



# IPB News

INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

*Working for a world without war*

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The **Calendar of Events** is available as a separate document.

**IPB has 7 websites!**

Apart from our MAIN SITE: <http://www.ipb.org>

see also:

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/ipb1910>

**Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/IntlPeaceBureau>

**Global Day of Action on Military Spending :** <http://www.demilitarize.org>

+ Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_100733129991763](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_100733129991763)

+ **Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/#!/globalday412>

**'Making Peace' Photo-exhibition** <http://www.makingpeace.org>

### 1- DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

- *In 2005 IPB launched a major new programme, designed to reflect widespread public concern at the rapid rise in global military spending (totaling \$1630 billion in 2010); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development.*

### A- MILITARY SPENDING

#### UNITED STATES

[Chris Hellman, Pentagon spending: Just how safe are you?](#)

August 24, 2011- The killing of Osama bin Laden did not put cuts in national security spending on the table, but the debt-ceiling debate finally did. In his article, military spending expert Chris Hellman offers some basic information about the spending trajectory the US has been on since 9/11, and raises a few simple questions about what all that money has actually bought Americans.

## UNITED STATES

Nick Turse, [The US military's secret military](#)



August 8, 2011- Somewhere on this planet a US commando is carrying out a mission. Without the knowledge of much of the general American public, a secret force within the US military is undertaking operations in a majority of the world's countries. This Pentagon power elite is waging a global war whose size and scope has generally been ignored by the mainstream media, and deserves further attention.

## UNITED STATES



Judith Le Blanc, [Fight for The Dream - Peace Action call to tackle poverty by reducing Pentagon budget](#)

August, 2011- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of "The Dream" at the March on Washington in 1963. He said: "I have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream." So many inequalities in our society, yet the Pentagon gets 58% of [yearly discretionary spending](#) while housing and healthcare get 5%, education gets 4% and transportation 2%. Peace Action is working to organize grassroots coalition events in communities and bird-dogging of Congress people across the country. [Sign](#)

[the Contract.](#)

## UNITED KINGDOM

Jerome Taylor – Independent: [UK banks fund deadly cluster-bomb industry](#)

August 16, 2011- One year ago this month, Britain became an active participant in the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Yet there has been no attempt by the Coalition Government to rein in banks and investment funds that continue to finance companies known to manufacture the weapons. British high-street banks, including two institutions that were bailed out by taxpayers, are investing hundreds of millions of pounds in companies that manufacture cluster bombs – despite a growing global ban outlawing the production and trade of the weapons.

## UNITED STATES

Nancy A. Youssef, McClatchy Newspapers, [True Cost of US Wars Unknown](#)

August 16, 2011- Because of the complex and often ambiguous Pentagon budgeting process, it's nearly impossible to get an accurate breakdown of every operating cost. In Afghanistan, for example, the US military spent \$1.5 billion to purchase 329.8 million gallons of fuel for vehicles, aircraft and generators from October 2010 to May 2011. That's a not-unheard-of \$4.55 per gallon, but it doesn't include the cost of getting the fuel to combat zones and the human cost of transporting it through hostile areas, which can hike the cost to hundreds of dollars a gallon. If the 12-member bipartisan "super-committee" of lawmakers can't agree on further federal budget cuts later this year, the law mandates across-the-board

cuts of \$1.2 trillion over 10 years, with half of that coming from the Pentagon. The prospect of such deep defense cuts is thought to provide a strong incentive for deficit hawks to compromise and spread the pain more broadly.

#### UNITED STATES



#### Lawrence S. Wittner: [How to Save a Quarter of a Trillion Dollars: Axe "Missile Defense"](#)

August, 2011- In the midst of the current stampede to slash federal spending, Congress might want to take a look at two unnecessary (and dangerous) “national security” programs that, if cut, would save the United States over a quarter of a trillion dollars over the next decade. The first of these is the Obama administration’s plan to spend at least \$185 billion in the next ten years to “modernize” the U.S. government’s nuclear weapons arsenal. Another project worth eliminating is the national missile defense program. Thanks to recent congressional generosity, this Reagan-era carryover, once derided by U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy as “Star Wars,” is currently slated for an increase in federal spending, which will provide it with \$8.6 billion in fiscal 2012.

