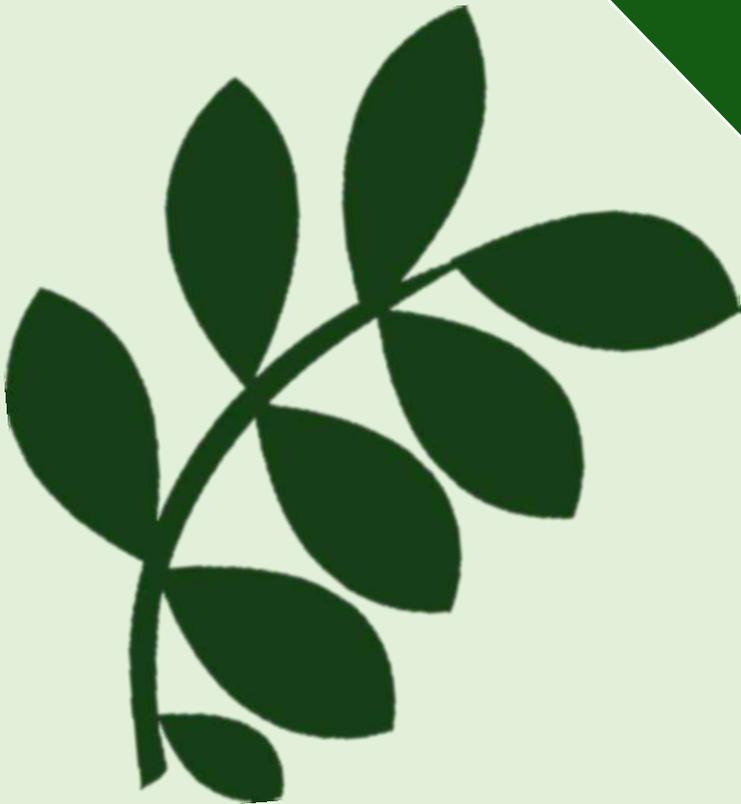




**IPB**  
International  
Peace Bureau

# *Newsletter*

July 2017



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Many important and impressive events have happened in the last few weeks.

The second term of the *United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination* began on June 15<sup>th</sup> and ended on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2017– when the Ban Treaty was adopted. This is a historic moment for the entire anti-nuclear movement.

More than 120 non-nuclear weapons countries stood united against nuclear weapons countries and their allies, and withstood the pressures that were put on them. In this regard, one needs to point out to the strong support they received from civil societies from all around the world that years well before the negotiations started and during, have put so much effort into defending the cause. It is a historic moment to celebrate!

