



# IPB News

November 2011

## INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

*Working for a world without war*

9<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

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

**IPB has 7 websites!**

MAIN SITE: <http://www.ipb.org>

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

#### Addressing the US Supercommittee: 3 Items



#### 1) Freeze the Nukes, Fund the Future

Oct. 11, 2011 - Congressman Markey and 64 House members will send a letter this week to the Super Committee calling on the group to cut \$200 billion from the nuclear weapons budget over the next decade before targeting programs for seniors, middle-class families and the most vulnerable. "We need to stop pouring billions into these radioactive relics

and start funding the cures and technologies that truly will secure our future", said Congressman Markey. After holding a press conference on the nuclear weapons budget cuts, Congressman Markey was criticized by Congressman Turner for the

infeasibility and security risks of these cuts. The exchange is detailed [here](#).

## **2) [Breaking down Bases](#)**

Nov. 1, 2011 - The US Supercommittee is charged with finding \$1.2 trillion in cuts over the next ten years; if it fails, a set of automatic cuts will take place, roughly divided between military and domestic programs. John Feffer of the Institute for Policy Studies argues in his [article](#) that the current impasse between Democrats and Republicans in agreeing what to cut may be solvable for at least one issue: US overseas military bases. Closing overseas bases would not endanger US jobs, and offers room for billions of savings.

## **3) [War Resisters League: Send a Letter-to-the-Editor Urging the Super Committee to Slash Military Spending](#)**

The War Resisters League sent out a [letter](#) urging citizens to use the momentum created by the Occupy Wall Street movement. The new opportunity in the US' conversation on debt, crisis, and capitalism generated by this movement should be used to urge the Super Committee to cut military spending. Click [here](#) for a simple form you can send to your local paper urging the Super Committee to slash military spending and not vitally needed social programmes.

## **Budget Cuts Push European Industry to Tipping Point**

October 24, 2011 - Louis Gallois, the chief executive of EADS, Europe's largest aerospace and defense company, told industry executives and others at a closed meeting of the AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association (ASD) of Europe in Istanbul on Oct. 7 that the region is at a tipping point and cannot sustain a viable arms industry if limits are not placed on defense budget reductions. Gallois called on European governments to support exports more strongly, as almost all major emerging nations are building their own capabilities.>[Readmore](#)

## **A Simple Solution for UNESCO's Funding Gap**



Oct. 31, 2011 - The U.S. will withhold funding from UNESCO following that body's vote to accept Palestine as a member. Daniel Levy, in an insightful [article](#) for Foreign Policy, offers a solution: "[...] there is a relatively simple answer to the de-funding question: namely, for the Gulf states to step up and fill the gaps created by American de-funding. America's now withheld UNESCO contribution is \$60

million. That really is chump change for the GCC countries, especially when they are spending tens of billions on purchasing American weapons (Saudi Arabia alone has ordered [\\$60 billion](#) of U.S. arms)."

FRANCE

## **[Mouvement de la Paix: Sign the \[Petition\]\(#\) to Parliamentarians to Reject the 2012 Military Budget](#)**

The Mouvement de la Paix has issued a call ([READ](#)) to French citizens to sign a petition which will be sent to parliamentarians, calling on them to reject the 2012 French Defense budget. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, they will vote on a Defense budget of over €40 billion. Nuclear weapons once again make up a substantial part of this budget,

the size of which is a consequence of France's renewed command functions in NATO. The Mouvement de la Paix asks why public debt must be increased to pay for such a war budget, instead of urgently needed human security and peace programmes.

ISRAEL

**Disarm the Conflict: [Israeli Government Decides on Defense Budget Cuts](#)**

Nov. 7, 2011 - Under pressure of nationwide protests demanding more funding to improve social conditions, the Israeli government has decided on defense budget cuts to redirect spending. The Israeli military is claiming this will endanger vital security, such as the missile defense weapons of Israel Aerospace Industries and the Iron Dome developed by Rafael. But with a defense budget of NIS 54.2 billion in 2011 (€10.7 billion) according to Haaretz, Israel can afford some cuts.

CANADA

**[You Choose: \\$35 Billion for Warships, or Hospitals?](#)**

Last month the Harper government announced \$35 billion in military spending – this time for an entire fleet of warships and a handful of Coast Guard vessels. People in areas of high unemployment understandably celebrated the possibility of new jobs building the warships. But a larger and more important question went largely unasked: Should Canada even build such a large naval armada? Steven Staples of Ceasefire questions the wisdom of this expenditure and holds that taxpayers' money would be better spent elsewhere.

