



# International Peace Bureau



## Global Day of Action on Military Spending 2013



The third annual Global Day of Action on Military Spending was organised on 15 April 2013 with about 155 actions in 124 cities and towns in 24 countries covering all continents except Antarctica. GDAMS attracted extensive media coverage all over the world. [Read the report.](#)

## International Action Day for nuclear disarmament - 23 April Geneva (NPT PrepComm)



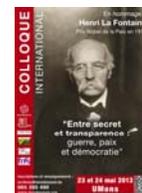
What a great day it was! A brilliant sunny day, a big space in front of the UN building, and a wide range of activists from several countries. The NGO Committee for Disarmament erected a big banner and collected responses for an opinion poll; a theatre group mimed the effects of the Chernobyl disaster; Mr Punch drove away the evil atom bombs; Japanese activists collected signatures for a petition. [Learn more and see the photo gallery.](#)

## Making Peace Exhibition in Utrecht: A success!



Making Peace was successfully opened in Utrecht, NL on the 5th of May by IPB Secretary-General Colin Archer and Ashley Woods, Making Peace Curator and Project Manager. [Read more and see the photos and watch the video.](#)

## IPB tackles transparency and peace history at conference in Belgium



Academics and activists from a range of countries gathered in Mons, Belgium in late May for an unusual gathering combining contemporary war and peace issues with the history of the peace movement. [Read the report.](#)

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# DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

## MILITARY SPENDING

### WORLDWIDE

#### [Redirect military expenditure to ensure a sustainable future \(Kumi Naidoo, The Guardian\)](#)

April 17, 2013 - Greenpeace joins the outcry against military spending and argues that governments must focus their efforts on avoiding conflict and achieving sustainability and equity rather than spending money preparing for conflict. Greenpeace also argues that governments should use their resources to mitigate the risks of the true “WMD” – “weather of mass destruction” instead of spending \$105bn a year on nuclear weapons.

### UNITED STATES

#### [Defense Cuts May Help U.S. Economy Says New Study \(PDA\)](#)

May 16, 2013 – Project on Defense Alternatives publishes a weekly *Reset Defense Bulletin* providing news, views and analysis of efforts to put US defense policy on a more effective and sustainable path.

Read:

#### [- Military spending is not right way to boost America's economic security \(By Michael Shank, Elizabeth Kucinich, Fox News\)](#)

The authors argue that military spending is unproductive and inflationary; and that it makes the industry inefficient as a job creator.

#### [- Pilotless Planes, Pacific Tensions \(Richard Parker, New York Times\)](#)

While the US is developing autonomous drone warfare, Richard Parker highlights the risks of such technology that could potentially turn in a dangerous drone-centric war that we don't yet fully understand.

#### [Resources to Counter Asia-Pacific War Preparations](#)

May 2013 - Joseph Gerson writes: *“As you know, the Pentagon and the major elements of the military-industrial-congressional complex are in the midst of their pivot from Iraq and Afghanistan to Asia and the Pacific. Last month the U.S. ratcheted up the Korean crisis with simulated nuclear attacks on North Korea with B-2 and B-52 bombers, and in the fall both Obama and Congress said that if it came to war between Japan and China over the uninhabited Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands (rocks), the U.S. was treaty bound to fight on Japan's side”*.

#### [KBR Tells U.S. Army It Will Cost \\$500 Million and Take 13 Years to Close Its Iraq Contract \(Noel Brinkerhoff, AllGov\)](#)

May 15, 2013 - The recipient of the largest government services contract in U.S. history has told military officials it will take another 13 years and half a billion dollars to finish off its 'work' stemming from the Iraq war. This assessment from [Dick Cheney's corpora-terrorists,] *KBR Inc.*, which won the \$38 billion deal from the U.S.

Army in 2001, is at the heart of a legal battle between the two sides. KBR was responsible for aiding virtually all American military support operations as part of the [Logistics Civil Augmentation Program \(LOGCAP\) III](#) in Iraq.

