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# Newsletter

*November 2015*

## TACKLING TERROR



*Along with civil society organizations across the globe, IPB expresses its deep solidarity with the victims of the recent terrorist attacks, their families and friends; not only in Paris but in Lebanon, Sinai, Nigeria, Mali and elsewhere.*

*At the same time we disagree deeply with those leaders (and mass media) who have immediately decided -- with little public consultation -- to 'wage war'. As if they were not already at war!*

*To ramp up military rhetoric and launch more missiles at ISIS targets risks falling into the trap carefully set by the jihadis. It should be evident that no military solution is possible. How is it that politicians cannot draw the lessons from the last 15 years: after so many fruitless interventions, massacres of civilians, torture campaigns, political chaos, violations of civil liberties, radicalization and increasing terrorist blowback? The stage is now set for a serious increase in casualties in the region and beyond; more refugees; very probable retaliation against civilians; and further polarization on all sides.*

IPB's choice is the path of non-violence. Read the full IPB statement [here](#).

This month's newsletter features a special edition section devoted to the terror attacks. It highlights analyses and responses that are relevant to IPB's mission to Disarm for Development.

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## Making Peace: Needed More Than Ever



Following the recent terrorist attacks and the military-oriented responses of several governments, the need for education about peace is all the more important. Exhibitions such as 'Making Peace' - curated by Ashley Woods and produced by the International Peace Bureau - can help to inform and inspire the general public, especially young people, about the importance of peace making. Ironically, when the exhibition was recently presented in the Belgium city of Ypres, a small group of former British army personnel tried to have it removed. Thankfully the city (a member of **Mayors for Peace**) stood by the exhibition. As Mandela once said, "*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change*

*the world.*"

Click the link below to go to Making Peace on Facebook!

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## ISIS Attacks: Analyses and Responses



### EU Will Suspend Budget Limits to Allow for French Rearmament Drive

The European Union will show 'full understanding' to governments ramping up defense spending, effectively shelving Brussels' budgetary rules in the wake of the Paris terror attacks. Responding to Mr. Hollande's declaration, Pierre Moscovici, the EU's economic chief, said Brussels would not impose budgetary restrictions on governments protecting their citizens from terrorism, even though France's rearmament drive will fall foul of their deficit limit for the foreseeable future.

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### Obama's Drone War a 'Recruitment Tool' for ISIS, say US Air Force Whistleblowers

Four former US Air Force service members have issued an impassioned plea to the Obama Administration calling for a rethink of a military tactic that they say has 'fueled the feelings of hatred that ignited terrorism and groups like ISIS, while also serving as a fundamental recruitment tool similar to Guantanamo Bay'. In particular, they argue that the killing of innocent civilians in drone airstrikes has been one of the most 'devastating driving forces for terrorism and destabilization around the world'.

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### [More Analyses and Responses](#)

**Germany Reconsiders Military Intervention in Wake of Paris Attacks**

**'France is at War': Hollande Urges More Security Spending & Stripping of Citizenship After Attacks**

**EU Backs France's 'Mutual Defense' Request**

**France Needs to Boost Defense Spending, Reconsider Immigration Laws**

**If ISIS Uses Chemical Weapons, the West Will be Partly Responsible**

**EU Strengthens Control of Firearms After Paris Attacks**

**Markets Numb to Terror but Defense Stocks Trade at All-Time Highs**

## Military Spending



### War on Islamic State Brings \$50 Billion Europe Defense Boost

Europe's defense industry is set to reap a \$50 billion windfall as the terrorist attacks on Paris prompt governments to ramp up spending on military capabilities spanning from cyber security to fighter jets, armored vehicles and drones in effort to defeat Islamic State. France has halted plans to cut almost 10,000 military personnel, while Germany will spend an extra 8 billion euros on defense, Italy an additional 1 billion on security and Britain a further 12 billion pounds, all of which benefit companies such as BAE Systems Plc.

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### Budget Deal Reached, Pentagon Gives Thanks

After years of gridlock and partisan rancor, the budget impasse may finally be broken. The President won increases in 'non-defense' spending as a part of the deal but the Pentagon will still gobble up more than 50% of the discretionary budget. If allowed to increase spending at this pace, the Pentagon can look forward to its first trillion-dollar budget a decade from now.

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### More on Military Spending

**Baltics Raise Their Military Budgets and NATO Sends Troops in Response to Russia**

**UNGA Debates Disarmament and Development**

**Pentagon Spent \$43m on 'World's Most Expensive Gas Station'**

**Israeli Defense Ministry, Treasury Agree on \$15.6 Billion Defense Budget for 2016**

**The Best New Strategic Bomber a Corrupted Political System Can Buy**

**OPINION: Military Security and Human Security**

## Arms Trade



### France Signs Deal Worth \$10bn With Saudi Arabia

On October 13th, France announced a series of deals worth 10 billion euros with Saudi Arabia, reinforcing ties between the two countries. The agreements include contracts and letters of intent between the two countries; one of which is a Saudi order for 30 patrol boats while another creates a Saudi fund for investment in small and medium-sized French businesses.

