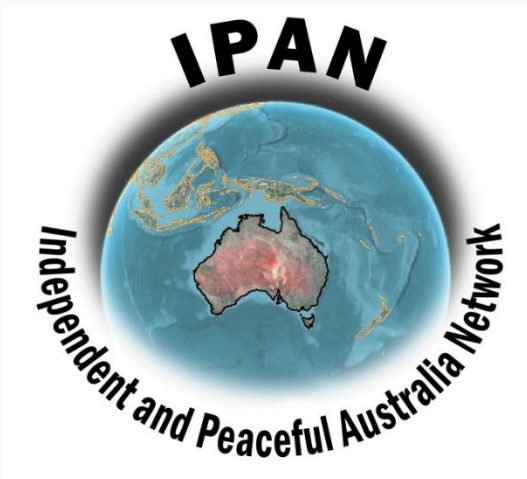
The report that the Morrison government is planning to spend \$270 billion over the next decade on the military, including billions on long range missiles ("Australia to spend up on defense in response to China", July 1, p1) is a serious concern.

The government is peddling fear while, at the same time, it has reportedly cut funding on diplomacy with DFAT funding cuts representing 24 per cent of all departmental cuts over the last five years.

READ ON



AUSMIN (U.S.-Australia Alliance) Talks 2020- Marise Payne and Mike Pompeo



**IPAN Media Release
2nd August, 2020**

Former Australian ambassador asks will

Australia resist U.S. pressure regarding provocative actions in South China Sea?

- **No to U.S. pressure for Australia to sail provocatively inside the 12 nautical mile territorial limits around islands in the South China Sea claimed by China**
- **No to U.S. military fuel and munitions build-ups in NT**
- **No to an increase in U.S. marine deployment to NT**

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) is encouraged by recent statements by the Foreign Affairs Minister, the Hon. Marise Payne, following the Australia-U.S. Ministerial (AUSMIN) talks in Washington, where the Minister's indicated that Australia has no intention to injure our important relationship with China but instead seeks to "make our own decisions, our own judgments in the Australian national interest".

IPAN seeks clarity as to whether the Minister's comments mean that Australia will resist fully the recent pressure from the U.S. to join them in provocatively sailing naval vessels inside the 12 nautical mile territorial zone around Islands in the South China Sea claimed by China.

READ ON

What We Are Told and Not Told About the South

China Sea

by James O'Neill

If war breaks out between China and the United States, there is a high probability that the precipitating factor will be the South China Sea. The United States is currently running another of its so-called “freedom of navigation” exercises in the region, employing no less than two aircraft carriers, together with their supporting armada of warships. The western media regularly report these naval exercises but rarely if ever is the historical situation put into any kind of context.

READ ON

Malcom Turnbull as PM doubted U.S. support for Australia in a possible South China Sea hostile incident

Successive Australian governments have directed naval vessels to sail through the South China Sea, but never within 12 nautical miles of land features claimed by Beijing.

In his biography, the former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull said his government never sent naval vessels within the 12-mile limit because he feared they might be rammed or disabled by the Chinese navy.

"If the Americans backed us in, then the Chinese would back off. But if Washington hesitated or, for whatever reasons, decided not to or was unable immediately to intervene, then China would have achieved an

enormous propaganda win, exposing the USA as a paper tiger not to be relied on by its allies," he wrote.

"My judgement was that given the volatile geopolitical climate at the time, especially between the USA and China, it wasn't a risk worth taking."



Photo: Sister Susan Connelly speaking at the 22nd July Witness K rally at the ACT courts.

Drop the Prosecutions!

Around 40 people gathered at the ACT Courts on 22 July to protest the prosecution of Witness K, the unknown whistleblower who objected to the Australian Government's bugging of the Timor-leste government offices under the guise of an aid program to gain advantage in the Timor Sea oil negotiations.

