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Why Together for Peace and Justice (#GfFuG)

Before any solution, there must be a will to find a solution – and therefore a rethink must take place first. The power structures of our world have to be rearranged. All governments must commit themselves to the international community and the United Nations and respect their goals. The welfare of the community must take precedence over the interests of one individual (person or state).

We can have a democracy or concentrated wealth in the hands of a few - but not both. Where rich people are uncontrolled at the top, the majority does not rule - in such a society the government always decides against the interests of the broad masses.

Democracy means that power and government come from the people. The occasional walk to the ballot box is not enough. In a democracy, it is the people who are called upon, each and every one of them. Whether we really live in a democratic world and also deserve it, we will only know if we demand it together.

The United Nations and the International Criminal Court (The UNO and the ICC) International law and world peace

As global international organizations, the United Nations Organization (UNO) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) have the task of ensuring world peace, compliance with international law, the protection of human rights and the development of international cooperation.

Unfortunately, the UNO and ICC are only partially able to act in their current constellation, as some states only respect international law if it serves their own purposes.

Strengthening the UNO and the ICC in fulfilling their most important task, "securing world peace and international security, fundamental human rights and the equal rights of all nations", is therefore indispensable and long overdue.

The past 73 years have shown that decisions about our lives, our values, our society and our world must not be left uncontrolled in the hands of a few rich and powerful people who all too often represent only their own velopment, could make an important not for their murder.

interests. This applies equally to the governments of our countries and to the national representatives in the United Nations.

Wars, especially wars of aggression, are crimes under international law. A war is the Ultima Ratio, the last resort and, except for defense, in no case necessary. Almost any conflict with-in the international community could be settled by peaceful means, negotiations and compromises. The governments of our countries, however, are far too often willing to threaten and wage wars in order to enforce their interests instead of seeking a peaceful solution.

Steadily rising military spending is all too clear proof of this. Most recently, more than USD 1.5 trillion (USD 1,500,000,000,000.00) were spent annually on armaments worldwide (USD 1.686 trillion in 2017 and USD 1.739 trillion in 2018). This money, if used for people's welfare, construction and de-

contribution to solving acute problems such as climate change and social deprivation.

The only power that can exercise the muchneeded control and bring about change is us, all people of all nations. Only if all people become aware of this responsibility but also of their possibilities and act accordingly, the course of events can be changed and we can achieve that all peoples live together in peace and dignity.

The present demands (see back of page) are intended to express this aspiration unequivocally and to take an important step towards a fairer, better and more peaceful world. A world without war victims, a world in which no human being has to flee from his homeland or is expelled from it, a world in which national and international politics are shaped with words and not with weapons, a world in which the available resources are used for the well-being of human beings and

No to war, yes to peace and justice, disarm instead of arm, Diplomacy instead of bombs, human rights and the environment before profit.





Open Letter to

the UN Secretary General, the UN General Assembly and the International Criminal Court.

- Working version due to pending final translation -

Mr.

António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres Secretary-General United Nations Headquarters New York 10017 USA Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés President United Nations General Assembly United Nations Headquarters New York 10017 USA Mr. Chile Eboe-Osuji President International Criminal Court Oude Waalsdorperweg 10, 2597 AK Den Haag Netherlands

Dear Secretary-General, Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

countless wars since and despite the existence of the United Nations have brought untold suffering to humanity.

Wars do not create peace. Wars must be prevented. It must be possible to prosecute war criminals in international courts, no matter which country they come from.

Nuclear/atomic weapons do not secure peace, on the contrary they represent a permanent threat to all life on our planet.

Where our governments do not let diplomacy speak, but weapons, they do not act in our sense, not on our be-half and not with our consent.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS -

DETERMINED,

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to secure the fundamental human rights and the international security, world peace and equal rights of all nations, large and small, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to protect our living space for future generations,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

to unite our strength to control the acting of our civil servants in order to ensure the peaceful coexistence of nations and the strengthening of the United Nations, its organs and all international organizations and institutions serving this goal –

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.

We therefore raise the following DEMANDS:

- > Nuclear weapons MUST be outlawed and destroyed as well as chemical and biological weapons.
- All nations MUST sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.
- It MUST be ensured that conflicts are never provoked or exacerbated by the mere allegation by a government that it has evidence of the misconduct of another state or person.
 - Evidence MUST always be examined and verified beyond doubt.
- The International Criminal Court MUST be supported and recognized by all UN member states.
- The International Criminal Court MUST prosecute all crimes within its jurisdiction consistently and without exception. It MUST be provided with the necessary means.
 - Office and home country MUST NOT have any influence on investigations and prosecutions against war criminals.
 - Government members, secret service employees and officers who order wars of aggression contrary to international law, deliberately accept so-called "collateral damage", provoke unrest in foreign countries or commit other crimes in the sense of the Rome Statute, MUST be prosecuted just as soldiers commit war crimes, even if it is to be expected that a convicted person will evade a punishment. The same applies to directors and officers of international companies who condone, order or commit crimes against humanity.
 - Transparency is indispensable for democratic control.
 - A report MUST be published regularly, at least once a year, in which
 - the names of the persons convicted by the International Criminal Court,
 - their country of origin and the function in which they committed the offences,
 - their crimes,
 - the level of penalties imposed, and
 - in the case of non-execution of the sentence, the reasons therefor
 - are listed.
 - This report MUST be available to all people of all nations, in their official language.

For a well-functioning common world, it is important that people know who governs their countries respectively whom they can elect into their governments.

Yours sincerely The people of all nations Represented by [*List of signatories*]

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