#### UNITED STATES

#### Medea Benjamin and Charles Davis: [Enormous Cuts in Military Spending? Read the Fine Print](#)

August 3, 2011- Citing the U.S. government’s \$14.3 trillion debt, lawmakers from both parties have seized the moment to try and attain long hoped-for cuts to Social Security and Medicare. But the recent deal does seem to include some good news for lovers of peace: the push for reductions would encompass the war-making part of the state. Indeed, according to a “[fact sheet](#)” released by the White House on the bipartisan compromise, the recent deal to raise the national debt ceiling “puts us on track to cut \$350 billion from the defense budget over 10 years.”

## B IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

#### SOUTH KOREA

#### Choe Sang-Hun, [Island’s Naval Base Stirs Opposition in South Korea](#)

August 18, 2011- In January, the South Korean Navy began construction on a \$970 million base in Gangjeong. Once completed in 2014, it will be home to 20 warships that the navy says will protect shipping lanes for South Korea’s export-driven economy, which is dependent on imported oil. It will also enable South Korea to respond quickly to a brewing territorial dispute with China over Socotra Rock. Both sides believe it is surrounded by oil and mineral deposits. “Fight to the death against the American imperialists’ anti-China naval base!” Dozens of banners adorn this village on the southern coast of South Korea’s southernmost major island, trumpeting anxieties, and dividing this village of 1,000 fishermen and farmers on Jeju Island.

#### UNITED STATES

#### Allison Pytlak reports, [Arms Trade Treaty Preparatory Committee](#)

July 11-15, 2011 A growing number of key countries are now offering support to the process, contributing to strong overall progress. The participation of a record number of civil society representatives, including

IPB member organizations, demonstrates the wide-ranging impact of the arms trade and extensive interest in these discussions that crosscuts a variety of sectors. The diverse group included women, men, and survivors of armed violence, health professionals, lawyers, researchers, youth, and arms industry representatives. Read report; [Control Arms Survivors Declaration](#); [Global Investor Statement on the Arms Trade](#); [Presentations by the Representatives of the Control Arms Coalition](#); [Chairman's Draft Paper](#).

#### GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of AP Mines. IPB report. June, 2011- The Meetings of the Standing Committees provided the second opportunity following the Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty to discuss the application of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014. As such, they were intended to further build upon the momentum of Cartagena where the States Parties agreed to undertake 67 concrete actions "in support of enhanced implementation and promotion of the Convention" and pledged "to translate this action plan into sustainable progress." ...[Full report](#)

#### FINLAND

[Finland to sign mine ban treaty: Finnish Foreign Minister : "The NGOs' role has been a key in the process of banning landmines"](#)

August 12, 2011- The President of the Republic decided to submit to Parliament a government proposal on Finland's accession to the Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines. Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja says "It was not for nothing that the International Campaign to Ban Landmines won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. The Convention has all but put an end to the planting of new landmines, even though undetonated landmines left behind in former war zones continue to cause extensive human suffering and destruction around the world. Finnish landmines have played no part in these events, but our joining the Convention is nonetheless an important expression of support." According to the government proposal Finland undertakes to destroy all its stockpiles of anti-personnel mines by 2016 as required by the Convention.

## 2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

#### JAPAN

2011 World Conference against A and H Bombs "A Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World".

August, 2011 – The Conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki saw the participation of more than 10,000 peace activists. The Conference urged the full implementation of the agreed goal to "achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons", and set out actions to build up public support for the proposed start of negotiations for Nuclear Weapons Convention. Moreover, the Conference announced it would act for the eradication of any more damage from radiation, be it from nuclear weapons or nuclear power plants, and to develop solidarity with the movement for breaking away from nuclear energy and shifting to renewable energy. [Read full report](#); [Speech by IPB Co-President Ingeborg Breines](#).