**[Oxfam Predicts Biggest Aid Cuts in 15 Years](#)**

Oxfam has calculated that the annual level of development aid from rich nations is likely to fall by at least \$9.5 billion by the end of 2012 - the biggest drop in aid for 15 years. The organization calls the figures "shameless and depressingly predictable" and that poor people are being asked to pay for rich country austerity cuts. Oxfam joins Bill Gates who will press G20 leaders later this week to support "Robin Hood" taxes on transactions by banks, hedge funds and other financial institutions and to agree to a fair international carbon charge on shipping.

**B IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT**

**[Churches to Play Crucial Role in Regulating International Arms Trade](#)**

Oct. 25, 2011 - Churches have an important role to play in the lead-up to negotiations on a global treaty in 2012 to regulate the conventional arms trade, a World Council of Churches (WCC) panel in New York has concluded. Key human rights obligations must be embedded in the treaty and churches should lobby together, on the basis of faith, [said the WCC general secretary](#) Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, host of the 21 October event at which the panel reported.

**[Conviction of Arms Trafficker Victor Bout Highlights Need for Arms Trade Treaty \(ATT\)](#)**

On November 2, a Manhattan federal jury on Wednesday [convicted](#) Russian arms trader Viktor Bout of four counts of conspiracy to sell anti-aircraft weapons and other arms to purported Colombian rebels to kill Americans. The trial called attention that a global ATT is needed to hold arms dealers accountable. An [op-ed](#) shows how an ATT could limit the disastrous consequences of the current legal vacuums in arms trading, and [campaigners reacted positively](#) to the trial verdict. A [comment on UNDispatch](#) strikes a more cautionary tone, noting that Bout was arrested,

extradited, tried, and convicted on terrorism charges – not arms trafficking charges. However, this again highlights the need for a global arms treaty to deal affectively with arms traffickers.

### **Indian Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions Convinces Association of Medical Women in India (AMWI)**

Indian CBL-CMC was successful in convincing AMWI to include the “Effects of Landmines & Cluster Munitions on Women” in their National Conference on October 15-16 2011 in Nagpur, India. More than 375 medical women doctors from all faculties from all parts of India attended the national conference. Dr. Nalini Kurvey, President of AMWI’s Nagpur chapter, appealed to delegates to look after the victims and urge political leaders to ban these inhumane weapons which are killing and maiming innocent civilians. >[Readmore](#)

NIGER

### **Niger: Government and Former Rebels Join Forces Against Landmines**

Nov. 7, 2011 – Geneva Call issued a communiqué (in [English](#) and [French](#)) highlighting the achievements of its workshop in Agadez, in collaboration with the National Commission for the Control and Collection of Illegal Weapons, on humanitarian demining, which brought together government representatives, former rebels and international organizations. Participants discussed how to enhance cooperation in mine action, and former rebels were integrated into a mine clearing programme.

### **Global Burden of Armed Violence Report, 2011: [When the Victim is a Woman](#)**

The Global Burden of Armed Violence Report for 2011 has been released by the Geneva Declaration and notes that, “About 66,000 women and girls are violently killed around the world each year. High levels of ‘femicide’ are frequently accompanied — and in some cases generated by — a high level of tolerance for violence against women.” [Chapter 4](#) focuses on ‘When the Victim is a Woman’ and seeks to disaggregate the demographics of armed violence and capture the ways in which women of different ages are at risk. It also considers the particular settings and risks shaping femicide and sexual violence.

## **2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

### **[Nuclear Abolition Forum](#): Dialogue on the Process to Achieve and Sustain a Nuclear Weapons-Free World**



The Nuclear Abolition Forum was [launched](#) at the Baha’i UN Office on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Forum was established in light of the many challenges that need to be overcome and

questions still to be addressed in order for governments to agree to abolish nuclear weapons. “This independent forum provides a space to discuss, explore and find solutions to these issues”, says founder Alyn Ware. The Forum will offer information on nuclear abolition-related issues, provide a platform for users to share their thoughts on such issues, and facilitate and foster debate. The Forum’s first periodical, available [here](#), focuses on the application of International Humanitarian Law to nuclear weapons and comprises articles from a range of experts. Read the [opening](#)

[remarks](#) at the launch of the Forum by UN High Representative Sergio Duarte.

