



IPB News

WWW: Working for a World Without War

International Peace Bureau

February 19, 2010

IPB Nobel centenary year-special events planned!

Many of our readers will know that this year IPB celebrates a very special year: it is 100 years since the organisation was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in promoting peace, and for coordinating the work of national peace societies. In 2010 we are organising various events to commemorate this important milestone in the history of the organised peace movement. These activities culminate in a major international conference '*A Climate for Peace*', plus the triennial IPB Assembly and other activities, in Oslo from 23-26 Sept. Before that, from June 6th - July 4th, IPB's photo-exhibit '*Making Peace*' will be shown along Lake Geneva in front of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. There will also be a 'Peace Run' (*le Parcours de la paix*) on June 6th, and later in the year a high level seminar is planned, co-organised with the UN.

In addition, we are writing to all our members to invite them to organise activities and events in their own areas, as part of the Centenary programme. More details will follow - watch this space! or contact IPB Secretariat directly.

IPB's Disarmament for Development programme

In 2005 IPB launched a major new programme, designed to reflect widespread public concern at the rapid rise in global military spending (totalling \$1464 billion in 2008); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development. Post 9-11, the failure of military solutions should be obvious to all. IPB advocates reductions in defence budgets and the adoption of a 'human security' approach. Activities organised in pursuit of these goals include: seminars, publications, website, e-newsletter, Call for Action, exhibitions and a media programme. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

Military Spending

Obama asks for a record \$708 billion for defence

President Barack Obama has asked the Congress to pass \$708 billion in defense spending for the 2011 fiscal year. It is a record amount that includes \$159 billion for the U.S. military missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Additionally, the White House requested \$33 billion for the 2010 fiscal year that will be spent on military and intelligence operations in those countries. Pentagon's base budget request equals \$ 549 billion and is 18 billion higher in comparison to 2010 base budget. It also calls for scrapping of a few main weapon programmes such as Boeing's C-17 transport plane and a second engine for the Lockheed Martin Corp F-35 fighter jet. The cancellation of both programmes will save close to \$3 billion in fiscal 2011. More at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6103C520100201?type=politicsNews>

US can't afford its empire

President Obama's request of \$3.8 trillion, for the next fiscal year in 2011, will not be fully paid by taxes and it will lead to a \$1.3 trillion deficit as observed by author Evan Eland. He points out that the budget deficits are the result of George Bush's entitlement programme, banks and insurance bailouts and the US invasions on Iraq and Afghanistan. When Obama came into power, the budget deficit was more than 9 % of GDP. His bailout of car companies and stimulus packages increased the deficit to 10.6%, which is the highest it has been since World War II. Eland predicts that Obama will handle deficits better than his predecessor but at the same time he has to cut security spending, which when taken as a whole amounts to \$1 trillion a year, and includes wars expenses, payments to the Defence Department, costs of nuclear

weapons programmes, homeland security, veterans' compensation and international affairs. More at: <http://original.antiwar.com/eland/2010/02/02/us-can-no-longer-afford-empire/>

India boosts its defence spending despite poverty

The Indian government has plans to modernise its military, which was apparent during the recent DefExpo 2010 trade fair in New Delhi. India is supposed to spend \$30 billion on defence equipment and services in the next five years, while millions of its citizens live in poverty. India is the largest arms buyer after China, among the emerging countries, and experts predict that its military spending will reach \$200 billion by 2022....India wants the weapons as a deterrent against Pakistan and China and to boost its politico-military status in Asia. Meanwhile, civil society groups are pressing the government for 'welfare not warfare' as 31% of the billion-plus Indians earn less than a dollar a day, according to the UN. Twenty-one organizations have gathered for "Delhi disarmament events and conference for an arms trade treaty," focusing on the consequences of arms trade and the way military spending is prioritised over the well-being of the people.

Read more: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/309312,news-india-ups-defence-spending-as-country-battles-poverty--feature.html#ixzz0fnUOwx54> and <http://www.hindu.com/2010/02/15/stories/2010021557090200.htm>

Military spending unaffected by recession

According to *The Military Balance* (International Institute for Strategic Studies), the total amount of money spent on world defence budgets rose from \$1.3 trillion to \$1.55 trillion between 2006 and 2008. In addition, the economic crisis has not had a significant impact on defence spending. China, US, France and Japan have been the main global military spenders. Mark Stoker, a defence economist, predicts however that the increase in military spending around the world and in particular in Europe and the U.S. will slow in the next few years. Meanwhile, the emerging economies such as China, Brazil and India are expected to increase their defence spending. India boosted defence spending by 21% in 2009, after the 2008 Mumbai attacks killed 166 people, whereas China's 2009 budget included a 15% rise in defence spending to 480 billion yuan, equal to \$70.3 billion at market exchange rates.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100203/ap_on_re_eu/military_budgets and <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE6112LO20100203?type=marketsNews>

