

March 22, 2013

Press Statement:



# The Appeal "No Combat Drones!"

## A Call by Peace and Civil Rights Organizations

*On the occasion of the launching of this year's nationwide Easter Peace March activities, numerous peace and civil rights organizations are issuing a joint appeal against the employment of drones for combat missions, surveillance or oppression. The appeal "No Combat Drones!" is addressed to the German government and parliament, demanding that they neither acquire combat drones nor continue to invest in their research and development.*

In early March, representatives of various peace and civil rights movements met in Hannover to discuss a common strategy to oppose equipping the German Bundeswehr (Armed Forces) with armed unmanned aerial vehicles (combat drones). This meeting was in response to the growing number of proposals from within government circles in favor of the acquisition of these new weapons, and resulted in the nationwide appeal "No Combat Drones!," currently supported [by around 80 organizations, associations, and initiatives in Germany](#). Peace and civil rights organizations, church groups and trade unions as well as citizens' initiatives, have joined this broad alliance.

The objective of this campaign is to inform the public of the dangers of acquiring combat and surveillance drones. More concretely, the campaign calls on the German government and Bundestag to cease the "madness" of acquiring and producing killer drones, as well as pursuing research and development of these weapons. It also demands that the government and parliament become engaged in favor of a worldwide ban, as well as international proscription of these weapons. The alliance seeks to establish strong ties of cooperation and cross-linking with other initiatives at the international level.

It is launching an immediate call for signatures. At the internet portal

[www.drohnen-kampagne.de](http://www.drohnen-kampagne.de)

[signature lists](#) can be printed and the appeal [can be signed online](#). Information on drones will also be available.

Contact persons for the press are available at any of the signatory organizations of this appeal, or you can contact:

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## Appeal: "No Combat Drones!"

**We oppose establishing drone technology for combat, surveillance and oppression.**

Currently the German government seems determined to equip the Bundeswehr with armed unmanned aerial vehicles (combat drones).

**We oppose combat drones because their deployment**

- lowers the threshold to armed aggression even further,
- entails "targeted" killing of people within and outside warzones – without indictment, trial and conviction,
- terrorizes the population of the targeted territory by threatening life and limb,
- encourages the development of autonomous killer robots, thereby making more horrifying wars likely,
- initiates a new round in the arms race.

**We demand that the German government and parliament**

- cease the madness of production and acquisition of armed drones, as well as their research and development, and
- become engaged in favor of a worldwide ban and international proscription of these weapons.