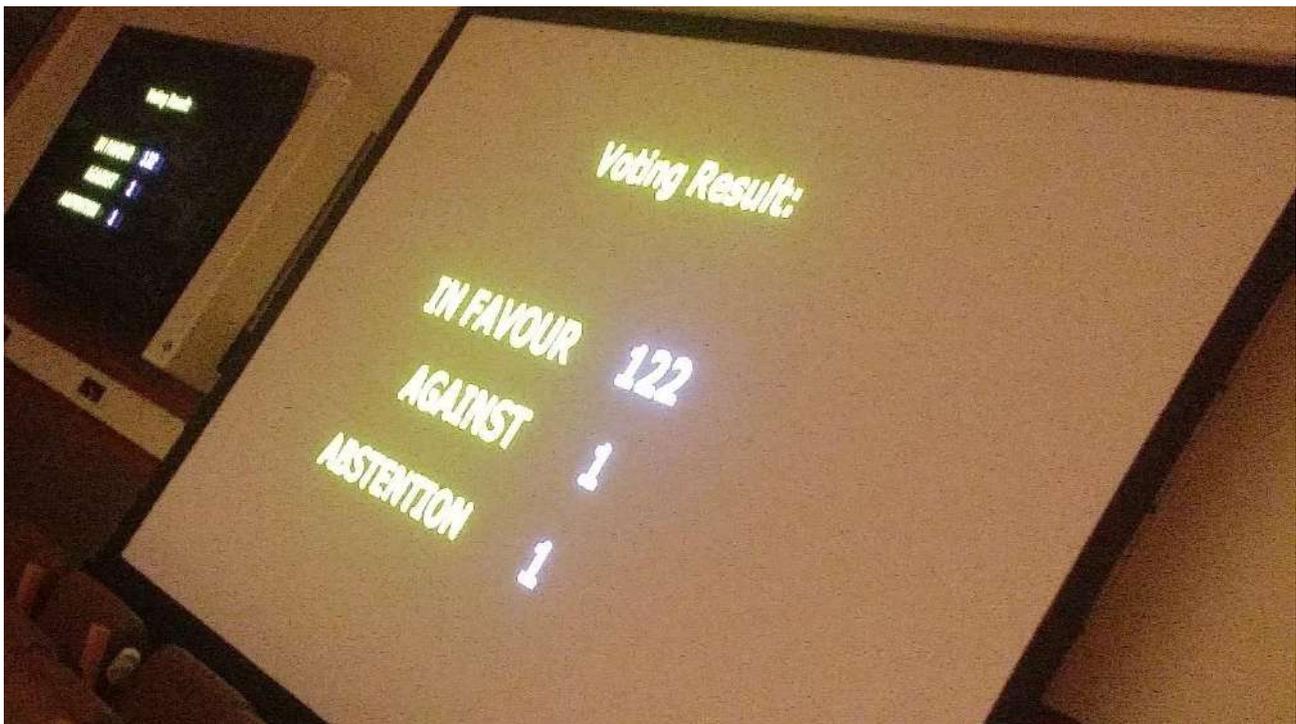
Nevertheless, our efforts cannot end here. As atomic bomb survivor Setsuko Thurlow said in her moving announcement on July 7<sup>th</sup>: “This is the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons”. This means for us, more than ever now, we have a great responsibility to continue the fight for nuclear disarmament. One first step has been achieved; we now have to follow up.

The same week the treaty was adopted the G20 Counter Summit for Global Solidarity took place in Hamburg. It was very successful as visited by more than 1500 people that discussed global injustices, the challenges we face such as disarmament and social development, environmental issues etc. Many protest mobilizations were also conducted on Hamburg’s streets. Unfortunately, some riots were not completely peaceful. Those ones caught most of the media’s attention and as a consequence, the largest peaceful demonstration against the G20 that united 80.000 people was almost neglected.

Above, our July newsletter will share more information on the Ban Treaty and the unique step this is for us all. We will also share with you our experience at the G20 Counter Summit and inform you of the recent IPB office developments.

We hope you enjoy it!

Amela Skiljan



## TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

### General Impression

*CND chair Dave Webb has been participating at the UN talks in New York - here he shares his experience of civil society input into the negotiations and reflects on the discussions taking place.*

"The general feeling among civil society members here at the Ban Treaty conference at the UN in New York, is one of high expectation and excitement. Some 123 countries have attended the talks so far and others are expected to join before the final session in July. Campaigners and civil society activists are working hard to get more missions along and add their voices to the mix – even the nuclear weapon states would be welcome - it is important to get as many voices there as possible.

What marks this as a particularly interesting discussion is that civil society has been given the opportunity to comment on and respond to

the draft and the comments from the ambassadors present. There have been some excellent speeches and presentations from many international organisations so far. In addition, many important side events have already been held and more are due to take place over the course of the conference.

The comments on the draft treaty have been mostly positive – only the Netherlands has struck a negative tone. But they are the only NATO member present - the government in the Netherlands has been pressed so hard by the Dutch people that it had no choice but to come. However, insisting that any treaty should not stand in the way of enabling the Netherlands to host US nuclear weapons as part of their contribution to NATO, does not appear to have been taken seriously. It is one of the aims to the treaty to stop just this kind of practice."