### **Trident Commission Report: Nuclear Weapons Programmes Being Expanded Worldwide**

Nov. 2, 2011 - Despite overall reductions in the numbers of nuclear weapons in the world, now at around 20,000, a new report by the UK "Trident Commission" says that nuclear weapons programmes in all of the states possessing them are being modernized. This first discussion paper of the Trident Commission summarizes nuclear force modernization and growth in all of the Nuclear Weapon States other than the UK. [The paper](#), written by Dr. Ian Kearns, concludes that none of the Nuclear Weapon States is actively contemplating a future without nuclear weapons. On the contrary, the potential for nuclear weapons use is growing.

### **Global Security Institute: A Call From the Central Asian Steppe: International Forum for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World**

On October 12-13, the Government of Kazakhstan convened the "International Forum for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World" which hosted 400 scientists, experts, politicians and representatives from different countries, and the heads and representatives of several international organizations. The conference recounts the long disarmament history of Kazakhstan. The Forum issued a [declaration calling for a world without nuclear weapons](#) and urged all nations to ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty.

### **United Nations Disarmament Week**

The annual UN Disarmament Week, from October 24 – 30, was called for in the Final Document of the General Assembly 1978 Special Session on Disarmament. Its purpose is to highlight the danger of the arms race, propagate the need for its cessation and increase public understanding of the urgent tasks of disarmament. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the General Assembly with a speech entitled "[We the Peoples](#)", highlighting five issues the UN (and the world) urgently needs to address. One of these is the core responsibility of the United Nations: to build a safer and more secure world. He called on the world to fulfill the dream of a world free of nuclear weapons.

### **The Nuclear Resister**

The US-based Newspaper 'Nuclear Resister' provides information on nonviolent resistance to war and nuclear weapons. It aims to publicize and build support for activists, in particular those imprisoned for their actions. It holds that "broader awareness of their actions and support for the imprisoned activists are essential to the movement for a peaceful, nuclear-free future." An up-to-date list of imprisoned activists, as well as reports of their experiences, can be found on the [website](#). The October Newsletter is available [here](#), and back issues can be found [here](#).

## **3. MISCELLANEOUS**

UNITED STATES

### **Peace Action: Troops to Come Home from Iraq -Share Your Thoughts**

Kevin Martin, the Executive Director of IPB member organization Peace Action (USA), called for activists and concerned citizens to [share their thoughts](#) on the US troop withdrawals from Iraq. He thanks everyone who took a stand during the past nine years against the Iraq war, and congratulates them on the tremendous victory this

troop withdrawal represents. Nonetheless, he also warns that our work is not done: private security contractors will remain in Iraq, veterans will require support, and there is still war in Afghanistan.

### **IPB member ICW-Global (International Community of Women Living With HIV/AIDS): My Hero Award 2011**

The Global Chair of IPB member organization ICW-Global will be awarded the My Hero Award 2011 by the organization [AID FOR AIDS International](#) in New York. The Argentinean Patricia Perez, recognized world leader in the fight against AIDS, will be honored for her commitment to finding alternatives to respond to the epidemic. Additionally, ICW Global will receive the Latin American Quality Awards 2011, the first NGO from the AIDS field to achieve international recognition in Total Quality for its work in 120 countries in promoting social inclusion of women, girls and adolescents living with HIV. [>Readmore](#)

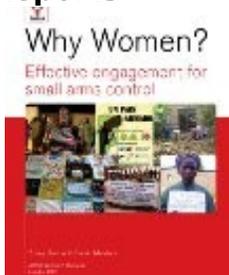
SPAIN

### **Fundació per la Pau: 4th Animations for Peace Award**

IPB member Fundació per la Pau has launched the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Animations for Peace Award. With the slogan 'Paths of Peace: Nonviolence and Dialogue', the award's aim is the compilation of animated films related to peace culture in order to promote awareness of peace education. For the 4<sup>th</sup> edition competition, animations must refer to the following subject: "We create peace day by day". More information about submissions is available [here](#).

