

Germany / U.S. Sabotage: Failure to Achieve a Real Ceasefire. Munich Easter March 30, 2024. Ceasefire Now!

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Global Research, March 26, 2024

Munich Peace Alliance 25 March 2024

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

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On March 24, 2024, the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Annalena Baerbock, traveled for talks to Egypt, Israel, and the "Palestinian Territories" (AA). On the Foreign Ministry website, she is quoted as follows:

"We stand by our responsibility for Israel's security: Hamas must lay down its weapons and must never bring back the terror of October 7 upon the people of Israel. However, this goal cannot be achieved purely militarily. Military action has its limits in international humanitarian law. Only an immediate humanitarian ceasefire leading to a lasting ceasefire keeps the hope for peace alive."

On the day of Ms. Baerbock's departure, the Israeli army continued its aerial attacks unabated from the ground and water and also targeted the city of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, where the majority of the population has sought refuge.

The declarations of the German Foreign Minister echo as do those of her US counterpart Blinken. This is not surprising, as anyone who only demands that Hamas lay down its arms and does not do the same to Israel makes themselves not credible.

This is especially true since both Germany and the USA have supplied and continue to supply many of these weapons themselves. Ms. Baerbock, like her US counterpart Blinken, acts unilaterally as a party and thereby forfeits their potential roles as mediators. Therefore, Germany and the USA's efforts to achieve a ceasefire are not taken seriously, neither by Israel nor the Arab world.

Ms. Baerbock says,

“The people need everything: Every box of food, medicines, water purification tablets, or medical equipment counts. Every box blocked on trucks in front of Gaza’s fences is one too many. With our international partners, we leave nothing untried.”

The dropping of relief supplies over the Gaza Strip is actually a drop in the bucket, a grand spectacle that distracts from Germany and the USA’s co-responsibility for the humanitarian catastrophe. The famine in the Gaza Strip cannot even be alleviated by dropping a few boxes of relief supplies.

Germany, the USA, and the other NATO countries are not only actively involved in Gaza but in all conflicts and wars that geopolitically shake the world. This is especially true for Russia’s illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. At many Easter marches in 2024, a cessation of hostilities and the beginning of peace negotiations will be demanded, including in Munich. Peace or at least a ceasefire can only be achieved if all parties involved in the conflict come together at the negotiating table.

The world is closer to the brink of a nuclear catastrophe than even during the Cold War. The reason is that all mechanisms established and international treaties signed back then have been eliminated or terminated in the last 10 years. Today, there are not even confidence-building measures that would allow de-escalatory steps. The states are geared towards confrontation!

Against this backdrop, the traditional demands of the peace movement for negotiations, disarmament agreements, and the abolition of nuclear weapons will once again be relevant—a support as never before!

Humanity feels the consequences of militarization and armament every day. The labor unions point out in their Easter march call that the welfare state is losing out to the militarized state. The recent statements by the Pope on the Ukraine war give hope that more and more churches and civil society forces recognize that the militaristic narrowing of societal discourse must be stopped. The press and all other media bear a special responsibility here, dear colleagues!

According to the latest findings of the World Meteorological Organization, it is clear that the goals set in Paris to limit global warming are already being missed.

This dramatic development affects us all. Despite this, by joining forces, humanity must prevent the worst and somehow get the impending climate catastrophe under control. Instead of wasting billions on armament and war, states must finally collaborate, and humanity must pool all available resources.

All means must be used for socio-ecological transformation, education and healthcare, humanitarian aid, and securing the foundations of humanity.

Easter March Munich on Easter Saturday, March 30, 2024

11:15 Opening rally Marienplatz

City Greeting: Brigitte Wolf, The Left

Maria Feckl, DFG/VK

12:00 Demonstration – City Center

1:30 p.m. Closing rally Marienplatz

Speech: Linda Schneider, ver.di labor union, regional director of Bavaria

Martin Pilgram, Pax Christi

Jürgen Rose, Darmstädter Signal, Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) of the Bundeswehr

Philipp from SDAJ

Music: StreetOps Music

Munich Easter March 2024

Ceasefire now!

Minister Pistorius declares that Germany must become "war-capable." He does not only mean the Bundeswehr but the entire population. We reject a policy that assumes war as the norm rather than the peace mandate of the Basic Law. This policy escalates international conflicts and militarizes our society. We oppose the internal militarization in our country, which intensifies further right-wing developments. We advocate for Germany to become "peace-capable" rather than "war-capable."

Stop the arms race! Disarmament is the order of the day.

In numerous wars, innocent people die daily. The dangers are increasing, as an escalation of the war in Ukraine leading to a nuclear war, an expansion of the war in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa to a conflagration looms. Russia's illegal aggression against Ukraine must be stopped. Neither military offensives nor arms deliveries or sanctions against Russia have led to ceasefire talks. Initiatives to end military conflict, for a ceasefire, and diplomatic solutions are rejected by the German government.

