

September 2019

Dear Members of the German Bundestag,  
Dear Chancellor and Members of the Federal Government,

80 years after the beginning of the Second World War, we address you with an urgent appeal containing the main demands of the international conference "No to military bases & wars", which took place on 28 June 2019 at the initiative of the campaign "Stop Airbase Ramstein" and other organisations in Steinwenden near the US Airbase Ramstein. The consensually adopted final declaration of the conference states:

"We call on the Federal Government and the German Bundestag to terminate the 'Convention on the Presence of Foreign Forces in the Federal Republic of Germany' - the Troop Stationing Treaty - in order to remove all US/NATO military bases and nuclear weapons from German territory."

"We... call on the governments of the NATO member states to withdraw from NATO."

We also refer to the decision of the General Assembly of the Medical Peace Organization IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War / Physicians in Social Responsibility) on 3-5 May 2019 in Stuttgart:

"The IPPNW calls on the German government to terminate the troop deployment treaty on the part of Germany."

We expect you to take action in line with these demands.

As you know, the troop deployment agreement can be terminated with a two-year period in accordance with the Exchange of Notes of 25 September 1990, and the withdrawal from NATO can be carried out with a one-year period in accordance with the NATO treaty.

As you know, with the "Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany", the so-called 2+4 Treaty, Germany undertook "that only peace will emanate from German soil" and bound itself under international law as follows:

"According to the constitution of the united Germany, acts tending to and undertaken with the intent to disturb the peaceful relations between nations, especially to prepare for aggressive war, are unconstitutional and a punishable offence. The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic declare that the united Germany will never employ any of its weapons except in accordance with its constitution and the Charter of the United Nations."

You know that Germany has committed itself under the 2+4 Treaty to "their renunciation of the manufacture and possession of and control over nuclear, biological and chemical weapons". You know that the use of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity that threatens to extinguish life on our earth.

please turn

You know that the military facilities of the foreign armed forces on German soil, in particular those of NATO and the USA (including the US airbase Ramstein, EUCOM and AFRICOM), are used to conduct wars of aggression contrary to international law, and in this way the 2+4 Treaty is violated. You know that according to the International Criminal Code (VStGB § 13 Crime of Aggression) it is punishable who allows this or even promotes it.

By terminating the troop deployment treaty and leaving NATO, ensure that Germany makes its contribution to demilitarisation, that the military facilities, in particular those of the USA and NATO, together with the nuclear weapons are banned from Germany, that NATO's irresponsible so-called two-percent armament target is abandoned in favour of civilian tasks, and that in future "only peace" is assumed from German soil. End the course of confrontation with Russia. The 2+4 treaty gives you the mandate and the authority to do this, because it states: "The United Germany shall have... full sovereignty over its internal and external affairs." And, to repeat it once again: "from German soil only peace" may "emanate".

Please inform us immediately what you intend to do to make the steps described a reality.

With excellent esteem

*for the campaign "NATO out - out of NATO": Sebastian Bahlo (stellv. Bundesvorsitzender des Deutschen Freidenker-Verbands), Tanja Banavas (Deutscher Freidenker-Verband), Anita Beyer (Deutscher Freidenker-Verband), Peter Betscher (Bundesverband Arbeiterfotografie, Vorstand), Toni Brinkmann (Juristin, Mitarbeit im Bremer Friedensforum), Anneliese Fikentscher (Vorsitzende des Bundesverbands Arbeiterfotografie), Annette van Gessel (Lektorin), Senne Glanschneider (Bundesverband Arbeiterfotografie, Vorstand), Klaus Hartmann (Bundesvorsitzender Deutscher Freidenker-Verband), Samira Jouini (Deutscher Freidenker-Verband, Landesvorstand NRW), Wolfgang Jung (LUFTPOST – Friedenspolitische Mitteilungen aus der US-Militärregion Kaiserslautern/Ramstein), Jürgen Kelle, Düsseldorf (Rentner), Dr. Ansgar Klein (Sprecher der Aachener Aktionsgemeinschaft "Frieden jetzt!"), Helene Klein (Sprecherin der Würseler Initiative für den Frieden), Dr. Klaus-Peter Kurch (Blogger, opablog.net), Ullrich Mies (Publizist/Autor), Andreas Neumann (Bundesverband Arbeiterfotografie, Vorstand), Klaus v. Raussendorff (Mitglied im Vorstand des Deutschen Freidenker-Verbands), Wilhelm Schulze-Barantin (Deutscher Freidenker-Verband, Landesvorsitzender Hessen), Ernesto Schwarz (Deutscher Freidenker-Verband), Fee Strieffler (LUFTPOST – Friedenspolitische Mitteilungen aus der US-Militärregion Kaiserslautern/Ramstein), Jürgen Suttner (Mitglied im Siegener Friedensbündnis ABFS und im Freidenkerverband), Georg Maria Vormschlag (Bundesverband Arbeiterfotografie, Vorstand), Elke Zwinge-Makamizile (Gewerkschafterin, Freidenkerin, Friedensaktivistin)*

PS: To show you the breadth of the national and especially international support for the demands, the draft resolution is attached, with which the campaign "NATO out - out of NATO" brought the demands to the conference on 28.6.2019.