

May 8th

Liberation Day

NO TO VIOLENCE
YES TO A CULTURE OF PEACE

ABRÜSTEN
STATT AUFRÜSTEN

First Signatories:

Jost Aé, philosopher; Malte Albrecht, Chair of Natural Scientists for Peace; Prof. Dr. Eckhard Albrecht, educator; Dr. Franz Alt, author; Eckart Althaus, Attac; Dr. Andreas Bach, Chairman AGS; Prof. Adelheid Bahr, educational scientist; Olaf Bandt, Chairman of BUND; Dr. Dietmar Bartsch MdB; Christoph Bautz, Campact; Prof. Dr. Hermann Behrens, landscape planner; Prof. Dr. Ulrike Beisiegel, former President of the University of Göttingen; Klaus-Uwe Benneter, former President of the University of Göttingen; Friedhelm Julius Beucher, President of the German Disabled Sports Association; Dr. Wolfgang Biermann, Neue Entspannungspolitik jetzt!; Dr. Detlef Bimboes, biologist; Prof. Dr. Hanne-Magret Birkenbach, peace researcher; Dieter „Maschine“ Birr, Puhdys; Sylvia Birr, Roland Blach, DFG-VK Bawü; Prof. Dr. Karl-Hans Bläsius, Nuclear War by Accident; Prof. Dr. Heinz-J. Bontrup, Economist; Prof. Dr. Gerd Bosbach, Statistician; Prof. Dr. Ulrich Brand, Social Scientist; Prof. Dr. Peter Brandt, New Détente Policy Now! historian; Reiner Braun, International Peace Bureau; Manfred Breckmann, sports reporter; Prof. Dr. Michael Brie, philosopher; Prof. Dr. Stephan Bröchler, political scientist; Marco Bülow MdB; Martin Burkert, Vice-Chairman EVG; Culcha Candela, musician; Rainer Christ, policy advisor; Dr. Hertha Däubler-Gmelin, former Federal Minister; Sevim Dagdelen, MdB; Daniela Dahn, writer; Renan Demirkhan, actress; Paul Dieterich, reformed prelate; Dorothea und Joachim Döring, municipal representatives; Prof. Dr. Klaus Dörre, social scientist; Martin Donat, speaker BI Wendland; Angelica Dullinger, ver.di; Jesco Eberl, organiser; Wolfgang Ehmk, writer; Katja Ebstein, singer; Dr. Matthias-W. Engelke, Förderkreis Darmstädter Signal; Björn Engholm, former Minister President; Dagmar Enkelmann, Chairman of the Board of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation; Dr. Gernot Erler, former Minister of State; Saska Esken, MdB, Co-Chairwoman; Robert Feiger, Chairman of IG BAU; Dr. Ute Finckh-Krämer, former MdB; Rainer Fischbach, publicist; Dr. Martina Fischer, peace researcher; Angelika Fleer, Rilke Project; Sina Frank, spokeswoman of NaturFreundejugend; Peter Franke, President of the Federal Association of German East-West Societies; Ulrich Frey, Civil Conflict Counselling; Prof. Dr. Albert Fuchs, Institute for Peace Work; Reinhard Geude, Pastor; Dr. Thomas Gebauer, Spokesperson of the medico international foundation; Wolfgang Gehrcke, former Member of the German