Do not ignore the narrative of each other's suffering!

In the Gaza conflict, we stand in solidarity with all victims and call for an immediate ceasefire to end the suffering of the civilian population. Neither the existence of Israel nor the legitimacy of the Palestinian population should be called into question.

The situation in the Middle East will not be resolved through military means. The German government's so-called "restrictive" arms export policy is exposed as a farce by its support for one of the most powerful and modern military establishments globally, justified by Germany's ostensible national interest. The cruel images from Israel and Palestine demand every conceivable effort to contribute to de-escalating the situation and preventing a spread of violence in the Middle East.

Prevent an escalation of violence in the Middle East!

Our solidarity goes to the people in Northern Syria and Northern Iraq, who are facing bloody warfare by NATO member Turkey. This conflict represents many other wars worldwide that are scarcely noticed in this country. By supplying weapons, the German government adds fuel to the fire, serving the profit interests of the arms industry and supporting the USA's hegemony. Germany plays a central role in "Steadfast Defender," the largest maneuver since 1988 with over 90,000 soldiers. In this context, the Bundeswehr aims to test the rapid deployment of troops and material in the Quadriga maneuvers between February and May 2024. Wars and armament worldwide are among the causes of climate destruction. They are responsible for food crises, displacement, and migration. Floods, heatwaves, and droughts remain unaddressed while money is spent on arms.

The highest wave of armament since the end of World War II

Instead of relying on diplomacy and de-escalation, German military spending rises from 64 to 85 billion euros in one year, the highest increase since the end of World War II, roughly 1000 € per inhabitant. The result is social impoverishment through cuts in social benefits, education spending, and pension benefits. We want our tax money to be used constructively to prevent child poverty, advance housing construction, improve the education and health systems, enhance climate protection, and increase overall social spending.

It is high time for a peace policy

- in Ukraine, the Middle East, and worldwide. "Peace is not everything, but without peace, everything is nothing" (Willy Brandt). Only in peace and through united global efforts can social development, environmental protection, and a livable future for all be possible.

We demonstrate with the Easter March:

- For a ceasefire! Every peace begins with a ceasefire, whether in Ukraine, the Middle East, or the numerous other wars!

- For arms control and steps towards disarmament - No arms exports. Stop further Bundeswehr buildup, no to the 2% goal, redirect the 100 billion euros into an investment program for youth, social issues, and the environment!
- For a new European security order, not against, but with Russia! No arms deliveries to Ukraine.
- For stopping nuclear armament, withdrawing US nuclear bombs from Germany. No acquisition of American F-35 fighter jets for the use of the atomic bombs stationed in Germany by the Bundeswehr. No deployment of hypersonic weapons in Europe.
- For Germany's accession to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons!
- For including military climate damage in the environmental balance of all countries. Germany should take the lead here.
- For supporting conscientious objectors and deserters from all war zones!
- For civilian crisis prevention and a culture of peace!
- For a foreign policy of cooperation, dialogue, and balancing interests.
- For a policy of non-violence that overcomes the political institution of war.

Push back right-wing ideologies!

The peace movement is international and anti-fascist. It firmly opposes nationalist, militaristic, ethno-nationalist, racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, or right-wing populist-Islamophobic policies.

We invite you to the Easter March: Stop the war!

Munich Peace Alliance

Easter March: on Holy Saturday, 30.03.2024

10:00 a.m.: Ecumenical service: Holy Trinity Church, Pacellistr. 6

11:15 a.m.: Opening rally at Marienplatz

12:00 p.m.: Demonstration

1:30 p.m.: Conclusion with information market and cultural program at Marienplatz

The "Easter March Outside" of the Munich Citizens' Initiative for Peace and Disarmament (BIFA) will take place on Easter Monday, April 1, 2024. Meeting point 11 a.m. S-Bf. Taufkirchen: "Through the Hachinger Tal to an Eldorado of the arms industry," see <https://bifa-muenchen.de/Ostermarsch-Draussen-2024>

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Trägerkreis: BIFA Münchner Bürgerinitiative für Frieden und Abrüstung; DFG-VK Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft-Vereinigte KriegsdienstgegnerInnen, München; DFV Münchner Freidenker; FIFF Forum InformatikerInnen für Frieden und gesellschaftliche Verantwortung e.V.; Frauen in Schwarz - Women in Black, München; IFFF Internationale Frauenliga für Frieden und Freiheit; IPPNW Internationale Ärzte für die Verhütung des Atomkrieges / Ärzte in sozialer Verantwortung e.V., Regionalgruppe Oberbayern; JPDG Jüdisch Palästinensische Dialoggruppe; MAPC Munich American Peace Committee; Netzwerk Friedenssteuer; pax christi München; VVN-BdA Vereinigung der Verfolgten des Naziregimes - Bund der Antifaschisten.

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