The Whole article can be found <http://cnduk.org/cnd-media/item/3431-the-latest-from-the-ban-treaty-tal>

## IPB Side Events

*Joseph Gerson, American Friends Service Committee, chaired an IPB side event at the UN on the impacts of the Ban Treaty*

Speakers in our International Peace Bureau panel shared perspectives of movements in non-nuclear weapons states, umbrella states, and nuclear weapons states. Following is a summary of their comments along with several of those of the 35 people who joined the session:

Linette Ngayu of Kenya and the African Council of Religious Leaders: Their focus will be on winning ratification of countries across Africa. They are very focused on learning the legislative process of each country, identifying the people (targets) needed to win ratification – including the public, building awareness and identifying champions to lead the ratification campaigns in the countries represented in the African Council. After listening to other speakers, Linette expressed her sympathy for those who will have harder uphill struggles to win signings and ratifications.

Susie Snyder of PAX in The Netherlands: Susie conveyed her excitement and that of many of the negotiators and civil society representatives involved in the negotiations. After the party celebrating the completion of Treaty negotiations this Friday, the focus will be on winning signings by September 20. Building on and from the Treaty will need to be tailored for specific countries. In the Netherlands, a NATO nation, they have to manage their expectations and will engage in an uphill struggle to get the government to sign the Treaty. If a couple of NATO states opted to sign the Treaty, it would have enormous impact. The nuclear weapons states will join when they will, but this should not be a priority. Instead, the priority will be working with parliamentarians, the press and the public. She stressed changing the narrative, focusing on humanitarian consequences rather than traditional security considerations. PAX will also use the Treaty to help build its “Don’t

Bank on the Bomb” campaign of divestment from nuclear weapons producers.



Lucas Wirl of the German branch of International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms and IPB was not as hopeful as Susie and underlined the importance of managing our expectations.. That said, the Treaty will be a powerful resource, a “door opener,” for nuclear disarmament organizing in Germany, including the important work of getting the wider peace movement to take on campaigning for nuclear weapons abolition. He stressed that we need to engage our friends in related movements, as well as our foes. After pointing to the destabilization caused by nuclear weapons “modernization”, and NATO’s first-strike doctrine which increase the possibilities of nuclear weapons use, he pointed to the need for increased national and international movement cooperation and exchanges. IPB is currently considering organizing such a strategy session in Geneva at the time of the next NPT PrepCom. He also suggested that on July 7, 2018, the anniversary of the completion of the Treaty negotiations as a time for international actions to support and build on the Treaty.

Kate Alexander of New York Peace Action reinforced the need to manage our expectations, especially in nuclear weapons states, given the \$1.2 trillion U.S. commitment to upgrade its nuclear arsenal and delivery systems and other nations’ “modernization” programs. She hopes the Treaty will help to

refocus concerns about nuclear weapons to the present, rather than the past of Cold War history. She stressed that the \$1.2 trillion could wipe out all U.S. student debt, meet U.S. Paris Climate commitments 400 times over, and more than 400 times the cost of addressing the global refugee crisis. She spoke of the importance of achieving a nuclear weapons free world while the Hibakusha are still with us.

Participant comments and panelists responses included:

- (1) The need to engage Russia in nuclear disarmament: We need to more deeply engage East European and Russian civil society figures, to deal with NATO's aggressive policies – in part by a Helsinki II process
- (2) Education, education, education
- (3) Where to focus energies in the U.S.: The rising generation of Congressional representatives, senators and governors
- (4) The only way forward is with grassroots education and organizing
- (5) Coalition building: building collaborations with all sectors of society: religious, labor, environmental, etc.
- (6) Nuclear weapons are a symptom of the belief that we can have what we want, and that we can get it through pressure. Our movements need to engage with those who support nuclear weapons by listening, empathy and understanding, and building from there via diplomacy.