This immoral act against our poorest neighbour has been protested by many, including Ian Cunliffe, the former chief of the Australian Law Reform Commission and the Constitutional Commission [in an article in the SMH](#). The prosecutions are an attempt to intimidate people of integrity and honesty in order to protect those like Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister at the time, who went to work as a consultant for Woodside, the company exploiting the oil resources, soon after he left parliament. Of course, the opposite is happening, many more people are getting to know about the whole dirty deal.

Another rally was held at the courts on Thursday 30 July to protest the prosecution of Witness K's lawyer, Bernard Collaery, a former Attorney-General of the ACT. Prosecuting a lawyer when all he was doing was representing his client is an incredible abuse of power and a gross travesty of justice. The excuse of 'national security' is being used to hold much of these prosecutions in secret. This is a great danger to our democracy.

Further information can be found at the [facebook page](#) for Drop the Whistleblower Prosecutions and the website for [Bernard Collaery Supporters](#). Please consider donating to [Bernard Collaery's crowdfunding campaign](#).

If you would like to be involved in this campaign, send an email to IPAN's ACT rep at kathrynk09@gmail.com



ICAN 2017
NOBEL
PEACE
PRIZE
AUSTRALIA

Message and events - Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the need for Australia to sign the UN Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons



THIS August 6 and 9 mark the 75th anniversaries of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The most powerful way to honour the victims and survivors of nuclear weapons is to fight for the elimination of these abhorrent weapons. We must not tolerate their existence or accept security frameworks based on nuclear violence. Every nuclear bomb can and must be dismantled. The mindset that bestows prestige on nuclear arms must be shown up for what it is: immoral, illogical and illegitimate. Nuclear weapons are now banned by the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This treaty is the key to our future; a world without nuclear weapons.

We invite you to take action dedicated “for the hibakusha” from

Australia has not yet joined the ban. It is in the hands of everyday people to put the treaty in front of our decision-makers and office-holders, to demand they work for Australia's ratification. We will turn our government's appalling approach around.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the fragility of global public health systems and the power of cooperation among nations. Our world is not equipped for a single nuclear detonation, a catastrophe that can be avoided. May we heed the warnings of experts and use our power to prevent a nuclear disaster.

Our activities will be partly determined by any relevant physical distancing restrictions due to coronavirus. Sign up to stay tuned, organise an action or join something already happening!

[HERE](#) is a list of events



Members of the Qld branch of WILPF ... the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom ... are writing to all Queensland Councils to introduce them to the Cities Appeal, a project of the Nobel Prize-winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

The hope is that all councils will endorse this vital project which calls on the Australian Government to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Australia has not yet signed this Treaty



Medical Association for
Prevention of War (Australia)

Peace groups in Hobart are commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima A-bomb with a vigil in the city on 6th August from 1-2 pm. We will send pictures on the 6th. **MAPW are organising it with support from Quakers and other groups.**

On this 75th Anniversary of the
HIROSHIMA and NAGASAKI NUCLEAR BOMBINGS

DECLARE A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

On the Beach at Nudgee, Brisbane
2 pm Sunday, August 9th 2020
Music, Poetry and Banners

ASSEMBLY POINT: CAR PARK, 17 FORTITUDE STREET, NUDGEE BEACH



Photo by David James Photography

FIGHTING THE BOMB

You are invited to join a webinar on
75th anniversary of the
nuclear bombing of Hiroshima

**Thursday 6 August
7-8.30pm**

Speakers:

Dr Lisa Natividad (Guahan)

Jo Vallentine (Australia)

Dr Joseph Gerson (USA)

Professor Stuart Rees (Australia)

Dave Sweeney (Australia)



Fighting the Bomb

To register, please

text to 0418 290 663 or email

hiroshimacommitteesydney@gmail.com

**Pacific Peace Network Calls for the Cancellation
of RIMPAC**



We the undersigned, call on the leaders of all countries participating in RIMPAC military exercises to withdraw their participation in the events planned to take place in Hawai'ian waters in August this year.

