



Let's go to the anti-war march! Demonstration: Create peace – stop armament! Together for international solidarity and compliance with international law.

1:30 p.m. Kick-off rally at the Kölner Heumarkt.

Followed by a joint demonstration with the Disarm-Rheinmetall-Camp to Choldwigplatz and a joint rally.

(We stand in solidarity with the Rheinmetall Entwaffnen camp! War is a crime, not anti-militarism. The ban on the camp must be lifted. Sign here: <https://chng.it/WPDkGqLFqb>)

Finally: Music and culture for peace at Chlowdwigplatz, with live music and peace poems!

With speeches by:

Ulrich Schneider, historian, Secretary General of the International Federation of Resistance Fighters (FIR) – Federation of Anti-Fascists

Ludo De Brabander, Belgian peace movement (VREDE.be)

Greetings from Cologne's twin city Bethlehem, from **the former mayor of Volgograd**, who initiated the Cologne-Volgograd city partnership in 1989, from the **Israeli peace movement**, and from **José Nivoi**, spokesperson for the Autonomous Port Workers' Collective (Collettivo Autonomo Lavoratori Portuali, CALP) in Genoa (requested).

Concert and culture on Chlodwigplatz:

Students from the Cologne University of Music and Dance

Cologne City Partnership Choir

Magic Darragh, singer-songwriter from Ireland!

Peace poems in Arabic, Persian, Yiddish, and Hebrew with German translations

Call for Anti-War Day:

"Cruelty does not come from cruelty, but from business deals that can no longer be made without it."

Bertolt Brecht

Dear fellow citizens,

The global arms race and the increasing militarization of societies are currently threatening peace worldwide. They tie up resources that are lacking for climate protection, the fight against famine, and social justice—and fuel new conflicts.

Almost 50% of the federal budget would be squandered on armaments if 5% of gross domestic product were spent on "defense," as demanded by the right-wing Trump administration and decided by NATO.

German weapons are also fueling wars and violence around the world.

We must raise our voices against this!

On the occasion of Anti-War Day, the anniversary of Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, we call on everyone to join us in demonstrating against the right wing, for disarmament and social improvement, for human rights and for peace!

Citing an alleged threat from Russia, many countries, including Germany, have initiated massive additional spending on weapons, military infrastructure, and measures to prepare for war in all areas of society (economy, education, health care, and many more).

The German government claims that diplomatic negotiations to preserve peace are not possible and that instead, further "deterrence," "defense," and arms deliveries are needed.

This is justified by Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine and the accompanying unsuccessful efforts to achieve a ceasefire or end the war.

These justifications are unacceptable!

How are the rearmament of Germany and NATO, the delivery of increasingly heavy weapons to Ukraine, and the announced deployment of medium-range missiles in Germany supposed to break the spiral of escalation and end the killing and dying in Ukraine?

Is it really Vladimir Putin's postulated thirst for conquest that endangers Germany, Europe, and the whole world, or does the threat lie rather in the arms race and the accompanying provocations on all sides?

To what extent have serious international diplomatic efforts for peace really taken place?

Why are people in Germany increasingly being defamed as naive and dreamy when they advocate for peace and peaceful conflict resolution?

We are currently witnessing the important achievements of the post-1945 era—the UN Charter, international law, and the International Court of Justice—being disregarded, defamed, and sabotaged.

Under the guise of so-called “reasons of state,” the German federal government continues to support the Israeli regime militarily, economically, and politically, even though genocide against the Palestinian population is now obvious to everyone.

Yes, Germany should take responsibility for the crimes against humanity committed during the Nazi era against Jews, Sinti and Roma, Poles, Russians, homosexuals, people with disabilities, and political dissidents...

The responsibility to ensure that something like this never happens again!

Responsibility for upholding universal human rights that apply to everyone!

That is why we demand:

- ▶ Disarmament and investment in the global social and ecological future instead of weapons!
- ▶ An end to arms deliveries, the expansion of humanitarian aid, and initiatives for the reconstruction of all regions affected by war worldwide.
- ▶ No deployment of US medium-range weapons capable of carrying nuclear warheads and immediate initiative for peace negotiations in Ukraine, for (nuclear) disarmament and common security in Europe with Ukraine and Russia!
- ▶ Germany's consistent commitment to the UN Charter and international law!
- ▶ Increased international pressure on Israel to immediately end the genocide against the Palestinian population, termination of the EU Association Agreement with Israel, and recognition of the State of Palestine.

► Adequate provision of food, material resources, and medical treatment to the suffering people in Gaza as quickly as possible by qualified aid organizations under the leadership/coordination of the UN.

► Stop the militarization of society! No to conscription, no to arms research and youth officers in schools, yes to the civil clause and peace education!

► International cooperation and solidarity for peace!

Come to Heumarkt on August 30., 1:30 pm! Together we will send a message: For a peaceful world – without military logic.

“It is not bullets and generals that make history, but the masses.”

Nelson Mandela

Initiated by the Cologne Peace Forum, www.koelner-friedensforum.org

Translated with DeepL.com (free version)