Weapons and their impact on development

Cluster Munitions treaty reaches 30th ratification - will now enter into force

On February 16, 2010 Burkina Faso and Moldova ratified the International Convention banning cluster munitions, bringing the total number of ratifications to thirty, which means that the convention will become binding international law on August 1, 2010. A total of 140 countries have signed the convention since it became available for signature in December 2008, in Oslo. The convention bans use, production and transfer of cluster munitions and sets deadlines for stockpile destruction and for clearance of contaminated land. It also requires states to provide support to survivors and affected communities. The next milestone, after August 1, will be the First Meeting of State Parties, scheduled to take place in late 2010, in Laos, a country heavily contaminated by cluster munitions. More:

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news/?id=2040> and <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8519360.stm>

UK arms campaigners attack the deal to end inquiries into the BAE scandal

The Campaign Against the Arms Trade (IPB member organization) has expressed its outrage that UK defence contractor BAE Systems will not be prosecuted over serious corruption allegations over contracts the firm secured from Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, the Czech Republic, South Africa and Hungary. The firm is to admit two criminal charges and pay fines of £30million to settle the UK investigation and £250million to end the US investigation. CAAT was 'shocked and angered' and called the £30m fine a small price in the wake of the abortive investigation by the Serious Fraud Office into the company's contracts in Saudi Arabia. Nicholas Hildyard, of social justice campaign group The Corner House, called for the UK to reopen

all its investigations into BAE. More at: <http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/bae/bae20100205prs.php> and <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8501689.stm>

Australian Green Party criticizes Navy exercise with Burma

Australia's Green Party has questioned its government's decision to send a Navy Patrol boat to participate in a military exercise with Burma. It is the third time that Australia has taken part in the exercise despite having military sanctions against Burma, which ban training and arms sales. A boat sent by the Burmese Navy will work together with the Australian Navy. The anti-piracy and counterterrorism exercises named 'Exercise Milan' are organized by India and run from Port Blair on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. <http://www.radioaustralianews.net.au/stories/201002/2815143.htm?desktop>

Opposition to the US bases in Okinawa

In January 2010 two parliamentarians from Japan's Social Democratic Party, Dr. Abe Tomoko and Mr. Hattori Ryoichi, visited Washington to discuss the disagreement between Japan and the US in regards to the relocation of US military bases in Okinawa. During the talks with US Congressmen, Senators, think tanks and policy specialists, Dr. Tomoko and Mr. Ryoichi called for the reconsideration of the 2006 agreement according to which the Futenma base will be closed, a new base will be built in Okinawa and 8,000 Marines in Guam will be relocated. The parliamentarians stressed the problems (and crimes) caused by the US military in Okinawa. They also took part in a meeting organized by the Pacific Freeze campaign, with NGO representatives, in which they talked about how to express opposition to the plan of building the new US base. In the meantime, a new peace action network was formed in Tokyo, called US for Okinawa. It is made of American, Japanese, Canadian and other citizens living in Japan. Its purpose is to unite with other Japanese peace groups, who are against the US bases in Okinawa, and to support the International Network for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases. <http://www.article-9.org/en/newsletter/august.html>

Nuclear Disarmament

Information for participation by NGOs in the 2010 NPT Review Conference

The information from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs on applying for accreditation to attend the 2010 NPT Review Conference, along with information on registering for a grounds pass, NGO facilities, side events, documents, and more is available [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please contact [for full details ray@reachingcriticalwill.org](mailto:ray@reachingcriticalwill.org) or go to <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/>

MPI Atlanta Consultation III: Fulfilling the NPT

The Atlanta Consultation III took place January 20-22 in Atlanta, Georgia and was hosted by President Jimmy Carter and the Carter Centre. It gathered 20 middle power governments, the UK and US representatives, senior UN officials and from the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation. The goal was to provide a forum where experts and diplomats can engage in open dialogue on policies and instruments. The focus was the upcoming NPT Review and issues such as nuclear doctrine and the fissile materials cut-off. The Middle Powers Initiative representatives and NGO speakers called on governments to take a clear position in favour of a global, non-discriminatory treaty banning nuclear weapons and to act immediately. The participants agreed that in order to succeed at the Review Conference, a balanced approach to commitments in the treaty and supporting documents is necessary. One recurring subject was the key role of the USA in the Review Conference and in advancing the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament agenda. More at: <http://www.gsainstitute.org/mpi/Atlantall/summary.htm>. The speech by MPI Chairman Henrik Salander is available at: http://www.gsainstitute.org/gsi/newsletter/2009_1.html#2

International Nuclear Abolition Coalition launches campaign to put pressure on world leaders

On February 15, 2010, the 7th anniversary of the largest peace demonstration in the world's history, an international network of more than 250 organisations (including IPB) launched a campaign to pressurize