**See also:**

[Pentagon Lets \\$100 Million in Overcharges by KBR Go Uncollected \(Noel Brinkerhoff, AllGov\)](#)

[Pentagon Fines KBR...Then Gives it a \\$2.8 Billion Contract \(Noel Brinkerhoff, AllGov\)](#)

[Stimson Center: DoD Could Trim \\$1 Trillion Without Eroding Combat Power \(John T. Bennett, Defense News\)](#)

May 13, 2013 - According to the Stimson Center the Pentagon could save double the amount of cuts mandated under sequestration and avoid eroding its combat power. The think tank argues that by making changes in accounting, personnel and contracting the Pentagon could cut its spending by \$1 trillion over the next 10 years.

[Obama's budget plan appears to spare F-35 and V-22 programs \(Yamil Berard, Star-Telegram\)](#)

April 20, 2013 - After months of angst, it appears that Tarrant County's major defense programs, the F-35 joint strike fighter and the V-22 Osprey, may avert the harsh spending cuts on the horizon in Washington - at least for now.

## UNITED KINGDOM

[Military spending and the EU crisis infographic \(Frank Slijper, Transnational Institute\)](#)

May 13, 2013 – The report Guns, debt and the EU crisis highlights how high levels of military spending played a key role in the economic crisis in Europe and continues to undermine efforts to resolve it. While pensions and wages have been cut, the arms industry continues to profit from new orders as well as outstanding debts. Furthermore, the report reveals that EU military expenditure totalled €194 billion in 2010, which is equivalent to the annual deficits of Greece, Italy and Spain combined. (See the infographic [here](#)).

## CHINA

[Gleanings from China's defence budget \(South China Morning Post\)](#)

April 21, 2013 - China's defence budgets and white papers usually prompt questions about transparency, which begs the question of how much foreign analysts already know about force disposition, strength, equipment and command. Nonetheless the perception of opacity is part of the background to a regional landscape, which, in the words of China's latest defence white paper, is undergoing profound changes as the US adjusts its Asia-Pacific security strategy.

## JAPAN

### [Worrying defense spending trends \(The Japan Times editorial\)](#)

April 24, 2013 - While Japan's Prime Minister is planning to increase the defense budget in order to adapt to a new regional security environment and thus be prepared for various contingencies, one can ask whether military spending is the most effective means to secure a nation. Indeed, Japan has for many years implemented the concept of comprehensive security, which acknowledges that national security results from a mix of factors.

## FRANCE

### [Mouvement de la paix statement on Livre blanc](#)

April 29, 2013 – In April was issued the Livre blanc de la Défense defining the French defense strategy for the period 2014-2019 and no change of strategy is planned. Indeed, French defense remains based on nuclear deterrence as well as on NATO. Furthermore, the budget allocated to defense has not been changed. Therefore, the Mouvement de la paix calls on civil society to pressure members of Parliament in order to alter the Military programming law.

## IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

### [Statement on DU and TRW at Oslo conference on protection of civilians \(ICBUW\)](#)

May 27, 2013 - ICBUW attended a governmental conference hosted by the Norwegian government on reclaiming the protection of civilians under international humanitarian law. IKV Pax Christi, the Toxic Remnants of War Project, and ICBUW issued a joint statement: Reclaiming the Protection of Civilians under International Humanitarian Law Conference. [Click here](#) for more information.

### [UK MoD ends Scottish uranium shell tests \(Rob Edwards, The Herald Scotland\)](#)

April 28, 2013 - The Ministry of Defence has been stopped from test-firing shells made of depleted uranium in Scotland by public opposition as the metal has been blamed for cancers and birth defects suffered by soldiers and civilians after the Iraq war.

