



# Coalition against US military bases abroad

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Coalition against US military bases abroad

A military base serves for the deployment of command centers, troops and military equipment. We can distinguish bases located on the territory of the own country from bases located in foreign states.

The US Department of Defense operates around 1.000 bases outside of their territory, which is approximately 95% of all bases on foreign territory worldwide.

For example: currently there are US military bases in every state around the Persian Gulf, except for Iran.

Moreover, the USA has 19 aircraft carriers and wants to build another 15.

An aircraft carrier group, which is a floating military base, includes 7.500 seamen and 65 to 70 fighter jets.

In contrast, both Russia and China have only one aircraft carrier in service.

Based on this fact, various peace-, human rights- or environmental organizations and individuals in the USA want to form a coalition against all US military bases abroad by a joint declaration

The intention is to inform the public and to organize a massive non-violent resistance. The signatories of this joint declaration agree that the US military bases abroad must be closed.

And this in spite of the fact that they have totally different opinions about other problems. But they consider this as a necessary first step towards the building of a just, peaceful and sustainable world, which they retain as urgently required, based on the following facts:

1. The US military bases abroad are the main instruments for the imperialistic endeavor of the US administration for global dominance and for the destruction of the environment and existing cultures by wars of aggression contrary to international law, as well as by long lasting regimes of occupation.
2. The US military bases in foreign countries sum up to an annual cost for the taxpayer of 156 billion Dollars, which are missing for the financing of social expenditures, urgently necessary services and the restructuring of their cities.
3. The US military bases abroad are not necessary for the defence of the inner and external safety of the USA. They just serve for military interference in the life of people of sovereign countries and for the enforcement of financial, political and military interests of the ruling US elite. No people, no state and no government can make autonomous decisions in presence of foreign troops who represent completely different interests.
4. The US military bases abroad are the main reason for all tensions between the USA and

the rest of the world.

5. National coalitions in many countries are calling for the closure of US military bases on their territory, for instance on the Japanese island Okinawa, on the South Korean island Jeju and other places in South Korea, on the island Diego Garcia, on Cyprus, in Greece, in Italy and Germany.

The signatories of this declaration want to make a joint stand together against the existence of US military bases abroad and demand their immediate closure.

The exact phrasing is: Quote "We invite all organizations that stand for peace, social justice and environmental protection to stand with us and to fight jointly for the enforcement of this declaration."

Due to the unique concentration of US military bases on German territory and the numerous top-level US- and NATO command centers, Germany is entangled in a particular manner in all unlawful wars of aggression of the USA and the NATO.

This even though according to article 26 of the German Constitutional Law the following acts are unconstitutional and punishable by law, which: Quote "are suitable to and carried out with the intention of disturbing the peaceful coexistence of the peoples, in particular the preparation of a war of aggression [...]"

The German peace activist Wolfgang Jung periodically publishes "LUFTPOST" with communications on peace policy, including the Declaration of the US Coalition in German. He points out that the deployment of foreign troops in Germany was laid down in the "Treaty about the presence of foreign armed forces in the Federal Republic of Germany" dated October 23rd 1954.

This treaty is still valid, but it could be abrogated at any time within a term of two years by a majority of the German Bundestag and a German government loyal to constitution. However, according to Wolfgang Jung, this can not be expected in a foreseeable period under the current conditions of majorities.

By collecting as many additional signatures as possible on the «Ramsteiner Appell», everyone can help to remind the members of all parties of the German Bundestag, that they have the option to enforce article 26 of the German Constitutional Law.

from von dd.

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