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Newsletter May, 2014

# NEWSLETTER



## DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

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\*Views expressed in summarized articles are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views of IPB\*

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### GDAMS 2014

The pressure for change is rising...that was the conclusion drawn at the end of the fourth edition of the [Global Day of Action on Military Spending \(GDAMS\)](#), held on 14-15 April 2014. This year's programme featured around 135 actions in 25 countries, including an extraordinary range of imaginative events: from rallies and distribution of flyers, to petitions, to 'penny polls' and other variations, to selfies and twitter campaigns, to tree-planting, sea actions, infographics, and much more. The events were held in a rural village in Rajasthan, in an urban settlement area in Manila, in a school in Canada, in a boat in the Suez Canal, at rapid transit stations in California, at the parliament office in Kenya, and in a Roman stadium in Italy, and in cyberspace.... and many other locations. [FULL REPORT](#)

### Military Spending

#### **Wartime spending decisions will constrain future U.S. national security budgets**

The Afghan and Iraqi conflicts, taken together, will be the most expensive wars in United States history, totaling somewhere between US\$4 and US\$6 trillion. The large sums borrowed to finance war-related operations will also impose substantial long-term debt servicing costs. As a consequence of these wartime spending choices, the United States will face constraints in funding investments in personnel and diplomacy, research and development, and new military initiatives. The legacy of decisions taken during the Afghan and Iraqi wars will dominate federal budgets for decades to come.

#### **Pentagon to destroy \$1billion in ammunition**

The Pentagon's plans to destroy usable ammunition worth \$1 Billion provoke a discussion about how the Pentagon manages the depots and about efficiency in the army. What the discussion seems to lack is the possibility of not

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#)**New Zealand raises defence spending for first time in four years**

The New Zealand government is to increase defence spending by 100.9 million NZ dollars (US\$85.97 million) over the 2014-2015 financial year in the first of four annual staged increases in funding for the military, Xinhua news agency reports.

See also this reaction from GDAMS-partner Peace Movement Aotearoa: **New Zealand budget, frigates or families?**

See also for Australia: **Future danger justifies defence boost, says Minister David Johnston**

**Middle East defence spending to reach \$920billion by 2020**

"Economic prosperity has been one of the reasons behind the rapid acceleration of defence spending in the Middle East since 2011," said Craig Caffrey, senior defence budget analyst at IHS Jane's Aerospace, Defence & Security. Sales from western countries and industries may be another one.

**India, Pakistan must reinvest in economic ties – US think-tank argues**

Arguing that heavy military spending has been detrimental to the people of India and Pakistan, a US think-tank today appealed to leaders of the two neighbours to reinvest in trade and confidence building. The Atlantic Council in its report said India and Pakistan need to shift this trajectory of military spending and turn toward greater confidence building. According to the article they could do this by many means, including: increased people-to-people contacts eliminating old stereotypes that fuel fears of each other; direct communications between their militaries, through exchange visits and more transparency about their military plans and movements.

**Aid to developing countries rebounds in 2013 to reach an all-time high**

Development aid rose by 6.1% in real terms in 2013 to reach the highest level ever recorded, despite continued pressure on budgets in OECD countries since the global economic crisis. Donors provided a total of USD 134.8 billion in net official development assistance (ODA), marking a rebound after two years of falling volumes, as a number of governments stepped up their spending on foreign aid. *On the other hand...*

**Global military spending trumps global aid**

While the UN asked for almost \$13bn to fund its humanitarian operations for a one year period, global military spending totaled \$1.75 trillion in 2013 - 130 times higher than the requested humanitarian aid in 2013 and 2014. The possibility of rising U.S. and Russia-China tensions, the Ukraine and Syrian crisis, the conflicts in Africa particularly in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, the ongoing instability in the Middle East, the conflict between South and North Korea, all can speed up the armament race in the near future while global humanitarian aid remains low in relative terms.

**East-African countries raise defense budgets**

East African countries increased their defense budgets at a faster pace than the continent's average last year, as their armies deepened their arms build-up in the face of new terrorism threats from groups like the Al-Qaeda linked Al-Shabaab, said Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which researches conflict and arms control across the world.

**Turkey becomes 14th biggest military spender**

Turkey has risen in the ranks to become the world's 14th top military spender, having allocated a budget of \$19.1 billion this year. Last year it was ranked 16th, but then skipped ahead of Canada, which has cut back slightly its military spending. Turkey also had to increase its own spending due to new threats emerging from the civil war in neighboring Syria.