## **4. RESOURCES**

### **International Action Network on Small Arms - Women's Network: New Reports**



The first report, "[Women, Gender and Gun Violence in the Middle East](#)" presents the main findings of an assessment conducted in Lebanon, Jordan and Occupied Palestinian Territory from January to May 2011 by providing a situation overview, challenges and recommendations for future interventions. It outlines how the proliferation of small arms has prevented women from exercising some of their most basic rights. It also shows how lack of data, among other factors, has prevented women's groups from engaging with

this issue, before identifying possible actions. The second publication, "[Why Women? Effective Engagement for Small Arms Control](#)" aims to show why it is important to include women in small arms control and disarmament initiatives. Based on interviews with 17 practitioners, it presents suggestions for overcoming the challenges facing the inclusion of women in small arms control initiatives. Additionally, the new October Bulletin: "[Women at Work: Preventing Gun Violence](#)" presents new developments in small arms proliferation in countries such as Mali and El Salvador, and the engagement of women at the Kenya-Somalia border, among others.

### **UN Office For Disarmament Affairs (UNODA): New Website on Global Reported Arms Trade / First Committee of the General Assembly**

UNODA has [launched](#) a new, ground-breaking Web feature offering unprecedented insight into the global reported arms trade. It is a major transparency tool for anyone

researching weapons transfers and governmental openness. The [interactive website](#) is an easy to use, insightful platform to track global arms exports and imports as reported to the UN. Furthermore, UNODA has assembled [messages and reports](#) messages and reports on the proceedings of the First Committee.

### **Global Campaign for Peace Education: November Newsletter**

The [November Newsletter](#) of the Global Campaign for Peace Education leads with an article by Dale T. Snauwaert on how peace education is aligned with democratic education, since both are grounded in the ideas of public reason and deliberation. The very extensive Newsletter collects recent developments and other noteworthy news items in the field of peace education, upcoming events, new publications, and job opportunities in this field.

### **Women Peacemakers Program: Cross the Lines Issue 50**

The latest issue of Cross the Lines, WPP's newsletter, presents reports from several recent activities, such as training and consultation sessions in the MENA and wider Asia region. It also calls attention to ongoing initiatives that WPP encourages you to support. It also collects several news items related to women and peacemaking, as well as a list of recent job openings in that field.

### **Jared Genser and Irwin Cotler, eds, 'The Responsibility to Protect: The Promise of Stopping Mass Atrocities in Our Time'**

In 'The Responsibility to Protect', the authors provide a comprehensive overview on how this contemporary principle of international law has developed and analyze how best to apply it to current and future humanitarian crises. The editors balance pro-R2P proposals by presenting differing viewpoints on this contentious subject. Framed by a Preface from Desmond Tutu and Vaclav Havel and a Conclusion from Gareth Evans, these in-depth and authoritative analyses move beyond theory to demonstrate how RtoP has worked on the ground and should work if applied to future crises.

### **Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

This remarkable new book by P. W. Singer looks at the robotic revolution taking place on today's battlefields: remote-controlled drones take out terrorists in Afghanistan, military officers quietly acknowledge that new prototypes will soon make human fighter pilots obsolete, while the Pentagon researches tiny robots the size of flies to carry out reconnaissance work. These new technologies will profoundly alter warfare. Singer argues that wars will become easier to start, that the traditional moral and psychological barriers to killing will fall, and that the "warrior ethos" the code of honor and loyalty which unites soldiers will erode.

### **Vision of Humanity: Website "Economics and Peace"**

Vision of Humanity, advocating further study, advocacy and action on peace, has a [website](#) devoted to "Economics and Peace". It is a useful resource for articles, reports and news. It collects articles on how economics can be used to promote peace and how peace improves the economy. However, mention might be made of the fact that military spending, which represents a substantial part of the economy in many countries, is neglected.

### **Centre d'Estudis per la Pau J.M.Delàs: New Book 'El Controvertido Comercio**

**de Armas Español, un Negocio Secreto (2001-2010)'**

El Estado español, solo en 2010, ha vendido 1.128 millones de euros en armas, muchas destinadas a países en conflicto armado, en situación de tensión y donde se vulneran los Derechos Humanos.

El libro está disponible en español [aquí](#).

UNITED KINGDOM

**Job Vacancy: [Researcher on Science and Militarism](#)**

[Scientists for Global Responsibility](#) is seeking a self-motivated and conscientious individual to research government science and technology programmes that involve the Ministry of Defence, and to help to formulate proposals for research and development that avoid militarism, drawing on concepts such as sustainable security and non-offensive defence. Applicants living within reasonable travelling distance of Lancaster are especially encouraged to apply. The full job description is available [here](#). Closing date for applications is Nov. 21st.

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