Bundestag; Rose Götte, former Member of the German Bundestag; Dr. Rolf Gössner, lawyer, International League for Human Rights; Christoph Götz, Chairman of the Federal Youth Office AWÖ; Stephan Gorl, Cultural Manager; Susanne Gräbenhorst, IPPNW; Dr. Vera Gretz-Roth, economist; Ulrich Grober, writer; Birgit and Prof. Dr. Hans M. Gündner, Solarverein; Wolfgang Gunkel, former MdB; Wendelin Haag, spokesperson of the NaturFreundejugend; Hermann Hack, visual artist; Ilse Haubenreisser, Attac; Prof. Dr. Frigga Haug, social scientist; Barbara Harmer, Bremer Friedensforum; Prof. Dr. Peter Hennecke, energy researcher; Eberhard Henze, DGB district chairman; Dietmar Hexel, former DGB board member; Prof. Dr. Rudolf Hickel, head of the Institute for Work and Economy; Uwe Hirsch, federal board member of NaturFreund; Reiner Hoffmann, chairman DGB; Jörg Hofmann, chairman IG Metall; Dr. Gunter Hofmann, author; Prof. Dr. Pierre Ibsch, forest ecologist; Philipp Ingelkraut, Netzwerk Friedenskooperative; Prof. Dr. Ernst-Ludwig Iskenius, IPPNW; Otto Jäckel, Chairman IALANA; Prof. Dr. Hans Joas, sociologist; Harald Jochums, architect; Prof. Dr. Margot Käßmann, theologian; Hartmut Kammler, environmental activist; Kristine Karch, No to War Network; Theo Karczewski, municipal representative; Katja Kipping, MdB; Gisela Klein, GEW; Karin Kleinholtz, BI Bramfeld; Dr. Rainer Klamm-Nissen, Managing Director; Mechthild Klingenburg-Vogel, physician; Günter Klützke, mathematician; Patrik Köble, IT consultant; Tobias Köck, Chairman of the German Federal Youth Ring, Solidarity Youth; Dr. Felix Kolb, Campact; Lutz Krügner, Pastor, Commissioner for Peace Work; Prof. Dr. Gerd Krumreich, historian; Kevin Kühnert, Federal Board Member of the Juso; Eckart Kuhlwein, former Parliamentary State Secretary; Jürgen Lamprecht, Chairman of NaturFreunde Hessen; Dr. Rainer Land, Thünen Institute; Prof. Dr. Detlef Lehnert, historian; Sabine Leidig MdB; Jo Leinen, former MdB; Wolfgang Lemb, managing board member of IG Metall; Dietrich Lemke, GEW; Ekkehard Lentz, Bremer Friedensforum; Ewald Lienen, former professional footballer; Christopher von Lieven, Greenpeace; Udo Lindenberg, musician; Gerhard Loettel, pastor; Dr. Manfred Lotze, IPPNW; Peter Maffay, singer; Oliver Malchow, Chairman of the GdP; Rolf Mantovani, Federal Board of Directors of NaturFreund; Prof. Dr. Mohssen Massarrat, economist; Uta Matecki, community representative; Hilde Mattheis MdB; Dennis Melsa, Federal Youth Secretary; Dr. Richard Meng,

A new arms race is already in full swing. Ten countries alone account for around 75 percent of global military expenditure. Germany is

75 years after the end of the Second World War, peace is once again under threat. Even here in Europe it is fragile. Many things have grown uncertain and global threats have been exacerbated. The world, which has grown increasingly interdependent in a short period of time, shows new forms of violence and vulnerability. Social divisions are deepening, and the man-made climate crisis, the destruction of food resources and the struggle for raw materials are threatening us. The worldwide spread of the corona pandemic is also used to create or cement authoritarian structures. It hits the poorest and weakest particularly hard. Last but not least, nationalists are trying to use the uncertainty for their lousy propaganda.

Those who want peace must fight for peace. The frequently heard demand that Europe learn the „language of power“ (Munich Security Conference) and develop its military capabilities is wrong. Further militarization will not solve any of our problems. Rather, we need to bring social, ecological and economic conflicts back into the civil sphere. Otherwise the ghosts of the past will return, bringing only death and destruction.

in seventh place. Expenditure on armaments and the military is continuing to rise, and new nuclear weapons are being developed or set to be deployed. They are even faster and more destructive than anything that has come before. Even without these weapons of mass destruction, the danger of military conflicts is increasing due to digital technologies, which have a much lower inhibition threshold.

The 21st century must not become a century of confrontation and violence. Our tasks are therefore: building a pan-European peace order, strengthening the United Nations, worldwide disarmament and arms control, and the peaceful resolution of economic, social and ecological conflicts. We support the UN Secretary-General's initiative for an immediate worldwide ceasefire. Our responsibility is a policy of global justice. We are many and will not be powerless in our democracy.

We say no to a language of violence, and yes to a culture of peace, reason and understanding.

We say no to an increase in military spending! We say yes to disarmament instead of rearmament! Yes to a new policy of détente now!

State Secretary a.D.; Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Merkel, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin; Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Methling, former State Minister of the Environment; Dr. Matthias Miersch MdB; Dr. Hans Miselwitz, former State Secretary; Amira Mohamed Ali MdB; Michael Müller, Federal Chairman of the NaturFreund; Julia Neigel, singer; Ulrike Neumann, SPD Executive Committee Berlin; Dr. Joachim Nibbe, environmental consultant; Prof. Dr. Kai Niebert, President of the German Nature Conservation Ring; Willi van Ooyen, Peace and Future Workshop; Dr. Christof Osthheimer, Peace Forum Neumünster; Prof. Dr. Konrad Ott, philosopher; Prof. Dr. Norman Paech, jurist; Dr. Eberhard Martin Pausch, Director of Studies at the Protestant Academy; Harald Peschken, Häuserwerk; Gerd Pflaumer, Förderkreis Darmstädter Signal; Roxana Pilz, Chairperson of the Federal Youth Welfare Association (AWO); Matthias Platzek, Chairman of the German-Russian Forum; Alexander Rahr, Research Director of the German-Russian Forum; Prof. Dr. Konrad Raiser, ecumenist, theologian; Myriam Raptop, spokeswoman for BUNDjugend; Christiane Reynmann, author; Norbert Richter, Pax Christi Federal Chairman; Bernd Rixen MdB; Christoph Rinneberg, Aktion Aufschrei; Bärbel Risch, social worker; René Rößel MdB; Angelika Roesrath, DFG-VK; Prof. Dr. Holger Rogall, environmental economist; Clemens Ronnefeld, peace advisor of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation; Dr. Alex Rosen, chairman of the IPPNW; Prof. Dr. Werner Röhl, political scientist; Herbert Schnall, former DED; Ulla Sasse, former school headmistress; Joachim Schaller, lawyer; Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran, peace researcher; Dr. Ute Scheub, author; Uwe-Werner Schierhorn, Nuclear War by Accident; Renate Schmidt, former Federal Minister; Wilhelm Schmidt, President of Arbeiterwohlfahrt; Dr. Walter Schmidt-Bens, former Vice-President; Horst Schmidhennner, former Executive Director of IG Metall; Regina Schmidt-Kühner, Federal Executive Board of NaturFreund; Dr. Achim Schmitz, trainer for non-violence; Frieder Schöbel, Peace Centre Braunschweig; Richard Schönherz, Rilke-Project; Dieter Schulz, former DGB state chairman Berlin; Dr. Friedrich Schorlemmer, publicist and theologian; Dr. Uta Schorlemmer, teacher; Prof. Dr. Mechthild Schrooten, economist; Peter and Renate Schrott, ver.di; Dr. Norbert Schüren, retired state secretary; Prof. Dr. Ursula Schumm-Garling, sociologist; Prof. Dr. Gesine Schwan, former president of the European University Viadrina; Tilmann Schwenke, federal board member of NaturFreund; Prof. Dr. Dieter Senghaas, peace researcher; Prof. Dr. Eva Senghaas-Knobloch, peace researcher; Silly, musician; Prof. Dr. Udo Simons, environmental scientist; Celin Sommer, chairperson One for the Planet; Prof. Dr. Gerd Sommer, psychologist; Jörg Sommer, chairman of the German Environmental Foundation; Dr. Cornelia Sonntag-Wolgast, former member of the German Parliament; Wolfgang Stadler, Chairman of the Board of Arbeiterwohlfahrt; Prof. Klaus Staack, graphic artist; Ernst-Christoph Stolper, former State Secretary; Prof. Dr. Johano Strasser, former President of the German PEN; Maritta Strasser, Managing Director of NaturFreund; Dr. Michael Sucrow, biologist; Dr. Wolfgang Tautz, chemist, painter; Horst Teltschik, honorary professor, security consultant; Marlis Tepe, chairwoman of the GEW; Barbara Thalheim, actress; Dr. Wolfgang Thiere, former president of the German Bundestag; Bernhard Trautvetter, Peace Initiative Essen; Dr. Axel Tropp, economist; Dr. Hans-Jürgen Urban, Managing Director of IG Metall; Dorothee Vakalis, pastor; Michael Vassiliadis, Chairman of IG BCE; Jürgen Voges, journalist; Kathrin Vogler MdB; Dr. Antje Vollmer, former Vice President of the German Bundestag; Dr. Ludger Volmer, former Minister of State; Dr. Fritz Vorholz, author; Dr. Sahra Wagenknecht MdB; Peter Wahl, Attac Scientific Advisory Board; Norbert Walter-Borjans, Co-Chairman; Konstantin Wecker, singer; Eberhard Weber, former Chairman of the Board of Directors of IG Metall-DGB-Chairman Dortmund; Dr. Thomas Weber, Sustainability Officer; Gunda Weidmüller, Hamburger Friedensforum; Jochi Weil-Goldstein, medical international; Prof. Dr. Hubert Weiger, former Chairman of BUND; Prof. Dr. Cornelius Weiss, former Rector of the University of Leipzig; Prof. Dr. Weißkirchen, former Member of the Bundestag; Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Honorary President of the Club of Rome; Clara Wengert, Federal Board of Directors of NaturFreund; Bundesjugendring; Stefan Wenzel, Member of the Bundestag, State Minister (ret.); Frank Werneke, Chairman of ver.di; Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister (ret.); Lucas Wirl, Managing Director of IALANA; Gabriele Witt, Spokesperson of AG Frieden; Guido Zeitzer, Chairman of the NGG trade union; Burkhard Zimmermann, Peace Group SPD-Berlin; Olaf Zimmermann, Managing Director of the German Cultural Council; Dirk Zöllner, singer.

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