



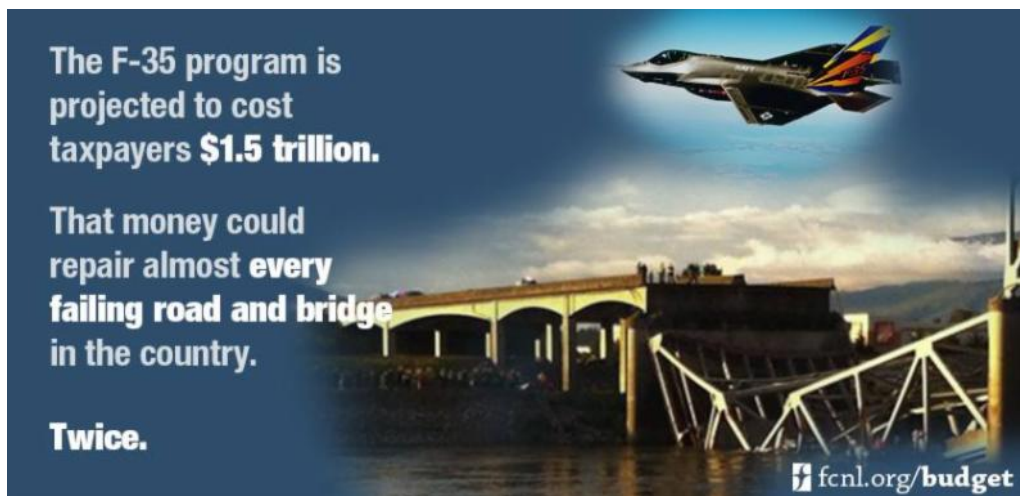
September 2013

Peace Economy Project   
Cut Military Spending. Fund Human Needs.



"...they shall beat their swords into plowshares..."


## Sequester, poverty and why we need to change our budget priorities



The F-35 program is projected to cost taxpayers **\$1.5 trillion**.

That money could repair almost **every failing road and bridge** in the country.

**Twice.**

 [fcnl.org/budget](http://fcnl.org/budget)

Sequestration. Budget battles. The debt ceiling. These are topics that we've been talking about for awhile. This summer into September, a number of bills have been voted on in Congress to determine spending for 2014. Just last week, [the House voted to cut SNAP](#), while Republicans are threatening to shut down the government if ObamaCare isn't repealed and Pentagon spending restored.

Meanwhile, Census poverty data was also released last week, and the results are troubling. [They show that our current economy simply is not](#)

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## Save the dates!

### Saving Syria? The Ethics of Military Intervention

**Tues, September 24  
7:30 p.m.  
Buder Commons,  
Maryville University**

The events unfolding in Syria raise a hornet's nest of ethical questions. Three Maryville professors will examine

[working](#), with 2012 poverty rates even higher than they were in 2008 at the start of the recession. Sequester is costing valuable jobs and resources for struggling Americans affected by the recession. Sam Stein at the Huffington Post has been [writing extensively about the impacts of sequester](#) (which recently [won him an award from The Sidney Hillman Foundation](#)). Prospects for economic recovery look bleak given the current trajectory.

This is why it's vitally important that we make our voices heard. And you can help. **This October, while Congress is home for recess, we will be leading a delegation to Senators Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill's office, as well as Representatives Lacy Clay and Ann Wagner.** They need to hear from us, the people, that we need a budget that reflects OUR priorities. If you would like to join a delegation, please contact [peaceeconomyproject@gmail.com](mailto:peaceeconomyproject@gmail.com) to join us the week of October 14th.

If you can't make it out with us, we highly encourage everyone to **write letters to the editor** in your local newspaper telling everyone why you feel there needs to be a change in budget priorities. For example letters or guidelines, you can also e-mail [peaceeconomyproject@gmail.com](mailto:peaceeconomyproject@gmail.com).

And we thank everyone who has signed our Congressional Appeal, made a phone call to their Congressional Representative, and worked to make sure that our budget priorities reflect the needs of our people, not defense corporations.

## Questioning military intervention in Syria

by Charles J. Guenther, Jr.,  
PEP Board Member and Professor (emeritus) St. Louis Community College

I have three questions as President Obama and Secretary Kerry continue their efforts to pressure Congress and the public into supporting another war effort by the United States.

It has been a couple of years since cruise missiles were used in Libya. The hardware and software for these missiles have surely been upgraded

these question, including PEP board member, Johannes Wich-Schwarz.

## The Current Conflict in Syria

**Sunday, October 6th  
3:00 p.m.  
Parkway United  
Church of Christ  
2841 N Ballas Rd.  
Heritage Room**

Sponsored by Women's International League of Peace and Freedom Paul Roesler, Professor of Political Science at St. Charles Community College, will discuss the current conflict in Syria, how the conflict has changed from peaceful demonstrations to a sectarian civil war and what it means for the region.

## Suffering Grasses Showing with Ramah Kudaimi

**Tuesday, October 8th  
7:00 pm  
Place TBA**

The St. Louis Instead of War Coalition will be

since then. Is it time to combat test these weapons again?

This may sound terribly cynical; however I cannot forget the September 1991 issue of the IEEE Spectrum magazine, that displayed a blazing front cover with the headline: "War as Test Lab." Here was my professional journal, published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, replete with articles evaluating the performance of weapons systems used in the 1990 Iraq War.



[Read more.](#)

## Ending contracts offer time for transition

[The Sept. 18 article about Boeing completing its C-17 Globemaster III contract](#) in the St. Louis Post Dispatch showcases a major problem: military manufacturing is not a sustainable jobs program.

Although many of those affected in Boeing will be found other jobs within the company, local manufacturers that produce materials for Boeing may not be able to accommodate employees as easily. The article claims some 17,000 jobs could be affected by the completion of the C-17.

As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan wind down, the need for weapons is diminishing. Companies like Boeing will complete their contracts, and workers within the field will find that their job prospects are drying up because civilians simply do not need military-grade weapons. Not unless we want to perpetually be at war.

[Read more.](#)

hosting a screening of *Suffering Grasses*, a 2012 documentary that explores the conflict in Syria. Joining the event will also be Syrian American, Ramah Kudaimi, who will provide her analysis of the situation in Syria.

## World Day Against the Death Penalty: Missouri and Lethal Injection

**Thursday, October 10th  
7:00 pm  
454 Whittier Street**

Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and the ACLU will be featuring guest speakers Meredith Reese of Amnesty International and John Simon, a Missouri attorney to talk about the death penalty in the state of Missouri. For more information, contact [margaret@madpmo.org](mailto:margaret@madpmo.org).

**The Peace Economy Project is a Proud Member of the**

**St Louis Justice and Peace Shares**<http://jpsstl.org/>**Thank you for being a friend of PEP**Find us on Facebook Follow us on  twitter**Please Consider Making a Gift to the Peace Economy Project**[Make A Donation](#)**About Peace Economy Project**

The Peace Economy Project is a non-profit, grassroots organization that researches military spending and the military-industrial complex, educates about military spending and advocates for a peace-based, rather than a war-based, economy. PEP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax-deductible. Donations to support the work of the Peace Economy Project may be sent to our office at:

**Peace Economy Project**

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