

Living without an army is perfectly possible.

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WE LIVE AN EXTRAORDINARY TIME.
EXTRAORDINARY TIME BECAUSE
WE HAVE DECIDED TO PUT AN END TO WAR!
WE ARE RESOLUTE!
WE SHALL PERSIST UNTIL IT HAPPENS,
UNTIL WE SUCCEED!

01. Dear Professor Maeda,
Dear organizers of the article 9 conference to abolish war
Dear public,
Dear peace lovers,
Greetings to you all and thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today.

02. I am very optimistic. For 3 reasons:
 1. One, I am happy. And I do think that being happy diminishes fear and therefore creates peace. I wish you the same.
 2. Second, I am happy because the Georges BUSH ERA is coming to an end. His militaristic adventures in Iraq and in Afghanistan have been so outrageous and so badly prepared that it can hardly be worse, but moreover I think humanity will not tolerate this again.
So we do have ahead of us a few years of peace, to build even more peace.
But there is a lot of work ahead of us.
While the hawks just have to handle their warmonger and dehumanizing discourse, we need to create a whole new type of society, based on love and on peace by peaceful means.
 3. Finally, I am very happy because I am, because we are, preparing the tools of peace that we need, to create such a society based on love and peace by peaceful means.

03. Let me explain. I am a peace researcher, coordinator, at “APRED, the participative institute for the non militarization of conflicts and societies”.

Our main focus of work aims at creating peace tools for institutions.

Some of these tools, the ones we work on and use are :

1. Non militarization, the countries without Armies, of which I speak thoroughly.
2. The human right to peace, of which I will speak a little bit as well, as it is an essential tool for safety and peace building.
3. Peace zones, including sometimes here in Japan for the non defended localities movement. I give another conference tomorrow in Kawasaki city.
4. We also work on participative democracy, because democracy is made by the people, for the people.
5. And we work on peace through constitutions and law, which also makes me very happy to be here today, as a lawyer, amongst so many good hearted colleagues.

04. I am a humble peace servant.

In the world we prepare, a world with more equality, there will be less places for heroes and leaders. And this is good for peace creating, because each and every one of us, in our own manner and at all levels of society, we all bring our own **soft** stones to the creation of peace. So thank you very much, not only for being here today, but also for actively participating in the peace making process.

05. So I came to you to talk about the most humble of all countries, the small ones, the defenceless ones: **The countries without armies.**

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1.01. Living, a country living without an army is not a dream. It is perfectly possible.

There has been countries without armies for almost as long as there has been countries.

Andorra is 700 hundred years old, 700 hundred years without an army and without a major conflict!

The phenomena of countries without armies is nothing new, it is just that we did not know about it.

I have been monitoring countries without armies for soon twenty years.

The knowledge of the existence of these countries, though often imprecise has become much more common. Therefore, my organisation is slowly moving from information work, to more creative action. We want to improve the peace policies of these countries. We are preparing

recommendations for them to become peace proactive, to become part of the solution not part of the problem.

1.02. One thing I do want to emphasize, **deeply**, before talking more about the countries without armies is that, be there an army or not, every one in every country, has a right, a total right, a human right to safety and security, to peace.

This right is already clearly inscribed in all major human rights texts (namely: art. 3 of the universal declaration of human rights: “*Everyone has the right to life, liberty and **security** of person*”.

Art. 9 of the UN covenant on civil and political rights: “*Everyone has the right to liberty and **security** of person*”, *for your local conventions on human rights find out for yourselves, but for Europe it is there as well.*).

This right to security has been largely ignored, may be because the time for it was not ripe yet, but and I insist, it is a **human right to peace**, and for the 60th anniversary of the human rights declaration this year, we do mean to claim it, preventively.

This right is important for countries without armies, because it implies that safety is serious and that it can be assumed even if there is no army, and as history shows, it can be assumed in more efficient ways than while having an army.

1.03. Countries without armies exist because of circumstances (mostly they are too small to have an army) or ... they exist because these countries made that choice.

For the ones that made such a choice, **Costa Rica, Panama, Kiribati and Liechtenstein** they translated their decision into their constitution, as well as in facts. For them the situation is clear and simple: There is no army whatsoever, even in times of war. In times of war, troops may eventually be levied, but they are part of the police

For all the other countries without armies, the situation is a bit more complicated, and the limit between having an army or not having an army is harder to draw.