To find out more about the **Women's March to ban the Bomb** please visit:

<https://www.womenbanthebomb.org/>



IPB has been engaged in **4 side events** at the UN. At one of them, we invited **Sergio Duarte** as a speaker. His statement on the ban treaty can be found at:

<http://bit.ly/2utxygh>

- (7) Learn from and emulate the successes of other movements, especially those engaged in divestment campaigns.

Among the points made by the chair were:

- (1) The urgency of the moment, especially in light of the U.S.-DPRK confrontation, Trump's "all options on the table" response, and the need for diplomacy
- (2) The importance of supporting Jeremy Corbyn and the British movement. Were Corbyn to become Prime Minister and then restate his refusal to push the button and block Trident replacement, a critical process could begin within NATO nations and thus impact the nuclear powers.
- (3) The importance of will, experimentation, communication among our movements, coalition building beyond single issue silos, and actions across the wide spectrum of means.
- (4) The importance of using the Abolition 2000 e-list to share news about our successes and how we are building on/working with the BAN Treaty so that we can reinforce one another's work.

## The Ban Treaty is adopted

*CND Secretary General Kate Hudson comments the Ban Treaty provisions*

CND has been campaigning for the global abolition of nuclear weapons ever since its foundation in 1958, so the news today that the United Nations has agreed a treaty which can make exactly that happen is very welcome. The challenge for everyone now is to persuade the nuclear armed states to sign up.

More than 130 states took part in the talks, and we hope many of them will be joining when the treaty opens for signature in September. Given the UK's persistent boycotting of the process it's unlikely that we'll be one of the first states to sign, but the work to bring the government into the fold starts now.

The treaty contains many of the key features that CND has been calling for in a ban treaty. It is a strong and comprehensive text which has the potential to bring the world closer than ever to achieving a world without nuclear weapons.



Article 1 is a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons and other related activity. The list of prohibitions includes the use, stockpiling, testing, production, manufacture, stationing and installation. Article 1 also bans assisting with the prohibited acts, such as the United States leasing the Trident missiles to the UK to carry nuclear warheads. It will also be illegal to allow nuclear weapons to travel through territorial waters or airspace.

Articles 3 and 4 set out how the meeting of obligations are measured, including the verification of the irreversible destruction of nuclear weapons and the programmes to develop them. There are provisions to strengthen the safeguards and a prohibition on them being weakened.

Articles 6, 7, and 8 require states to provide assistance to victims of nuclear weapons, either through their use or through testing. It is also a requirement that action is taken in contaminated areas. There is also a requirement to encourage other states to join the treaty, and for regular meetings to review the progress being made.

While states will be encouraged to join the treaty at the first opportunity, likely to be in September, there are provisions in Article 4 for states to join at a later stage. The nuclear weapons states would have to remove their weapons from operational status and eventually destroy them. This would have to be done through plans which would need to be submitted for approval.

The treaty is a significant pointer towards changing international attitudes to nuclear weapons. Previous treaties prohibiting chemical and biological weapons helped to stigmatise them in the minds of the public. Can you imagine being part of a chemical weapons alliance, as the UK continues to be part of NATO, a nuclear alliance?

While we welcome the treaty, it's important to be realistic. Given that the UK parliament voted almost a year ago to give the £205bn project to replace Trident the green light, it is unlikely that Theresa May will be signing up to the treaty any time soon. CND will continue to work with all our partners in Parliament and across civil society to oppose the replacement of Trident, as well as raising awareness of the treaty and the potential it has to bring about positive change.

Have a look at the **UNI Global Union** Statement to the UN conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading to their elimination

<http://bit.ly/2utq1hy>



## IPB calls for action

The Ban Treaty is also a document of hope. The vast majority of states do not want to continue to live under the nuclear sword of Damocles and they are taking action. This is a great step forward! As it has been all along this process, the Ban Treaty will only become an encompassing reality if manifold activities of the peace movements worldwide are encouraged and organized.