#### ITALY

Angelo Baracca, The ominous shadow of the Atomic Age: an experience to phase out forever

August, 2011-: Almost 70 years ago “civilized” mankind, in an impetus of pride (and under powerful material interests), undertook a project typical of a superman: reiterating the ancient myth of Prometheus, or of the sorcerer’s apprentice, he flattered himself that he could curb the “atomic fire”. That insane choice subjected mankind, for the first time, to the danger of his own extinction caused by a nuclear holocaust, and created problems of a kind that admit no solution and will presumably remain with him until his disappearance from this planet... [Full text](#)

#### UNITES STATES

Keith McHenry, Food Not Bombs Movement: Nuclear bombing or food for the people? A personal account.

August 6, 2011- My mother's father was proud of his participation in the bombing of Japan. The Soviet Union could kill millions of Americans if they believed the United States was about to attack and the USSR. The military could kill millions in the Soviet Union. I could see how regular people like him could rationalize horrible acts like the use of nuclear weapons and the murder of nearly 5 million people in a quest to defend corporate power. A few years later I happened to have a job trimming produce at an organic grocery in Cambridge, Massachusetts and was alarmed by how many cases of nutritious produce I was expected to discard so I took it to the hungry residence at the housing projects near the store. Our society clearly valued bombs over food. ... [Full text](#)

### 3. MISCELLANEOUS

#### INDIA

Michael Randle and Bob Overy, [Devi Prasad obituary](#)

August 9, 2011- Devi Prasad, was a committed pacifist who worked with Gandhi, joining his ashram. Until 1962 he was editor of a journal supporting Gandhi's educational programme. For several years he was the General Secretary of the War Resisters International. His book *Art: The Basis of Education* was published in Hindi in 1959 and in English in 1998. Devi died yesterday, at the age of 89.

#### NORWAY

IPB offers condolences to Norway and urges greater commitment to peace work

July 26, 2011- Observers all over the world were deeply moved to see the dignified grief expressed by the Norwegian people yesterday in the wake of Friday’s atrocities. The huge, spontaneous demonstrations in Oslo and in many other communities – with flowers held aloft – spoke volumes about the country’s firm commitment to solidarity and democracy. The International Peace Bureau, its officers, staff and members, offer deep condolences to the Norwegian people and their leaders. ... [Full text](#)

## GREECE

Michalis Peristerakis, Greek Vice-President of IPB: obituary



The Marathon race of Michalis Peristerakis's life, which began in Naxos 73 years ago, came to an end prematurely. An emblematic figure in the Greek peace movement, with significant international activity for which he was officially honoured by the IPB, Mikis passed away suddenly on 4 May 2011, in his law office, from a heart attack. ... [Full text](#)

## 4. RESOURCES

### GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

#### [Civil Society Oversight of the Security Sector and Gender \(Tool 9\)](#)

August, 2011- The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) works in the area of security sector reform and governance. DCAF has now developed a tool on Civil Society Oversight of the Security Sector and Gender. This tool is designed to be a resource for civil society organisations (CSOs) engaged in oversight of the security sector, as well as those that seek to play a more active role in this regard.

### SMALL ARMS SURVEY

#### [Research Note 8: Less-lethal weapons](#)

Less-lethal weapons are designed to incapacitate their targets with specific, intermediate effects. When used inappropriately or with inadequate training, they can, however, inflict serious, even lethal, injuries. An increasing number of companies manufacture and trade less-lethal weapons. While these systems are gaining popularity with law enforcement agencies and the military, they suffer from a number of limitations. There is also potential for these weapon systems to be diverted to, and subsequently misused by, governments with little or no accountability mechanisms; their growing use by the private security industry compounds the risk.

### **International Peace Bureau**

41, Rue de Zurich 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: +41-22-731-6429 • Fax : +41-22-738-9419

[mailbox@ipb.org](mailto:mailbox@ipb.org) • [www.ipb.org](http://www.ipb.org)

*This Newsletter is edited by Roberta Maurutto.*

*For queries and suggestions, please contact [roberta.maurutto@ipb.org](mailto:roberta.maurutto@ipb.org)*