OPEN LETTER TO ALL *RIM OF PACIFIC EXERCISE (RIMPAC)* LEADERS

The Pacific Peace Network asks the leaders of all countries participating in RIMPAC military exercises to withdraw their participation in the events planned to take place in Hawai'ian waters in August this year.

While Rimpac is being projected as necessary to protect vital shipping routes and guarantee freedom of navigation through international waters, it is our concern that in fact RIMPAC combined with the recent

trilateral exercises in the South China Sea are dangerously increasing the risk of an armed conflict or outright war with China. It is therefore our wish that the alternative be an increase and strengthening of diplomatic processes' and opportunities for dialogue between all Pacific countries' leaderships, in the interests of true peace and freedom.

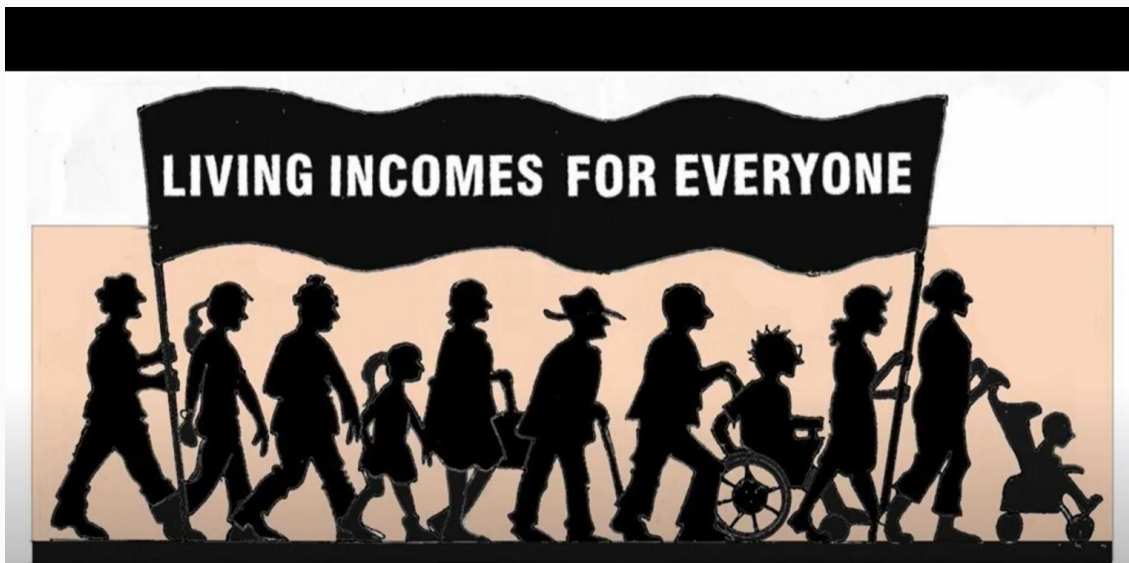
[HERE](#) for details and signing



Cancel RIMPAC

Fact sheets in drawings
& text

See [HERE](#)



The LIFE Campaign was launched on 21st July, 2020.

To view and hear contributors to the launch listen [HERE](#)

The aims of LIFE:

KEEP THE RATE

- Not cuts to job-seeker and job-keeper payments
- Job-keeper paid direct to workers

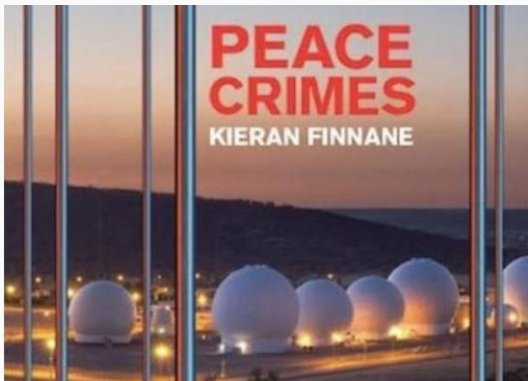
NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