**Focus: East Europe Military Expenditure****Kerry: Nato members must increase military spending**

In a stern warning from Washington, Secretary of State John Kerry urged NATO members in Europe to increase their defense spending over the next five years in the face of escalated Russian efforts to destabilize Ukraine and "change the security landscape of Eastern and Central Europe."

**Latvia: Petition started to increase defense spending**

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portal, reports LETA.

### **Romania to boost defence spending this year**

For similar reasons, Romania's Prime Minister announced that the government is increasing the defense ministry's budget by 0,2 % of national output. Romania got a 4 billion euro aid deal from the International Monetary Fund, which requires reductions - leading to a projected budget deficit this year equivalent to 2,2 % of GDP. The additional resources will benefit defense industries.

### **President of Lithuania urging parliament to approve sharp rise in defense spending**

NATO has an unofficial agreement that member states should invest around 2% of GDP in defense forces and infrastructure. Since Lithuania is now member of NATO, the President is urging parliament to approve a sharp rise in defense spending that would increase what the country spends from the current 0.8 % of GDP to 2% within five years. This change in thinking is in sharp contrast to 2009, when Lithuania announced it was cutting its defense budget by 20 %, to \$431 million. That was in the face of a Russian announcement that it would cut its military spending by 15 %. Those times have gone..

## **Arms Trade**

### **Swiss public rejects Gripen deal**

In its recent referendum the Swiss public has narrowly (53%) rejected its government's \$3.4bn plan to buy 22 Gripen fighter jets from Saab, dealing a blow to the Swedish defence company (and to the Swiss Minister of Defence). The jets would have cost \$3bn upfront and \$10bn-\$11bn over their lifetime. This vote sends a message to other European countries that are thinking of spending more on the military.

### **European Elections: What are politicians really doing on crucial issues?**

New website tracks votes on shale gas, GMOs, climate, arms trade and militarization.

### **EU Firms Help Power China's Military Rise**

As China boosts its military spending, rattling neighbors over territorial disputes at sea, an AFP investigation shows that European countries have approved billions in transfers of weapons and military-ready technology to the Asian giant. China's air force relies on French-designed helicopters, while submarines and frigates involved in Beijing's physical assertion of its claim to vast swathes of the South China Sea are powered by German and French engines — part of a separate trade in "dual use" technology to Beijing's armed forces.

## **Impacts of Weapons**

### **Norway to host meeting on explosive weapons**

Norway has announced that it will host an expert meeting on explosive weapons in Oslo, Norway on 17-18 June. The meeting is a follow up to the expert meeting hosted by Chatham House (London) with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and will look at the impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and ways of providing greater protection to civilians. The meeting is by invitation.

### **The Militarized Pacific: An Anniversary Without End**

Nowhere are the costs of a militarized Pacific better illustrated than in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). The tiny Micronesian nation, located between Hawaii and Guam, has just 53,000 people. The Marshallese are a young population - the median age is just over 19 years old - yet the country is burdened with some of the highest cancer rates in the Pacific following 12 years of US nuclear tests in what was called "the Pacific Proving Grounds." An profound analysis of the current situation, 60 years after the bombing.

### **Militarization of the Mesoamerican barrier reef harms indigenous communities**

The Cayos Cochinos off Honduras and at the southern end of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef are a protected area, but that protection - including a strong military presence - rarely extends to the Afro-Indigenous Garifuna communities or their lifestyle. The surge in US military and police aid to Honduras since the June 2009 coup has included \$10 million for three new naval bases along the Caribbean coast, and US training of an elite naval team. It has also led to four indigenous civilian deaths during DEA-run operations.

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### **NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

#### **Report: Religious Leaders at UN, Moral Compass and Nuclear Weapons**

On April 30, 2014, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines and the Global Security Institute, member of IPB, presented a panel at the NPT PrepComm entitled "Nuclear Weapons and the Moral Compass". The event took place against a backdrop of rising global attention to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, made possible by two international conferences in Oslo, Norway, and Nayarit, Mexico.

#### **New Assessment Documents Global Nuclear Weapons Modernization Efforts**

Nearly half a century after the five declared nuclear-weapon states in 1968 pledged under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) to "pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament," all of the world's nuclear-weapon possessors are busy modernizing their arsenals and continue to reaffirm the importance of such weapons.

