The statement below will be run as a signature ad in the Columbia Daily Tribune &/or the Columbia Missourian on August 6. Below the statement and the names we will list contact info for the sponsors, event info and Web resources. We invite you to add your name. Suggested donations of $3-$25 to help defray the cost are not required but are needed and encouraged.

WE NEED A PEACE ECONOMY.
END THE WARS NOW.
ELIMINATE NUCLEAR THREATS.

It is time for real change, and a Peace Economy is the change we need. True security will be achieved through nonviolently resolving conflicts, meeting human needs, learning to live sustainably and beating our swords into plowshares. We have lived with continuous wars—hot and cold—since 1941. It doesn't have to be like this. Moreover, continuing on the present course leads only to further disasters. In the near term, we call upon the administration of President Barack Obama to:

1) **End the occupations and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and avoid involvement in wider conflicts in Iran or Pakistan.**

2) Make **dramatic cuts in the bloated military budget**, freeing up much needed funds to invest in the **creation of a peace economy**.

3) Follow up on encouraging rhetoric and make concrete strides toward **globally abolishing all nuclear weapons**.

As we observe the 64th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, on August 6 and 9, 1945, respectively, we must learn from history. We recall with sadness the more than 200,000 people killed in those two bombings. We recognize that nuclear weapons are not legitimate instruments of foreign policy; they are devices so destructive and murderous that their use, production, testing and deployment must be outlawed forever. Furthermore, Pentagon plans for a whole new generation of nuclear weapons must be rejected.

Just as we are not made safer by a vast nuclear arsenal, spending as much on the U.S. military as the rest of the world spends combined does not enhance our security. A peace economy, on the other hand, holds the potential for sustainable development and prosperity. Ongoing war only enriches a handful of powerful corporations, leaves the rest of us poorer, and burdens future generations with massive debt.

It's time to take seriously the words of President Dwight Eisenhower who, in his farewell address, warned against the growing influence of the "military-industrial complex" and reminded us that "Disarmament, with mutual honor and confidence, is a continuing imperative."

We the undersigned wish to send a clear message to President Obama and Congress. It is time to end the Bush era wars. Bring our troops home promptly. And care for them properly. Work diligently for mutual, verifiable disarmament. A real commitment to nuclear disarmament is one of the keys to non-proliferation. Work to bring clean water, health clinics, schools and sustainable economies—not bombs and troops—to impoverished, conflict-ridden regions. And at home, make a commitment to investing in people and a sustainable future. This is the sort of legacy we wish to leave to our children and theirs.

Printed Name (As will appear in paper) Legibly please!	Signature	Full Address or E-mail Address	Phone (to call only if we can't read your name)	Donation $3 - $25 (Optional)

This signature ad is organized by the Columbia Peace Coalition. Please return signatures as soon as possible and **no later than July 25** to the Peace Nook, 804-C E. B'way, Columbia, MO 65201. Make contributions (tax-deductible) payable to Mid-Missouri Peaceworks. For more information please call 573-875-0539.