



IPB

International Peace Bureau

IPB Newsletter - February 15, 2013



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Introducing IPB

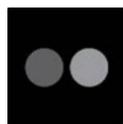
The **International Peace Bureau** is a non-profit association founded in 1891, the oldest international peace organization dedicated to the vision of a **World Without War**. Our network includes 300 member organisations in 70 countries. Our current main programme centres on **Disarmament for Sustainable 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.

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".

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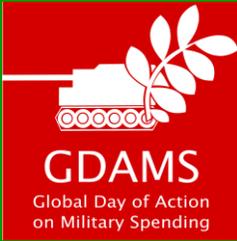
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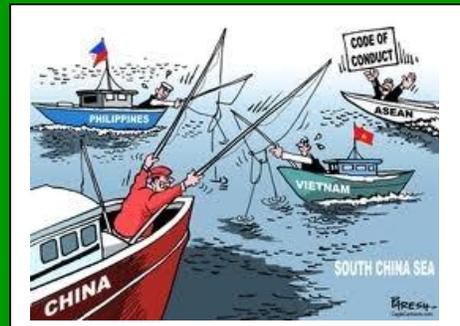


Global Day of Action on Military Spending 2013:

GDAMS 2013 will be on April 15. To sign up for the GDAMS newsletter, please join our [Google group](#). Have a look at the newsletter [here](#). For more news and updates visit www.gdams.org, **like GDAMS on Facebook**, and follow us on [Twitter](#)!

New IPB study on conflicts in S. China Sea

Geneva, 21 January 2013. IPB Secretariat is pleased to announce the publication today of a new 30pp IPB study entitled *Rough Seas Ahead? A study of resource conflict in the South China Sea and its relationship to the rising military budgets in Asia-Pacific*. Written by Pranati Mehtha, this is the latest in our series of studies looking at the geo-political context of military expenditure.



1. DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

1.1. MILITARY SPENDING

UNITED NATIONS

CNS, On Jan. 18, the UN Secretary-General delivered a major address on disarmament

"The world spends more on the military in one month than it does on development all year. And four hours of military spending is equal to the total budgets of all international disarmament and non-proliferation organizations combined...Bloated military budgets promote proliferation, derail arms control, doom disarmament and detract from social and economic development. The profits of the arms industry are built on the suffering of ordinary people..." See [full text and video](#)



UNITED STATES

J. Stiglitz & L. Bilmes, No US peace dividend after Afghanistan - Stiglitz & Bilmes predict huge post-war costs (FT)

January 23, 2013 - Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes claim that even if the costs of the war already amount to \$700bn, "the true cost of the war is only just beginning" and that "the costs after withdrawal may exceed those during the war". The expenditures will mainly cover the Veterans' Affairs budget estimated to hit \$140bn in 2013 as well as Tricare, the healthcare programme for the US military and their families, likely to consume 10 per cent of the defence budget.

SWITZERLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS

Cluster Munitions Coalition, [Disinvestment - good news from Switzerland & Netherlands on cluster munitions](#)

January 21, 2013 - In compliance with a new legislation, Swiss bank UBS declared on January 8 that it would revise its investment policy in companies related to cluster munitions. Indeed, legislation banning certain types of investments in cluster munitions entered into force in January 2013 in Switzerland and the Netherlands. The Dutch law, for instance, prohibits investing in a company engaged in the production, selling or distribution of cluster munitions. The Swiss Federal Law includes prohibitions on direct and indirect investments in the development, fabrication or acquisition of prohibited war material such as cluster munitions.

JAPAN

Asahi Shimbun, [Budget to strengthen SDF, Japan Coast Guard in defense of Senkakus](#)

January 30, 2013 - For the first time in 11 years Japan decided to increase its defense budget up to 4.75 trillion yen for the year 2013. The increase of 40 billion yen will be used to "protect the Senkaku Islands from intruders including China". In particular, Japan is planning to strengthen its maritime forces with the building of 10 patrol vessels.

UNITED KINGDOM

Henry Porter, [Opinion: What budget for defence? First let's work out Britain's place in the world](#)

February 3, 2013 - In response to the Defence Secretary's statement saying that the UK is committed to expenditure of £159 bn over 10 years Henry Porter argues that one must first evaluate the defence needs of the country. For instance, Porter raises the question whether or not the £35.8bn overall bill for the replacement of nuclear submarines will be effective in protecting the country from the many new challenges.

See also: Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, [Maths MoD-style: 1 + 1 = 2.8](#)

SWEDEN

Gerard O'Dwyer, [Sweden's Military Spending To Rise?](#)

February 1, 2013 - Sweden's Prime Minister faces growing pressure to increase the defense budget by up to \$700 million annually in order to restore the country as the region's military power. Pressures

became stronger after the military recently concluded that with the current \$6.1 billion budget, "Sweden could not be defended against a general invasion for longer than one week".