#### **Report NE Asia-NWFZ Forum at NPT PrepComm, NYC**

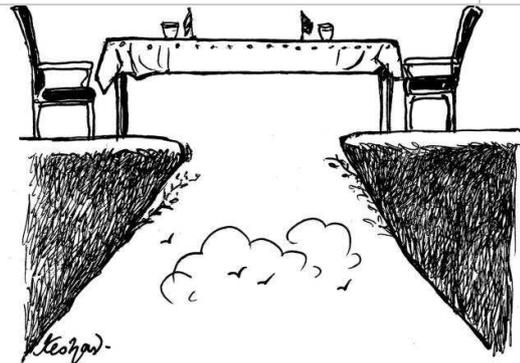
At the 3rd PrepComm for the NPT Review Conference, Peace Depot (member organisation) and 9 co-hosting NGOs (including IPB) successfully held the NGO Forum 'Time for Action to Establish a NorthEast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone'.

#### **Renew OEWG, keep the door open!**

In 2013, the United Nations opened the door to a nuclear weapons free world. Now we have the chance to keep the door open. Until June 1, 2014, states can submit their views to the United Nations on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

#### **Third conference on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons 8–9 December in Vienna**

The Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the dates for the 3rd international conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons which will take place on 8 – 9 December 2014 in Vienna. To capitalise on the momentum and to energise, educate and demonstrate the unity of civil society, ICAN will host a



### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **'Facing the Dangers' conference report**

On Saturday May 3rd, a conference took place at the Judson Memorial Church in New York on the centenary of World War I, titled *Facing the Dangers of a 21st Century Great Power War*. The all-day conference was well attended, with about 90 people present.

#### **UN: 'Killer Robots' on the Run**

The first multilateral meeting on the weapon systems concluded on May 16, 2014, at the United Nations in Geneva. During the meeting, numerous governments expressed support for the need to ensure meaningful human control over targeting and attack decisions in warfare, Human Rights Watch said.

#### **Landmines: One month until Maputo - Get the word out!**

The Mine Ban Treaty's Third Review Conference (3RC), will take place from 23 to 27 June in 2014 in Maputo, Mozambique. It will mark a critical moment in the Treaty's history, taking place 15 years after the Treaty's entry into force and the First Meeting of States Parties in 1999, which was also held in Maputo. The Review Conference will assess the progress made to date and provide a roadmap for the work ahead.

# MAKING PEACE

The photo-exhibition *Making Peace* will soon be opening in Sarajevo (28 June) as part of the official 'Sarajevo2014' programme commemorating the

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December 2014, immediately before the Vienna Conference.



The International Peace Bureau is a non-profit association founded in 1891, the oldest international peace organization, dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. Our network includes 300 member organisations in 70 countries. Our current main programme centres on Disarmament for Sustainable Development and we campaign mainly on the reduction of military expenditure. We depend on your support to continue working on this and a range of other topics, including nuclear and conventional disarmament, arms trade, peace education, culture of peace and peace history.

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This Newsletter was edited by Malte Albrecht. If you have feedback or material for the next edition please send to: [nletter@ipb.org](mailto:nletter@ipb.org)

The event is only possible due to the gracious support of both the City of Sarajevo and the City of Utrecht (where Making Peace was presented in 2013), together with both Dutch and Swiss governments. In collaboration with numerous local and international partners including the Council of Europe, OSCE and the Institute for Youth Development KULT, youths (local and foreign) attending the commemoration will – through a series of workshops - be introduced to the [5 key elements or Colours of Peace](#). At the same moment they will also have the opportunity of being the first to join the **Making Peace Youth Network**.

The entire exhibition including the Making Peace Educator's Guide designed by Christa Tinari (Peace Praxis) has already been translated into Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian in both latin and cyrillic scripts. Local schools will have the opportunity of using the Guide and work with images from the exhibition creatively in the classroom.

Partnering with local and international media including N1/CNN, Al Jazeera, the BBC and Radio Sarajevo, we are confident that a much larger audience will also get to hear about Making Peace.

If you / your organization would like to find out more about Making Peace or would like to see Making Peace presented in your town/city, please do let us know.

[help@makingpeace.org](mailto:help@makingpeace.org)

[www.makingpeace.org](http://www.makingpeace.org)



#### **IPB is in need of support! Please consider:**

Leaving us a legacy or making an endowment or a simple donation. In this way you can enable IPB to plan its work more effectively and thus help to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". For more information, please contact: Víctor de la Barrera, Treasurer - [victor@ipb.org](mailto:victor@ipb.org) - Tel: +41 (22) 731 6429

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