### [Japan based human rights NGO publish birth defects in Fallujah Iraq \(Human Rights Now\)](#)

April 18, 2013 - In the recent years, a rise in the numbers of birth defects has been reported by doctors in Iraq, leading to suspicions that environmental contamination from the war may be having a significant negative effect on the health of local people, and in particular infants and children. For instance in Fallujah, the city heavily attacked by the US twice in 2004, the data of Fallujah General Hospital shows that around 15% of babies of all births in Fallujah since 2003 have some congenital birth defect. Human Rights Now published a report "Innocent New Lives are Still Dying and Suffering in Iraq" on this investigation.

**[Useful summary on Mine Action from Sri Lanka \(Vidya Abhayagunawardena, Daily Mirror\)](#)**

April 4, 2013 – The Sri Lanka Campaign to Ban Landmines (SLCBL) advocates the government of Sri Lanka to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty, as it would foster the country's reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation efforts. In addition because of financial difficulties acceding to the MBT could help SLCBL receive support in order to clear the remaining mine contaminated land before 2020.

**ARMS TRADE**

**[UK approved £112m of arms exports to Saudi Arabia last year \(Nick Hopkins, The Guardian\)](#)**

May 20, 2013 – A study by the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) shows that the UK has granted arms export licenses to Saudi Arabia worth £4 billion over the past 4 years despite the Gulf states' reputation for human rights abuse and lack of democracy.

**[Former arms industry boom town struggles in Bulgaria \(By Vessela Sergueva, AFP\)](#)**

May 10, 2013 – The Bulgarian town of Sopot remembers with nostalgia its glory days as a booming arms industry center under communism. Today, poverty and worries about the future reign as the government will have to decide the fate of VMZ, the severely indebted arms production plant that was once the shining example of the country's defence industry, after a recent failed privatization attempt. That decision could have far-reaching consequences for a region that still heavily relies on the plant.

**[EC urges signature of ATT \(European Union\)](#)**

May 8, 2013 - The European Commission has proposed a Council decision authorising EU Member States to sign the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). As the ATT concerns matters of exclusive EU competence, such as for import and export controls, Member States can only join the ATT after authorization by the Council. Furthermore, Catherine Ashton, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, said that the ATT "has potential to reinforce international peace and security" and therefore the EU and its Members States support early signature and ratification.

### [Spanish arms exports 2002-2011. When arms trade is political priority \(Report n.15 Centro de Estudios por la Paz JM Delàs\)](#)

January 2013 – Spanish exports of defence materiel in 2011 have risen to 2,431 million euros, 115% higher than in 2010 and 785% higher than in 2002. In 2011, Spain was ranked eighth largest exporter of arms in the world, constituting 3% of total global exports and 1.15% of the Spanish trade balance. Every day Spain exports more than 6 million euros in arms, many of them to countries in armed conflict or where there are violations of human rights.

## NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

### [Stupid or Safe? ICAN launches new petition for nuclear weapons ban \(International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War\)](#)

May 16, 2013 - ICAN—the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons—has started a global petition drive ridiculing the “stupid” decision by the world’s nuclear-weapon states to endanger our survival and calling for the commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning nuclear weapons. Noting that there are still 19,000 nuclear weapons in the world, with some 2,000 on high alert and ready to be launched, the petition warns that “we are potentially only minutes away from the horror of seeing an entire city flattened in an instant, killing hundreds of thousands of people with no adequate humanitarian relief possible.”

### [ICAN newsletter May 2013](#)

May 2013 - Read here the latest newsletter and find information about the campaign to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons, the petition *Don't be stupid, be safe!* as well as the Nuclear Abolition Week (6 - 13 July).

### [U.N. Disarmament chief calls for NATO to study eliminating nukes \(Chris Schneidmiller, Global Security Newswire\)](#)

May 10, 2013 - Angela Kane, U.N. high representative for disarmament affairs called on NATO to give up its nuclear deterrent. Three formal nuclear powers – The United States, Britain and France - belong to the alliance, and as member states to the NPT they are required to undertake negotiations toward elimination of nuclear weapons. However, in 2012 NATO reaffirmed that nuclear deterrence remains a core element of its security operations.

