

“It’s particularly important to invest in an ounce of prevention so that we won’t need a pound of cure”

~Rep. Howard Berman (CA)

PREVENT WAR: 3 THINGS CONGRESS CAN DO NOW



1. DIPLOMACY: PROVIDE RAPID RESPONSE FUNDING

In late 2007, Kenya erupted into violence after disputed elections. The U.S State Department wanted to support the African Union mediation process but did not have unprogrammed funds available. Congress should authorize and fully fund the Complex Crises Fund, a flexible pool of money to allow the State Department and USAID to respond quickly to emerging crises.

2. DEVELOPMENT: SUPPORT CIVILIAN PEACEBUILDERS

The Civilian Response Corps is a new group of rapidly deployable civilian experts available to assist countries at risk of or recovering from war. The CRC has already sent civilian members to places like Sudan, Afghanistan, and Kyrgyzstan. It offers a much-needed alternative

to sending military troops to do the civilian work of peacebuilding and war prevention. Congress should fully fund and support the Corps.

3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: PAY ALL UNITED NATIONS DUES ON TIME AND IN FULL

U.N. peacekeepers help maintain the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in the volatile state of Jammu and Kashmir. This international presence helps prevent a fragile truce from erupting back into violence. The United State cannot address the problems of the world by itself, and U.N. peacekeeping is eight times more cost effective than the U.S going it alone. Congress should pay all U.N. dues on time, in full.



IF WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER, WHAT IS? PEACEFUL PREVENTION OF DEADLY CONFLICT

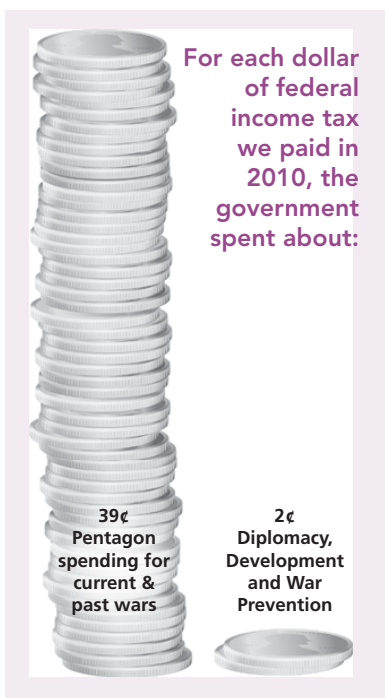
“Our national security toolbox must be equipped with more than just hammers.”

~Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates

THE WRONG TOOLS FOR THE JOB

President Obama, Secretary of Defense Gates, Secretary of State Clinton, and bipartisan congressional leaders agree: the U.S. needs more than just military might to help create security in today's world. Complex threats like terrorism, genocide, failing states, weapons proliferation, disease, and environmental crises require complex solutions that address problems early so they don't boil over into violence. Unfortunately, the U.S. is ill-equipped for the job.

After decades of neglecting its civilian agencies, the U.S.'s "toolbox" for addressing global problems is filled with military hammers and not much else.



For example, the Pentagon employs over 2 million soldiers and 700,000 civilians, but the State Department has around 25,000 employees, of which just 12,000 are Foreign Service Officers. The U.S. even has more military band members than diplomats.

Policymakers are talking about rebuilding civilian agencies and investing more in the tools of diplomacy and development. Unfortunately, they have not yet put their money where their mouth is.

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR: AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION, OR A POUND OF WAR?

In 2010, 39% of U.S. tax dollars went to the military. Less than 2% went to all spending for diplomacy, development, and international cooperation *combined*. The president's budget request for 2012 would spend more than 40% on the military and less than 2% for non-military engagement with the world. The U.S. invests overwhelmingly in fighting and preparing for wars and, not surprisingly, that's what it gets.

What if the U.S. chose to invest more in preventing wars, not just fighting them? In addition to saving thousands of lives, research shows that preventing deadly conflicts before they erupt is on average *60 times* more cost effective than reacting after violence has erupted. See the other side of this flyer for ways Congress could make wiser spending choices to help prevent violent conflict.

Changing the way the U.S. invests its money will not prevent all wars, but it can go far to advance the possibility of a world free of war and the threat of war.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PREVENT WAR?

1. **Write to your members of Congress** and urge them to invsupport the Complex Crises Fund, Civilian Response Corps, and U.N. funding.
2. **Sign up for FCNL's Prevent War email updates** to stay informed and take action. (Go to www.fcnl.org/ppdc or email bridget@fcnl.org)

“There is nothing, except a tragic death wish, to prevent us from reordering our priorities, so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war.”

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

