



MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF WAR (AUSTRALIA)

MEDIA RELEASE

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Stopping arms fair a healthy decision, say doctors.

The Medical Association for Prevention of War, Australia is citing the decision to cancel the planned Asia Pacific Defence and Security Exhibition (APDSE) as a victory for all Australians committed to peace and human rights.

Dr Sue Wareham, President of the Medical Association for Prevention of War said, "The decision to cancel the Asia-Pacific Defence and Security Exhibition (APDSE) was very wise."

"The APDSE promoters deliberately listed tensions in the Asia-Pacific region as a selling point to attract exhibitors and buyers. In other words, the more tensions there are, the greater the potential profits to be had. This is nothing to do with our security. It's about profiting from war and violence."

While the organisers cite "the threat of violence" as the reason, it would be surprising if their own extraordinary ineptness and insensitivity in choosing Remembrance Day for the opening did not play a part in the decision to cancel."

"In any event, let's look at where the real "threat of violence" lies. Surely with the industry that sells tens of billions of dollars worth of weapons every year, to fuel wars that kill and maim men, women and children in the dozens of wars that are currently being fought. That's violence, threatened and executed" said Dr Wareham.

"Members of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia) and many other people from diverse backgrounds planned peaceful protests at APDSE. Contrary to comments by Acting Premiers Foley we are not 'feral low-life'. We can recognise warmongering when we see it, and we deeply oppose it."

"It remains to be seen if plans for future APDSE events to be held in 2010 and 2012 in Adelaide have been affected by the decision to cancel the first of the planned arms fairs. Needless to say we hope that all three proposed APDSE events have been abandoned," concluded Dr Wareham.

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