### [Gensuikyo calls on Japanese Government to take initiative for banning nuclear weapons](#)

May 2013 - Gensuikyo addressed a letter to Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to demand to the Japanese government to take initiative to call for the need and actions to achieve a nuclear weapons convention. Gensuikyo considers that the only way to achieving a world without nuclear weapons is to create an agreement to ban

these weapons and that Japan has a special moral ground and responsibility to appeal to governments to prohibit nuclear weapons.

### [Abolition 2000 Assembly releases Faslane Declaration and a Call for a Ban on Uranium Mining](#)

April 19, 2013 – At the Annual Meeting in Edinburgh Scotland on 17-18 April 2013, Abolition 2000 adopted the [Faslane Declaration](#) and the [Call for a Ban on Uranium Mining](#). Abolition 2000 calls upon all governments to permanently ban uranium mining within their territories and to ban both the import and export of uranium. Abolition 2000 restated its call for a nuclear weapon free world and it especially expressed its support for a nuclear free Scotland.

### [Abolition 2000 at Faslane: Get Rid of the Nukes! \(Basel Peace Office\)](#)

April 19, 2013 - A delegation from the Abolition 2000 Global Network for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons visited the Clyde Naval Base in Faslane, Scotland where they released the Faslane Declaration, which calls on the UK to remove the nuclear weapons based in Scotland, abandon nuclear deterrence and join negotiations for global nuclear abolition.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### [Campaign to stop Killer Robots - Geneva Presentation - May 28, 2013 \(Aude Feltz, IPB Programme Assistant\)](#)

After developing semi-autonomous weapons such as drones, military research is now turning to fully autonomous robotics, systems that operate without human supervision.

Though no country yet possesses these new systems, research is well under way especially in the United States where a fully autonomous aircraft is being developed, as well as in the UK and also in South Korea. Many concerns rise about this new technology as autonomous robotics could 'decide' to kill human beings.

To prevent such developments, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots was launched in April 2013. It seeks to ban weapons systems that would be able to select targets and use lethal force without human intervention. On Tuesday, 28 May 2013, Steve Goose from Human Rights Watch and Peter Asaro from the International Committee on Robot Arms Control explained the campaign's objectives at an event held in the United Nations in Geneva. They presented the thorny issues surrounding the use of these weapons and highlighted the dangerous connexion between autonomy and lethality in these weapons.

Aside from the ethical aspects, fully autonomous robotics also raise many legal issues, as they challenge both international humanitarian law and international human rights law. How can a computer programme/robot determine the necessity of a military operation, assess proportionality, or distinguish between civilians and military (and even wounded soldiers or soldiers who surrender)? Also, who can be held accountable in cases of violations: the manufacturer? the commander? the

programmer? In the decision of launching an attack, human judgment and deliberation are needed because it requires understanding the context of a situation. Furthermore, no one can guarantee the proper functioning of fully autonomous robotics. Indeed, dysfunctions, crashing, hijack or even cyber attack must be taken into account.

To learn more about the campaign and fully autonomous robotics, go to: <http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/>

### **[2013 UK pilgrimage for peace and economic justice](#)**

May to July 2013 – Hexham Quakers and Northumbrians for Peace organise a pilgrimage from Iona to London (May 19 – July 20) to focus national public attention on the Government's intention to spend up to £100 billion renewing the UK's nuclear weapons, while continuing to slash NHS, education and social welfare budgets. If you are interesting in joining the Pilgrimage, [register here](#).

## **RESOURCES**

### **[A Conscientious Objector's Guide to the International Human Rights System launched! \(War Resisters' International\)](#)**

May 29, 2013 - The Quaker United Nations Office, the Centre for Civil and Political Rights, and Conscience and Peace Tax International launched 'A Conscientious Objector's Guide to the International Human Rights System'. The main purpose of this guide is to help individuals and organisations to raise issues and cases about conscientious objection, to work out what the possibilities are, how to use them, and the likely advantages and disadvantages of the different procedures.