Barack Obama and other world leaders to start negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons worldwide. The coalition, whose banner reads "For Peace and Human Needs: Disarmament Now!", demands that negotiations on the abolition of nuclear weapons begin before the NPT Review Conference. The international planning committee consists of peace, disarmament and social justice organisations from the US, Britain, France, Germany and Japan. Before the NPT Review Conference starts, on April 30 and March 1, there will be a major conference on peace, disarmament, social justice and environmental issues, held at Manhattan's historic Riverside Church. Sunday, May 2 will be the **International Day of Action for a Nuclear Free World**. Tens of thousands of people - including nuclear weapons survivors from Japan and other nations, and Japanese peace activists, will march across mid-town Manhattan for a peace march, rally and festival. Parallel events will be held in many European and Asian nations. For more information see <http://www.peaceandjusticenow.org>. Additional information about the NPT and the RevCon at: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/2010index.html>

Nagasaki Appeal

The 4th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons was held on February 8, 2010. The assembly called for the establishment of a process that involves representatives of civil society and countries to work on a treaty that will prohibit nuclear weapons. It also urged all states with nuclear arsenals to stop research, testing and development of nuclear weapons; to encourage citizens' involvement in disarmament; to create more nuclear weapons free zones; and to bring world leaders to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to meet survivors and see the consequences of the use of nuclear arms. http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/db_article.php?article_id=35

Burma: a nuclear wannabe ?

According to the ISIS report from January 28, Burma's cooperation with North Korea and its purchases of top-of-the line equipment, some of which could be used in a nuclear or missile programme, suggest the country may be building secret nuclear reactors or fuel-cycle facilities. It makes governments and companies cautious in their dealings with Burma. In her speech from July 2009, US Secretary of State Clinton said there are growing concerns about the cooperation between North Korea and Burma. However, there is not enough evidence to prove that North Korea is building nuclear facilities for Burma's military junta or that the country is helping North Korea to obtain items for its nuclear programme.

The full report is available at <http://www.isis-online.org/isis-reports/detail/burma-a-nuclear-wanabee-suspicious-links-to-north-korea-high-tech-procureme/>

Hundreds protest outside UK nuclear weapons site

On February 15, 2010 hundreds of peace protesters gathered outside a factory at Aldermaston, where warheads for Trident nuclear submarines are made. Among the demonstrators were two Nobel Peace Prize winners, Jody Williams, of the campaign to ban landmines, and Mairead Maguire, who led a campaign to end violence in Northern Ireland. Kate Hudson, chairperson of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, called the demonstration 'the biggest blockade in years' and said that it reflects the number of people who oppose British possession of nuclear weapons. 26 activists were arrested.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jDSHr6EnE4vA6Qu24iMR-B7DnoJQD9DSM9I00> and http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5j_YAZKVGvS6dzYX6SS9neUZSut4w

Other news

The people's brakes on war

February 15, 2010 marked the 7th anniversary of the largest worldwide demonstration in history. Over 10 million people in sixty countries took to the streets trying to prevent the war in Iraq. Despite the fact that the protesters did not prevent the war, they succeeded in making the opposition to war a part of mainstream political debate. The article *The people's breaks on war*, published in the Guardian, analyses the legacy of the world's biggest demonstration. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/feb/15/irq-war-protest-iran>

National Peace Academy Summer Programmes

The National Peace Academy is now accepting applications for its summer programmes that will take place in July in Colombia and in August in Wilmington, Ohio. To learn more and to apply, please go to:

http://www.nationalpeaceacademy.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=195&Itemid=42

Resources

Journal of the Research/Action Team on Nonviolent Large Systems Change

The Winter 2010 issue of *Nonviolent Change*, Vol. XXIV, No.2 , (152pp) along with back issues, is now posted on the web at <http://www.nonviolentchangejournal.com>. *NCJ-Nonviolent Change* helps to network the peace community: providing dialogues, exchanges of ideas, articles, reviews, reports and announcements of the activities of peace related groups and meetings, reviews of world developments relating to nonviolent change and resource information concerning the development of human relations on the basis of mutual respect. It welcomes submissions of articles, commentary, news, reviews, media notes and announcements relating to getting to peace, or the barriers to getting there, both at the inter- and intra-community levels.

Submissions to Steve Sachs at: ssachs@earthlink.net

Calendar

Click [here](#) for IPB's international events calendar. For disarmament events, go to the comprehensive Disarmament Calendars of UN and other inter-governmental, grassroots and civil society events in key cities compiled by the [Geneva Forum](#) and by [Reaching Critical Will](#).

If you have reports of activities that are relevant to this newsletter please email them to the Secretariat.

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from this newsletter please email: mailbox@ipb.org

Editor: This newsletter was edited by Marzena Krygier marzena.krygier@ipb.org

International Peace Bureau, 41 Rue de Zurich, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland