



NYC CAMPAIGN FOR A PEACE TAX FUND

For the Sake of Conscience

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." — Dwight Eisenhower, former U.S. President and Army General

WHAT'S THE NYC CAMPAIGN FOR A PEACE TAX FUND?

It is grassroots campaign in support of The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill.

WHAT'S THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PEACE TAX FUND BILL?

It is a Bill in Congress (HR 2631) that would enable those who are opposed to participation in war based on religious or moral or ethical principles ("conscientious objectors") to have their taxes used for non-military purposes only.

HOW WOULD IT WORK?

- Those who claim conscientious objector status (based on moral, religious and/or ethical beliefs) would have their income, estate or gift tax payments placed in the Peace Tax Fund.
- The Treasury could spend this money only on non-military governmental programs.
- The tax forms of millions of taxpayers would include information about the availability of conscientious objector status.
- The Bill would not excuse any taxpayer from paying all of his or her taxes.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEW YORK CITY?

Council Member Bill Perkins has introduced a NYC City Council Resolution (Resolution 367) in support of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill to the City Council.

WHAT CAN HR 2631 DO FOR US?

• **Raise Awareness & Change Federal Budget Priorities**

The campaign could spark a national dialogue about federal spending priorities and military accountability (see Fast Facts on next page). If the Bill passes, every year 160 million taxpayers would receive information about conscientious objector status. This could build momentum toward changing federal spending priorities.

• **Protect Civil Liberties**

The right to conscientiously object to participation in war as a drafted soldier is protected by law under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. HR 2631 would extend this right of conscience to taxpayers.

• **Exert International Influence**

Similar peace tax campaigns exist in a dozen other countries. New York would show great moral leadership in acknowledging that its citizens & taxpayers who object to military taxes have a just claim which has been denied.

• **Provide a Win-Win Situation**

The Bill has bi-partisan support, and over 150 national and regional organizations from all across the political spectrum, including evangelical groups, have formally endorsed the legislation. Respecting the religious freedom of conscientious objectors will strengthen the tax system and will preserve the diversity of convictions that characterizes a democracy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Find out more about the campaign at www.peacetaxfund.org or call 888-PeaceTax.
- Sign online petition (Take Action link at www.peacetaxfund.org)
- Contact your NYC Council member and urge them to support Resolution 367 (or thank them if they already do). Call 212-788-7100 to find out who your Council Member is or go to <http://www.lwvnyc.org/index.html>
- Help organize the NYC Campaign
- Have your group endorse the campaign

****Attend June 9th press conference & City Council Hearing, 12:15 p.m. at City Hall!****

Call 212-866-3244 for more information



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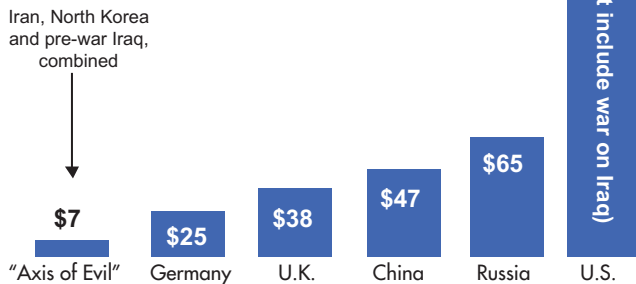
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"Individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience . . . Therefore, [individual citizens] have the duty to violate domestic laws to prevent crimes against peace and humanity from occurring." — Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal

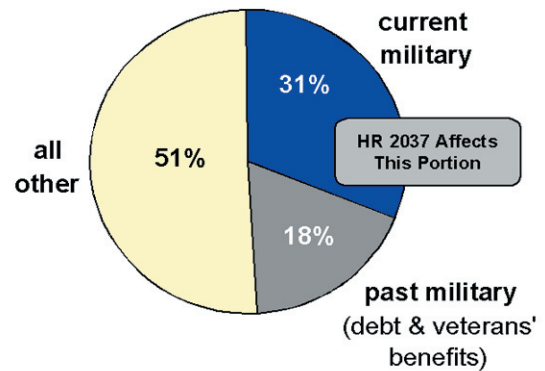
Increasingly, the ability of a government to wage war relies on "drafted dollars" to pay for advanced technology. Even when not used, such weapons kill by denying financial resources to those in need. There is no legal option for people who conscientiously object to paying for war. They are required to support the military through taxation. Conscientious objectors impoverish themselves, risk fines and jail sentences to avoid paying such taxes and for the sake of conscience.

Global Military Spending (in billions, per year)

Source: Center for Defense Information.
Data from 2002 or most recent available year



U.S. Budget for Fiscal Year 2005



Source: War Resisters League

FAST FACTS:*

- Largest spending in the world: global military expenditure
- U.S. contribution to global military expenditures: nearly 50%
- Percent of federal taxes used for military purposes before war on Iraq: 47%
- No. 1 business in America: arms trade (Red Herring)
- Amount of money "missing" from pentagon budget (2002): trillions \$\$
- Number of children in the world: 2.2 billion
Number in poverty: 1 billion
- U.S. ranking in its efforts to lift children out of poverty: 17th
- Number of children who die every day, mostly from hunger-related causes: 30,000
- Percent of global military expenditure needed to put every child into school: less than 1%
- Cost of war in Iraq for NYC taxpayers: \$6.6 billion
- The cost of 3 days of war on Iraq could close the NYC budget gap without cutting services

*Sources include Children's Defense Fund, National Priorities Project, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, and War Resisters League

****NYC COUNCIL HEARING ON
PEACE TAX FUND RESOLUTION
JUNE 9, 12:15 P.M., CITY HALL****

NYC CAMPAIGN

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