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### Arab States Pose 'Critical' Risk of Defense Corruption

Arab states that buy billions of dollars worth of weapons are at high risk of corruption and pose a continuing threat to regional security and stability, according to a new report by watchdog Transparency International. The organization warns that 16 of 17 Middle Eastern governments are graded as posing either a very high or critical risk of defense corruption. With these governments often exceeding defense budgets, the question of corruption must be on the table when world leaders discuss arm trades and military spending in this region.

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### More on Arms Trade

**Columbia's Rebels Want Peace, but Fear Giving Up Their Guns**

**World of Warfare: The Biggest Arms Fair in the Middle East- in Pictures**

**European Network Against Arms Trade: EU Programme Officer Appointed**

**With Gun Assembly Plant, Defense Gets a 'Make in India' Project**

## Nuclear



### 2015 Don't Bank on the Bomb Report

PAX has just released a report titled Don't Bank on the Bomb that shows how fifty-three institutions prohibit or limit investments in nuclear weapon producers. The report also identifies banks, insurance companies and pension funds which have made \$493 billion available to nuclear weapons producers. Based on evidence presented in the report, activists worldwide call on financial institutions to stop any investments into weapons of mass destruction and for governments to ban nuclear weapons once and for all.

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### Nuclear Weapons Use and Spending: Parliamentary Actions in France, the UK and USA

The Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) have created a new report which features articles on topics such as; nuclear weapons and the US Presidential elections, Jeremy Corbyn and the UK debate on nuclear weapons, and a congratulations to PNND member Stephane Dion who recently became Foreign Minister of Canada.

[READ MORE](#)

### More on Nuclear Weapons

[Pugwash Nagasaki Declaration](#)

[NEW REPORT: Trident: The Need for a Comprehensive Risk Assessment](#)

[I Operated Britain's Nuclear Weapons and Jeremy Corbyn is Right to Oppose Trident](#)

## Impacts



### New Report: Environmental Mechanics- Re-imagining Post-Conflict Environmental Assistance

To mark the UN'S environment and conflict day 2015, the Toxic Remnants of War Project has published a new report titled Environmental Mechanics. This report explores how a more formalized system of post-conflict assistance could increase the protection of civilians and the environment, and create and strengthen norms against environmentally destructive military behaviors.

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### Environment: A Silent Victim of the Syrian Conflict

The five-year-old war in Syria has contributed to the largest refugee crisis since WWII; but, there is also another silent victim: the environment. A new report launched by PAX has revealed several short and long-term environmental and public health consequences of this war. Using satellite imagery, social media and UN reports, it identifies mass environmental destruction. The long-term impact of military activities on the environment largely remain neglected and unaddressed; therefore, PAX calls on parties in Syria and beyond to consider environmental threats and to strengthen the protection of the environment during armed conflicts.

[READ MORE](#)

### More on Impacts

[Sowing the Seeds of Syria: Farming Group](#)

[Rescues Plant Species Threatened by War](#)

[Germany Fulfills Oslo Convention Obligations Ahead of Time - 50,000 Tonnes of Cluster Munitions Destroyed](#)

## Miscellaneous



### 2015 Ottawa Peace Festival Foundation

Ottawa held its ninth annual Ottawa Peace Festival from 21 September through 2 October; the longest peace festival in North America. During the festival, twenty-seven peacebuilding events took place, involving twenty-three groups in nineteen locations across Ottawa, with total attendance estimated to be almost 900 people. Activities included film festivals, art exhibits, panel discussions, interactive workshops and more.

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BARCELONA 2015

### IPB Interns Attend 2015 World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates

From 12-15 November, IPB Interns accompanied board members and IPB Co-President Ingeborg Breines at the World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates in Barcelona. The interns attended various youth workshops and panel debates with Nobel Peace Prize Laureates; all of which provided inspiration and motivation for these young members of the peace movement!

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### More Miscellaneous

**The Future of Conflict: 20 Essays on Crisis Group's 20th Anniversary**

**In Memoriam: Dietrich Fischer**

**China is Establishing its First Military Base in Africa**

**These are the 100 Most Militarized Universities in America**

**Stunning Photos of Climate Marches**

## Resources



### New Book About Courageous Action that Led to the MacBride Peace Prize

In 1997 IPB awarded the Sean MacBride Peace Prize to the **Seeds of Hope Group**, UK, for disarming a Hawk aircraft bound for Indonesia. Now Angela Needham, one of the three women in the group, has written a book about the action that they took which won them the prize, and which also gained a huge amount of publicity for the anti-arms trade cause.

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### Just Released: 2015 Global Terrorism Index

Vision of Humanity has released its third annual Global Terrorism Index! The release being preceded by devastating terrorist attacks in Paris, Beirut and Baghdad, it is more important than ever to understand the underlying drivers of terrorism and violent extremism. The outcomes of the research are grim; as terrorism continues to rise and spread. This report contains data, analysis and research to help inform policy and ongoing debate.

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### More Resources

**New Style Peace Education News!**

**Peace Diplomacies: Negotiating in Armed Conflicts**

**Violence, Women and Guns: The State of Female Homicide in the World**



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