This means:

- To get as many signatories as possible we need to develop a campaign “Sign and Ratify”.
- We have to convince reluctant governments. How can we motivate NATO states to sign it and which arguments can we develop to build political pressure on them. How can we convince umbrella states?
- We also have to increase pressure on nuclear weapons states. As the Treaty says, nuclear weapons pose grave implications for human survival, the environment, socioeconomic development, the global economy, food security and the health of current and future generations. More actions and mobilizations against nuclear weapons need to be taken in these countries.

The International Peace Bureau asks for your engagement and action: let’s think together about how we can shape and develop a worldwide campaign to support the Ban Treaty. Ideas and creativity are needed but also more actions and manifold acts.

Let’s wait no more, and let’s not wait, but benefit from the momentum of the Ban Treaty negotiations in New York. Let’s engage in new international processes, work with the international peace movement, include other sectors into the movement (e.g. trade unions, churches, the environment, gender...) and aim to create a nuclear weapons’ convention for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Our idea is to develop an international campaign encouraging the signing and ratification of the Ban Treaty. We would like to invite you to contact your governments and persuade them to take such actions.

The IPB with its more than 350 members will actively support and accompany this process. Like other organizations have done, we would also like to suggest to as many organizations as possible the choice of awarding ICAN and the Hibakushas with the Nobel Peace Prize in the upcoming elections. They really deserve it.

As its own contribution to support the Ban Treaty, IPB plans to organize an international conference on the weekend before the next NPT PrepCom in Geneva. This conference will gather civil society organizations from different backgrounds in order to explore common strategies towards a quick implementation of the Treaty and the road to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Please use all future peace and anti-nuclear events to promote the Ban, above all on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August.

We have accomplished one step: the treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons exists. It now has to become reality as a milestone on the road to a nuclear weapons free world.

The whole letter can be downloaded at: <http://bit.ly/2eKyM1f>



## GLOBAL CAMPAIGN ON MILITARY SPENDING

The beautiful map above shows all the activities, which were part of the Global Days Against Military Spending (GDAMS) 2017. Soon we will publish a report on all activities this year.

We are very much looking forward to it.

Here is a very short part of it:

*“During 10 days, **120 GDAMS events took place in 30 countries.** These events varied in shape and size depending on countries and partners. As in previous years, a whole range of actions were organized, including: street protests/demonstrations, seminars, press conferences, media releases, videos, petitions, peace vigils, penny polls and photos. These*

*various actions highlighted the unacceptable global military expenditure of \$1.69 trillion in 2016, and linked it to regional, national and local issues like the Pentagon*

*budget hearings in the U.S., the militarisation and drug wars in Latin America, the economic crisis in Europe, nuclear weapons modernisation, the tendency towards militarism in Japan, the growing tension between South and North Korea and other issues.*

*This report includes all actions organized during GDAMS 2017 with a selection of photos. Please visit [our website](#) or [Flickr page](#) to see the full collection of reports/photos/videos.”*



## NEWS FROM THE IPB OFFICES

### **The Changing landscape of the International Peace Bureau (IPB)**

*Lohes Rajeswaran, Treasurer IPB*

Over the last few months, IPB is in the process of decentralizing its operations. Work being carried out from three offices instead of one, Berlin, Geneva and Barcelona. Each office has its specific function. The Berlin office is the coordination centre of IPB, Barcelona manages the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) project, Geneva office will be representing IPB at the United Nations in Geneva and plan activities relevant to the work of the UN.

We are currently in a transition period. The last few months several meetings, workshops and participation in events have taken place internationally. IPB continues to be visible and effective in its work in the international arena. We are working towards IPB's vision and goals with a great impact internationally.