### **[Nepal Armed Violence Assessment: Security, armed groups, and firearms in Nepal \(Small Arms Survey\)](#)**

May 14, 2013 - After a decade-long civil war, Nepal's peace remains plagued by uncertainties due to the volatile political environment as well as the deadlocks in writing a new constitution and the increase of criminal activities. To shed a light on the situation in Nepal, the Small Arms Survey released a special report: *In Search of Lasting Security: An Assessment of Armed Violence in Nepal* along with two *Issue Briefs* and a *Research Note*. All these reports are published in English and Nepali.

### **[Dirty Wars: The world is a battlefield, Jeremy Scahill](#)**

In this story from the frontlines of the undeclared battlefields of the War on Terror, journalist Jeremy Scahill documents the new paradigm of American war: fought far from any declared battlefield, by units that do not officially exist, in thousands of operations a month that are never publicly acknowledged. From Afghanistan and Pakistan to Yemen, Somalia and beyond, Scahill speaks to the CIA agents, mercenaries and elite Special Operations Forces operators who populate the dark side of the many wars America is fighting. He goes deep into al Qaeda - held territory in Yemen and walks the streets of Mogadishu with CIA-backed warlords.

We also meet the survivors of U.S. night raids and drone strikes - including families of U.S. citizens targeted for assassination by their own government - who reveal the human consequences of the dirty wars the United States struggles to keep hidden.

### [The Ghosts of Jeju Island, new film on US-led massacres in Korea](#)

April 15, 2013 - The official trailer (4 mins) of Regis Tremblay's new documentary about the continuing struggle of the people of Jeju Island, S. Korea. Set in the context of the American presence after World War II, the film reveals horrible atrocities at the hands of the U.S. puppet military government of Korea.

### [Beyond Nuclear Deterrence to a Nuclear Weapons-Free World: Publication launch in Geneva \(Global Security Institute\)](#)

April 9, 2013 - The second edition of the Nuclear Abolition Forum, an initiative of the Global Security Institute and seven other international organizations, was released at a high-level event hosted by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy on April 9, 2013. The second edition *Moving Beyond Nuclear Deterrence to a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World*, examines whether nuclear deterrence can be justified and relevant in the twenty-first century.

## IPB's MAKING PEACE EXHIBITION

### [Latest news: IPB photo-exhibition Making Peace attended by Dutch Prime Minister](#)

Making Peace was successfully opened in Utrecht, NL on the 5 May by IPB's own Secretary General Colin Archer and Ashley Woods, Making Peace Curator and Project Manager. This followed an initial ceremony in front of Utrecht Cathedral where the Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and the Mayor of Utrecht Aleid Wolfsen and other high level dignitaries were asked to put their name to Making Peace - <http://on.fb.me/10OFK6W>

The opening ceremony was arranged to coincide with [Liberation Day](#), a national event commemorating the end of Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. 'Making Peace' is one of the highlights of the [tri-centenary festival](#) organised to commemorate the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

One of the highlights of the opening was a speech given by Harvard Professor Steven Pinker who in his recently published book 'The Better Angels of Our Nature' argues that the world has never been safer, which as Making Peace underlines is due at least in part to the extraordinary work of the peace movement over the past century - <http://bit.ly/pD1lw0>

Making Peace will remain in Utrecht until 28 July 2013. If you'd like invitations to attend the opening of Making Peace at the Nobel Museum, Stockholm on 14 June 2013 then please contact us- <http://www.nobelmuseum.se/en/making-peace>

Otherwise help us bring Making Peace to your city & follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

[help@makingpeace.org](mailto:help@makingpeace.org)  
[www.makingpeace.org](http://www.makingpeace.org)

### **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".*

*For more information, please contact:*

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