This country is without an army

This country has an army

This country has a big police

This country has no police

Ooops, sorry to say but this still does not exist; all countries do have a police... Let's talk about that later.

For a long time, **Maldives Islands** had no jails. If you did something society would disagree to, you just had to change island, go from one palm tree paradise to another palm tree paradise. But

then they got some sort of a democratic dictator. He's been in place for more than two decades by now, and so it is that now they have many jails, they have a strong police force to put people in the jails, but they also have something worse, more severe of a force, with an unclear goal, like keeping a dictator in power.

1.04. Be it by choice or by circumstances, the existence of countries without armies is full of lessons on how to handle conflicts without violence, without resorting to a military intervention. Making an inventory of these lessons of non militaristic solutions will be my organisation's next research project.

Why does **Liechtenstein** still exist? In year 1868, they send the soldiers home, 50 or so of them, because it was too expensive to have a military (of even 50 soldiers). What an example.... In 1918, at the Versailles treaty they could prove they were neutral, and therefore save themselves from dismantling, because they had no army.

1.05. People sometimes say that these countries without armies have protectors. Well it is the case for 6 of them out of 27 or so depending on how you count.

Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall islands have compacts of **free** association with the United States of America. But it is not very free.

Monaco is under French protection. They are not very free either. Strangely while

Liechtenstein and San Marino were not defended during World War II, they were not invaded, Monaco was defended and it was invaded.

Niue and Cooks islands have compacts of free association as well, but with New Zealand these compacts are much better than the ones we just talked about. New Zealand is responsible for defence, but must consult with these countries before acting.

All the other countries without armies prefer to remain independent and to rely more on collective security.

1.06. Now not having an army does not mean giving up the countries and the people's rights.

Why do **Icelanders** still eat cod fish? Because to save local fishermen's work from industrial fishing they started the only non-violent war launched by a government that I know of so far:

"the Cod wars". And the Icelanders did win, in the end, when the economic exclusive zone was recognized by the law of the sea.

1.07. I heard yesterday that some people in Japan want to get an army to free themselves from American influence. It may be true, but this would only be imitating the oppressor, by choosing a similar oppressive tool. To really get free of an influence one needs to invent (or at least to use) something different and better.

1.08. Well, is “not having an army” much better than “having one”?

I can say that no country without an army has ever been wiped out of existence. Some have remilitarised, but none disappeared. Add to this that all of them (except Maldives as we seen) are democratic; add that the situation of women is much better there (we have statistical proof) and add that these countries are (it is proven too) much more prosperous than countries with armies...

I think we have here, in countries without armies, a very strong microcosms that proves that a culture of peace is viable.

Let's expand it! I encourage the Japanese people and all the supporters of article 9, not only to protect it, but to prepare themselves for living without an army, for a world without armies.

2.01. I have a few minutes left so I want to give a few thoughts on the **theory of non-militarization**. (I am only beginning to work on it, don't expect too much of me...)

2.02. Society has 3 levels:

- At the top, the international community, the UN wants peace.
 - At the bottom, the people. When asked properly, every body wants peace.
 - In between there is the nation-states, 196 of them, all of them at UN except 3 They are the ones that have the monopoly of the use of force and they do enforce this monopoly on us.
- With non militarization viable, we prove that it is not the institution, the nation state that is the problem, but that it is the means the nation states uses, militarism that is.

2.03. Something else : The philosophy of enlightenment (Rousseau and Locke) said that what they wanted was “the greatest good for the greatest number”. With the philosophy of human rights we go further and better, “the greatest good FOR ALL”. No one is forgotten or left aside by human rights. I want no one to be left aside of peace.

Conclusion

3.01. In the early 1950's, when Japan started rearming, the country did not have the knowledge we now have about the countries without armies. For example, the experience of Costa-Rica, had not yet shown as valuable as it is now. Does it make a difference? It is now we need to make a stand and to create a Japan without an army.

3.02. In 1982, started in Switzerland a democratic movement to abolish the Swiss army. Twice, national referendums were held on the matter. It is still not yet won or achieved, but the group for a Switzerland without army has become an influential political partner, working for peace through demilitarisation.

3.03. I hope and know that the article 9 movement will not only work to preserve article 9, but also to prepare for the effective demilitarisation that is already inscribed in your constitution.

3.04. Mahatma Gandhi is the **very little man** that sparked the end of colonialism. Countries without armies are in my opinion **the very little countries** that will put an end to militarism and therefore to war.

Thank you for your attention.

Have a good life.

I love you all!