The state-of-art in technology, communication, networking, the concept of sharing space is in vogue, this is relevant to the 21 century needs, importantly it is *cost cutting to organizations and at the same time enables activities to be more visible (social media), have an impact at*

*low costs.* With this new trend of working IPB is going forward with its work

As of 1 July 2017,

The International Peace Bureau,

**relocated** its office from 41 rue de Zurich, Geneva

to be housed within the

**Maison Internationale des Associations,  
Rue des Savoises 15, 1205 Genève**

Maison Internationale des Association is situated in the city centre of Geneva. It houses about 80 NGOs. Like IPB they are working for Peace and betterment of the world with their various activities, meetings and conferences etc. A sense of solidarity prevails all round.

IPB *continues* to work towards achieving its vision "A World Without War" through its programmes, awareness campaigns, and capacity building of youth.

## Introducing our new Summer Intern in the Berlin office

Our intern this summer is named Eugénie Zervos and is working with us during July and August helping out with the office's outreach and communications, designing material and membership care.

Both British and French, she studies at Durham University in the UK and has just completed a year-long study abroad in Colombia, South-America. It is her strong interest in Colombia's government recent negotiations with the FARC and signed peace accord that brought her to discover IPB's existence at the World Summit for Nobel Peace Prizes this February in Bogota. There, she learned about the United Nation's



participation in the process, was encouraged by and participated in civil society's mobilisation for peace and most of all realised the many obstacles that exist on the path to building peace. But she belongs to those that feel inspired, do not lose hope and wish to work in building a better future for humankind and the planet!



 *Donate*

IPB depends on your donations in order to develop and conduct its programmes and events independently. Every donation, regardless of the amount, counts! For more information please visit [www.ipb.org/donate/](http://www.ipb.org/donate/)

THANK YOU!



**SAVE THE DATE**

**4 DAYS 4 PEACE**  
in **Barcelona**

**23.—26. November 2017**  
Public event at the **Centre Delàs**  
**MacBride Prize Ceremony**  
**IPB Council Meeting**





© Reinhard Schwandt

## AN INTERVIEW WITH ALAIN ROUY ABOUT THE G20 IN HAMBURG

*Considering the recent events such as Macron's recent election and from a French perspective, what is your opinion of the G 20?*

In Hamburg, the newly-elected French president, so far presented as “young and modern”, only perpetuated the habitual, neoliberal politics of his predecessors, Sarkozy and Hollande. No new ideas or initiatives were mentioned by President Macron in reaction to the dramatic failures of past unfair commercial practices, notably in Africa or concerning his support for the Paris Accord on climate change. We had hopes that our new president would bring new ideas to the table and that France would relay the voices of unrepresented countries of the G20. We were hoping to be surprised by a new French foreign policy agenda promoting a fairer world economic order and tackling the roots of the conflicts tearing our planet. We were expecting strong

words demanding for the Paris Accord to be enforced. Well we didn't! President Macron did not bring these themes up, did not propose anything. In reality, the self-proclaimed G20 group only revealed and confirmed it served to defend the egoistical interests of the most powerful. Not only does the group have no legitimacy in discussing the world's problems, he most of all shows no desire to resolve them for the benefit of all.

*Is there any connexion between the G 20 and Peace & War?*

In perpetuating and comforting an unfair economic order, the G20 is only accentuating the tensions that are causing wars. Furthermore, the unrestrained rivalry between the great powers to claim ownership over resources is a permanent source of conflict. As mentioned by the participants of the World

Social Forum, the G20 is not the solution; it is the cause of many issues. The desired hegemonic status of great powers and the defence of their own interests to the detriment of the common good lead to a constant race for armament and an increase in conflicts. Instead of taking action to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the G20 powers waste funds into military spending; instead of tackling the grounding causes of migrations, misery and wars, they raise barriers and walls. Such a world can only mean and lead to eternal and endless wars.

