



IPB ANNUAL CONFERENCE- WASHINGTON, D.C, NOV 13-15, 2009

As the new U.S. administration has revived the hope of peace activists inside and outside the USA, this conference will be a great opportunity to intensify partnerships, share views and lobby decision makers on the theme: Rolling back militarism: a task for the global movement. The programme will include a central event and additional activities depending on the wishes of partners and participants. But it is still open so suggestions are welcome. Click [here](#) for more.

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 \$1339 billion in 2007); 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, exhibitions and a media programme. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

NEWS

Gaza Conflict: US Arms and the EU-Israel Agreement

On February 23, Amnesty International released a report stating that Israel made extensive use of US-made weapons in its recent assault on Gaza including 500lb bombs, hellfire missiles, and white phosphorus artillery shells. For more information please click [here](#). On March 31, the [Peace Cycle](#) will cycle from the International Courts of Justice in the Hague to the European Parliament in Brussels, to hand-deliver a petition to suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement which governs trade and other ties between the EU and Israel.

A Case for Economic Conversion in Social Movement Organization

Drawing on works by Dan Clawson and Noam Chomsky, anti-war activist Milan Rai offers reflections on social movement organization and tactics. Rai argues that if the peace movement is going to succeed, it will have to cooperate with and learn from radical trade unions and labour groups. Radicalism, Rai states, doesn't mean risking physical injury or getting arrested. Rather, it is about developing actions that can contribute to uprooting militarism, war, and corporate power and creating organizations that have deep roots in communities. Please find the full blog [here](#).

A Planet at the Brink: Will Economic Brushfires Prove Too Virulent to Contain?

Michael Klare notes already that the global economic meltdown has resulted in increased civil unrest and ethnic strife. Klare argues that as people lose confidence in the ability of markets and governments to solve the global crisis, they are likely to erupt into violent protests or to assault others they deem responsible for their plight. [Read the full article.](#)

Military Spending**Obama's budget requests 4% increase in base funding**

President Obama's budget outline requests a 4 percent increase in basic military spending, from \$513 billion to \$534 billion. This does not include the additional \$205 billion requested to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan through the end of fiscal 2010. The administration has stated that it intends to shift money from some of the larger "cold war-style" weapons to smaller programs focussed on cyber security and insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan. [Read the full article.](#)

Economic Crisis to Spur US Defense Cuts?

The steady increase of military spending witnessed during President George W. Bush's terms is becoming increasingly unviable, according to leading political leaders and policy analysts in the United States. An article in PeaceMeal states that although President Obama is unlikely to "go toe-to-toe" with the military establishment for fear of political repercussions, the increasingly dim economic condition may necessitate the curbing of military spending. To read the full article please click [here](#).

Barney Frank to Obama: Cut Military Spending

Representative Barney Frank, one of the most powerful Democrats in the House of Representatives is leaning on President Barack Obama to cut the Pentagon budget. Frank has called for grassroots organizations to also apply pressure to government decision makers. [Read more.](#)

Nuclear Weapons**No to NATO: International Demonstration and Counter Summit**

A series of protests are being organized surrounding NATO's 60th anniversary conference from 2nd to 5th of April. Events will include an international conference, direct action, civil disobedience, an international resistance camp, and a mass demonstration on Saturday, April 4th. More information about the events can be found on the No to NATO [website](#).

NATO Summit: A Chance to Kick the Nuclear Habit

Ernie Regehr, cofounder of Project Ploughshares, writes on the upcoming 60th anniversary NATO summit and the opportunity for NATO to reinvent its security doctrine and end its reliance on nuclear weapons. [Read the piece online.](#)

Obama Admin Seeks to Reduce US & Russian Nuclear Stockpiles

The Obama administration is gearing up for early negotiations with Russia on a new treaty that would sharply reduce stockpiles of nuclear warheads. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has notified Congress and her staff that she intends to get started quickly on talks with the Russians, who have voiced interest in recent weeks in settling on a new treaty calling for cutbacks in arsenals on both sides. The 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty expires at the end of the year. It limited the United States and Russia to 6,000 nuclear warheads each. [Read full article.](#)

Weapons and their effects

Most Conflicts Occur in Areas of Greatest Biodiversity

In a recent study published by *Conservation Biology*, it was revealed that more than 80% of the world's major armed conflicts occurred in regions that contained the most biologically diverse plant and animal life on earth. The study, which examined those conflicts which resulted in more than 1,000 deaths between 1950-2000, pointed to the negative effects of conflict on the environment. It called for action among the international community in developing and maintaining conservation programs in situations of active conflict. For more information please click [here](#).

Costa Rica to Ban Uranium Weapons

On March 4th, a member of Costa Rica's legislative assembly released a draft for a comprehensive ban on uranium weapons. It is anticipated that the ban text will be written into a 1995 law controlling explosive weapons. If passed, the text will ban the sale, use, transit, production, and distribution of Uranium weapons in Costa Rica. [Read more](#).

ICBL Campaigners Celebrate 10 Years of Mine Ban Treaty

In February and March, campaigners from over 65 countries and areas around the world are taking action to commemorate 10 years of the Mine Ban Treaty's entry into force and to push for its further implementation and universalization. Activities include roundtables, photo exhibitions and art installations, film screenings, street actions, marches, workshops, petitions, and other events. [Find more information on the events](#).

Other news

"Books not Bombs" UK Students Protest

A group of students at Cardiff University in the United Kingdom, massed together on February 25 to protest the investment of Cardiff University in the arms trade. Demonstrations consisted of a "books not bombs" demonstration in which students brought a book to signify their support for education as well as a lock-in in one of the university lecture theatres. [Read more about the demonstrations](#).

Resources

New Website & Materials by ICBUW

The International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons has launched a new website at www.bandepleteduranium.org, which is designed for easy navigation and features an expanded Resources section. "Ban DU Next" Campaign postcards are now available. For order and inquiry, contact info@nodu-hiroshima.org. You can view the postcards by clicking [here](#).

New UN Report Explores Link Between Environment and Conflict

A new report recently released by the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), explores the environmental dimensions of conflicts and disasters, offering recommendations on how these can be addressed more successfully in the international community. Read the full version of [From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment](#).

Human Rights Handbook for Civil Society

An important new OHCHR publication: *Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society* is now available [on-line](#) in English, and will shortly be available in Russian, Arabic, Spanish and French. The handbook is an authoritative publication on

United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms - explaining how they work and the many important ways that civil society actors including NGOs can contribute to their work.

Newsletters

IPB receives many e-newsletters, both from our members and non-member organisations. Click [here](#) for a list with hyperlinks. Also, to review IPB's past newsletters, please visit [this link](#).

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](#).

Message to IPB members: 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

New editor: The IPB is pleased to welcome *Alicia Dueck* (alicia@ipb.org) who will be with us for the next three months

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