- Raise all other allowances, payments and pensions (Aged, Disability Support, Youth Allowances, Carer's and Pensions to a minimum of \$1,100 per fortnight
- Extend the job-seeker and job-keeper allowances to recent migrants, overseas workers and international students
- Increase the minimum wage
- Massive new investments in public and affordable housing

END HARASSMENT FOR SOCIAL SECURITY WITH DIGNITY

- Abolish mutual obligation
- End the community development program (remote work for the dole) and forced Management income provisions such as the cashless welfare cards and basic card
- No return to Robodebt
- Stop harassment by dodgy job providers
- Public ownership and control of social security and employment services

LIFE Campaigner and IPAN Committee member, Shirley Winton says ***“IPAN is supporting this campaign because it supports a just society and sees the enormous and unnecessary military spending as diverting scarce public funds from urgent health and social needs such as those expressed in LIFE’s aims.”***



BOOK LAUNCH and CELEBRATION OF RESISTANCE TO PINE GAP

Peace Crimes (available at the University of Queensland Press) tells

the story of anti-war resistance and direct action against Pine Gap, a Military Base in Alice Springs, Australia.

In 2016, six Peace Pilgrims, Andy Paine, Margaret Pestorius, Franz Dowling, Tim Webb, Pauli Christie and Jim Dowling organised a nonviolent action and headed to the Pine Gap Military Base to pray and play music. 2016 was the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the military base, and the pilgrims felt compelled to intervene to lament the continued operation of the base and its involvement in drone strikes against people and villages in distant wars. They could no longer tolerate the collusion of their people in military operations which cause suffering and destruction.

The Peace Pilgrims were arrested for trespassing and faced 7 years in prison. They conducted their own court case which involved retelling the story of what they did and why over several days to a jury of 12 'peers' in Alice Springs. The Pilgrims put Australian and US militarism on trial.

Kieran Finnane's book *Peace Crimes* tells the story of this court case for the very first time, and traces its lineage in the activist group Pine Gap 4 and many other brave people who resisted the nuclear and warfighting capability in the years before. They all stand for the same cause: [#ClosePineGap!](#)

The book is officially released on 1st August but you can [order it from UQ Press.](#)

“The decision to send troops into overseas conflict is made in secret, behind closed doors, and can be made by the prime minister alone.”

– Paul Barratt AO, President of Australians for War Powers Reform

This needs to change. Let's #BeSureOnWar

Let's Be Sure on War

The Campaign

The decision to go to war is one of the most serious choices any government will face. The cost to the nation can be enormous, often with unknown consequences.

Australia needs a democratic system where robust debate and a democratic vote is held before deciding whether troops are sent into overseas conflict.

We want legislation requiring parliamentary approval for entering conflict overseas, so we have proper debate, scrutiny and critical appraisal of the decision.

Sign the petition: and help reform Australia's inadequate war powers

[SIGN HERE](#)

Acknowledgement to Crikey - 3rd July 2020

The extremely serious consequences for Australia in Cold War 2.0

By Clinton Fernandes

Australia's defence update has found us a nemesis. But a war between the US and China would be extremely serious for Australia.

The long search for a stable object of nemesis has ended.

Thwarting China's rise is now the organising principle of Australian defence and national security policy.

Defence Update 2020 (DU20), released on July 1, fits into the framework of the Pentagon's Indo-Pacific Strategy Report of mid-2019. That document described China as a "revisionist power" which "undermines the international system from within," "militarizes the South China Sea," "employs non-military tools coercively", and can conduct "increasingly complex operations in domains such as cyberspace, space, and electronic warfare operations."

READ ON

US-LED MILITARY PLANNING, MANUS ISLAND, 2020

by Richard Stone

Problems have arisen with the upgrade of the US-led military plan for Lombrum Naval Base on Manus Island which were to be front-line

facilities for regional operations.

Diplomatic officials from Canberra and Washington did not follow appropriate and accepted procedures during the initial stages of implementing the military planning. Their behaviour, correspondingly, has revealed a callous indifference and disrespect toward the peoples of Papua New Guinea.

READ ON



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](mailto: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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