*What were your impressions of the protests?*

I of course would like to insist on the difference that exists between the images of violence that are always reported by the media and the reality of the sensible actions of protest taken by organisations from civil society. While the abuses committed by a minimal minority are put forward in order to discredit all protest, often with the police's support, the World Social Forum and the grand march that united partisans of an "other world" on the Saturday, show that alternatives exist and that the world is not sentenced to be subjected to the current unfair economic world order forever. The quality of the debates that took place at the Forum, the combative atmosphere that prevailed and the joyful, colourful demonstrations on Hamburg's streets are great sources of optimism for the future. We still have to look into amplifying this voice that is offering a new vision of society, a fairer, more peaceful society, and use all occasions to make our voices heard from public opinion.

*What is your opinion on the EU's militarisation and the recent agreement between France and Germany for a new generation of fighter jets?*

Following Brexit, head of states and governments of the European Union did not find a better way to "revive Europe" than to follow a "European common defence" strategy and to create "European funding for the

defence industry". On the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2017, the European Council decided to implement an ambitious "Permanent Structured Cooperation" (PESCO), specifying it had to "be coherent with each member State's national defence planning and the engagements agreed upon as part of NATO". Considering them to be "historic", the French president unfortunately deeply pushed for such decisions to be taken and even went further into French-German relations at the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 French-German Council of Ministers.

Concretely this means the EU is subject to NATO's order who is asking each country to spend 2% of its GDP on defence. The EU is therefore throwing itself in a new arms race. Whilst the French government, starting from this year, has been planning on reducing necessary public spending, in education, healthcare and social services, the army's budget will be the only one to increase in 2018. It will even "reach 2% of its GDP in 2025" announced President Macron. This decision for greater militarisation and armament is very harmful and we pacifists are very opposed to it. In our opinion, the future of European security needs to lean towards the creation of a larger European framework for cooperation and collective security, overstepping the limits of the present EU, including Russia and all non-member countries to the EU.





## THE CAMPAIGN „STOP AIR BASE RAMSTEIN“ AND ITS ACTION WEEK 2017

The US Air Force Base at Ramstein, Germany, is a central pivot for preparing and executing wars of aggression violating international law. Most of the lethal missions of US combat drones, e.g. in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Syria, and Africa, are conducted via Ramstein's satellite relay station.

US drone pilotes from a multitude of military bases use Ramstein for operating killer drones in illegal war missions around the world. In Ramstein itself, about 650 personnel continuously analyze, update and pass on data from the surveillance of alleged targets.

This is why peace activists initiated a campaign against drone war and the Air Force Base in

Germany. As a platform for the many peace movements and activist this campaign aims at bringing together the different spectrums and to bundle peace related activities. Following the habit of recent years there will be an action-week in 2017 between September 3rd and 10th in Kaiserslautern/Germany. Including an international congress on military bases, an evening event with outstanding speakers and a music festival as well as a week long protest camp near the Air Force Base. The detailed program reads as follows:

Program	Date	Place
Protest Camp	3 - 10/09/2017	near Air Base, Kottweiler-Schwanden
International Congress on military bases with:  <i>Ann Wright, Ikuko Ueno, Hohyun JoI a. o.</i>	08-09/09/2017	Church (Versöhnungskirche) Kaiserslautern
Evening Event with:  <i>Daniele Ganser, Ann Wright, Eugen Drewermann</i>	08/09/2017	Church (Versöhnungskirche) Kaiserslautern
Action: Human Chain	09/09/2017	Ramstein center to Air Base
Festival  <i>Leslie Clio Patrice Dieter Hallervorden and many others: <a href="https://www.ramstein-kampagne.eu/event/friedensfestival/">https://www.ramstein-kampagne.eu/event/friedensfestival/</a></i>	09/09/2017	Cultural Center „Kammgarn“, Kaiserslautern

For further information and details, please visit: <http://www.ramstein-kampagne.eu>

Call for action (English version): <http://www.ramstein-kampagne.eu/appeal/>

**Editorial:** Amela Škiljan  
IPB  
Marienstraße 19-20  
10117 Berlin  
Germany  
[www.ipb.org](http://www.ipb.org)