1.2 ARMS TRADE

ENAAT, Arms trade : EU arms embargo on Syria should not be amended, say peace groups

January 30, 2013 - Member groups from the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT) oppose UK's proposal to amend the EU arms embargo on Syria. Peace groups claim that "supplying arms to anti-Assad groups will increase future instability". Instead they recommend pressuring countries to stop supplying weapons to the Syrian government.

2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

UNIDIR, Highlights - humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use

2013 - The notion of examining the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use in order to contribute momentum toward nuclear disarmament is gaining renewed attention. In its agreed outcome document, the 2010 NPT Review Conference expressed "deep concern at the continued risk for humanity represented by the possibility that these weapons could be used and the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons."

UNIDIR has produced two new briefing papers for multilateral practitioners as part of a new project on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, which is funded by the Government of Norway. The first of these papers, authored by Tim Caughley, traces the notion of catastrophic humanitarian consequences in law and policy in the domain of weapons restrictions. The second paper, by John Borrie, examines the contemporary context and potential implications of viewing nuclear weapons through a humanitarian lens.

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Norwegian Pension Fund Excludes Nuclear Weapons Companies

January 11, 2013 - The Norwegian Ministry of Finance excluded Babcock & Wilcox Co. and Jacobs Engineering Group from the Government Pension Fund Global (GPF) as advised by the Council on Ethics. The Ministry also re-included three companies that ceased previous nuclear weapons work. (In the section Nuclear Disarmament).

R. Jeffrey Smith, Obama administration embraces major nuclear weapons cut - potential savings of billions of dollars

February 8, 2013 - Senior Obama administration officials have agreed that the number of nuclear warheads the U.S. military deploys could be cut by at least a third without harming national security, according to sources involved in the deliberations.

Reaching Critical Will, *Unspeakable suffering: A comprehensive report on the devastating impact of nuclear weapons*

February 2013 - *The study Unspeakable Suffering – The Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons* provides an up-to-date and disturbing look at the evidence of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons. The report's main conclusion is that, in the event of a nuclear explosion, first responders at national and international level would be unable to provide critical assistance to victims.

Japan Council against A and H Bombs, Gensuikyo's statement on North Korea's nuclear test

February 12, 2013 - The Japan Council against A and H Bombs protests against North Korea's third nuclear testing and demands the end to the nuclear and missile programs as well as effort for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. For full statement contact antiatom@topaz.plala.or.jp

3. MISCELLANEOUS

IPB, *IPB nominates WILPF and others for Nobel Peace Prize*

February 1, 2013 - The IPB has today nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2013 the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). WILPF is the oldest international women's peace organisation, with a record dating back to 1915. IPB's Secretary-General writes: "Given the breadth and depth of WILPF's engagement with all the key peacemaking issues of the past century, and today's challenges also, WILPF must undoubtedly be considered a 'Champion of Peace', fully meriting the award of the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize."

Karlos Zurutuza, *MacBride Prize winner speaks out on Women in Iraq - Interview*

January 16, 2013 - An interview with Hanaa Edwar, General Secretary of Iraqi Al Amal Association and Head of the Iraqi Women Network. She was awarded the IPB's Sean MacBride Peace Prize in 2011.

No to War - No to NATO, *Declaration French-German Peace Seminar, Berlin*

January 20, 2013 - German and French peace movements call for "peace and history of peace from the bottom up" in order to celebrate peace, friendship, disarmament, conflict resolution rather than the centenary of the beginning of World War I. They argue that commemorations such as the recent 50th anniversary of the signing of the Élysée Treaties, laying the foundation to peaceful relations between France and Germany, must not cover the fact these countries conduct military interventions in other parts of the world and may have forgotten the main lesson from two world wars - "Never again war".

4. RESOURCES

CPNN, Bulletin of World Report on the Culture of Peace for February 1, 2013

February 1, 2013 - The Culture of Peace News Network (CPNN) bulletin is a monthly newsletter providing information about events, experiences, books, music, and web news promoting a culture of peace. CPNN is a self-sustaining network in which all readers are invited to write news report and contribute to the discussions. The bulletins are available [here](#) in several languages. The February bulletin focuses on Latin America.

5. IPB's MAKING PEACE EXHIBITION : in many cities

The opening in **Utrecht** will be on the 5th May (and will last until end of July 2013) while in **Stockholm** the exhibition will open on 14 June (and will last until end of November 2013) with Hewlett Packard continuing to print the show free-of-charge. If you are nearby please do come along and / or be sure to let others know (Facebook or Twitter).

Recent talks were held with UNESCO with view to developing a smaller version of the exhibition that schools can use. To accompany this Christa Tinari of the Praxis Center, USA is putting the finishing touches to the educational guide which should be available in March on <http://www.makingpeace.org>

To coincide with WWI commemorations in 2014 we are also planning on presenting Making Peace in Paris, Manchester, Berlin and Sarajevo. If you would like to get involved in this exciting project please do let us know. Your input and local knowledge would be most appreciated. Just send a short mail to: help@makingpeace.org

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