



# Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

**Report to Abolition 2000 AGM**

**June 2021**

As with most campaigning groups, our work has been changed significantly by the Covid pandemic. However, the militarisation and weaponization of space has continued apace. There have been a number of important developments:

- The US Space Force has asked Congress for \$832 billion in extra funds for new programs including unspecified classified missions and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance projects.
- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that the costs of US Missile Defence may total \$176 billion from 2020 through 2029 (a \$50 billion increase from their previous 2017-2026 cost review).
- Campaigners believe that US missile defense satellite launches from New Zealand are breaking the NZ nuclear free laws.
- The USAF Research Laboratory Space Vehicles Directorate opened a 'Space Warfighting Operations Research and Development' (SWORD) laboratory in Kirtland AFB.
- To justify the huge military expenditure on these programs (pushed by the aerospace corporations), the US continues to accuse China and Russia of being threats because they are now creating similar space systems to those that the US has been developing for years.
- France has begun military exercises in space and the UK is planning for war in space and intends to have *"the ability to monitor, protect and defend"* its interests *"in and through space"*. Also, NATO has once again declared that an attack in space could trigger their mutual defense clause to include a collective response.

In addition:

- Space business has been predicted to be worth trillions in the near future and many countries are trying to cash-in on this. Space ports, mainly for launching mini satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), are appearing all over the world with the usual promises of income and jobs to local communities.
- Space has become the new financial and power struggle for billionaires. Jeff Bezos will soon be going into space with his brother and a fee-paying passenger in his New Shepard rocket. His Blue Origin company will be launching hundreds of Telesat's satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) to establish global coverage for their super-fast internet system.
- In addition, Elon Musk and SpaceX are launching tens of thousands of satellites to produce a global 5G LEO internet service for commercial and military use.
- People are concerned about the global pervasion of 5G electromagnetic radiation; astronomers are concerned about the night sky being ruined by so many moving points of light and space scientists are concerned about the increase in space objects and debris that may become impossible to penetrate.

- Musk also still wants to nuke Mars by exploding hundreds of nuclear weapons over its poles to vaporise the water and carbon dioxide held there to warm up the planet!
- Nuclear power is being developed to power rockets for long missions and to supply power to bases on the Moon and Mars.

The Global Network has continued to work online and do the best we can. In particular, we have:

- Continued to blog (via Bruce Gagnon) and publish articles (in particular by Karl Grossman) on these issues throughout the year;
- Present information and relevant new articles on our website <http://space4peace.org>;
- Continued to produce regular videos on issues related to the militarisation of space – on see: <http://space4peace.org/videos/>;
- Start a new series of online interviews with people active in the campaign to Keep Space for Peace;
- Held a webinar with a “Space Domination International Panel” as part of Keep Space for Peace Week, 2020 – see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Kh4-r6Jh20&t=3s>
- Participated in a “Space Education and Strategic Applications Conference” in October last year with a webinar panel on “Campaigning to Keep Space for Peace”, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZ-9yLqGqMI>
- Sponsored and held sessions at the World Beyond War #Nowar2021 Virtual Conference in June;

We have also tried to help, encourage and publicise the work of campaigning groups around the world through our growing network of affiliates.

For more information, see our [website](#) or contact [globalnet@mindspring.com](mailto:globalnet@mindspring.com)