



# International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

July 4th 2008 edition

## 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 short film. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

## IPB appeal on the occasion of the G8 summit, and Peace Boat Blog

The IPB has put forth an appeal pressing the G8 to urgently review its priorities, in particular, to agree on the establishment of a new international fund to combat poverty, funded by reductions in military programmes, and to open talks on the elimination of nuclear weapons. See the [link](#) for the full appeal. IPB member organization Peace Boat now has a blog to monitor the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit to be held on 7-9 July 2008. Based on the experiences and outcomes of the Global Article 9 Conference held in May, they will monitor the G8 Summit debate and civil society responses from peace and human rights perspectives. Click [here](#) for the blog, and for Peace Boat's statement regarding G8 discussion on nuclear disarmament click [here](#)

## Will the next war for oil be in Africa?

"The number of Americans who believe that the war in Iraq was a mistake has surpassed the number who felt the same way about Vietnam during that war. At the same time, a much quieter U.S. military build-up is underway on another continent. The ultimate objective of the two efforts is the same: securing Big Oil's access to the region's oil. The impact in Africa will likely be the same as in Iraq: perpetual occupation, instability, and growing anti-Americanism." This article explores the growing importance of Africa as an oil provider, and what the implications are for a continent in possession of such coveted natural resources. See [Foreign Policy in Focus](#) for more details.

## Military + social spending

### House approves war funding plan

Military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan would be funded into early 2009 under a compromise plan approved June 19th by the U.S. House of Representatives. The \$165 billion measure puts no restrictions on money the Bush administration had requested to continue bankrolling the wars, but

includes money for key domestic priorities for House Democrats, namely more unemployment assistance, and an expansion of the G.I. Bill. Following the announcement on the agreement of the bill, an article was put out by the Healthcare NOT Warfare campaign stating that "as \$2 billion a day is spent on funding military operations, 47 million Americans still cannot afford health insurance." The argument here is that while we all know that the health care system is broken, many do not know that the dialogue about fixing it is just as flawed. See [Healthcare NOT Warfare](#) for the full article and see [CNN](#) for information on the military funding plan.

### The price of hunger

The Los Angeles Times recently ran an editorial on hunger and compared the cost of ending hunger to the bill the US is currently running up in Iraq. "The United Nations estimates that it would take at least \$30 billion per year to solve the food crisis, mainly by boosting agricultural productivity in the developing world. Over the decade that it would take to make sustainable improvements in the lives of the currently 862 million undernourished people, that amounts to \$300 billion. Congress shelled out \$21 billion last year for foreign aid and this week it approved \$165 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for the 2009 fiscal year. The U.S. spent \$340 billion in 2006 alone on public and private research and development. Directing just one-tenth of that seed money to sustainable, high-yield agriculture in the developing world could trigger a second Green Revolution." See [LA Times](#) for the full story.

### Canada building an army at a frantic pace

IPB consultant Jules Dufour, in his article "*Canada: Course effrénée aux dépenses militaires*" explains how the new military attitude of "putting Canada first" has materialized in very large sums of money. The reason for this build-up is partly the influence of the USA, whose ex-ambassador Paul Celucci in 2005 said that "*The Canadian Forces are very good, and it is important that they dispose of the adequate resources needed to follow up on their work in North America and around the world*". Some of the new expenses include the training and integration of 5 000 new full-time soldiers and 3 000 reserves with the net cost of \$3 million. Almost the same amount (\$3.2 million) will be used for the medical assistance for returned soldiers and repairing destroyed military infrastructure. For more information and data, see the original article (in French) at [www.mondialisation.ca](http://www.mondialisation.ca).

### Military expenditure up by 135 billion dollars in 2007 - French reaction

The French IPB member organization Le Mouvement de la Paix, has written an article on their website regarding the latest SIPRI figures. To see the article (in French), visit [www.mvtpaix.org](http://www.mvtpaix.org).

## Weapons and their effects

### Campaign on cluster munitions

The Institute of Peace Studies at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (the host of the 2007 IPB conference) invites you to support and join the international campaign it has launched against cluster bombs by signing their petition.

More information can be found at <http://www.peacestudiesinstitute.org/En/petition.htm>

### **Banner on 'broken chair' promotes signing the Oslo Treaty**

A banner was installed on the 'broken chair' monument outside the UN in Geneva, Switzerland on July 2nd, calling for states to sign the Cluster Munitions treaty in Oslo in December. This will ban the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions and place obligations on countries to clear affected areas, assist victims and destroy stockpiles. The famous 'broken chair' sculpture - a huge chair missing one leg, is a tribute to landmine victims and was commissioned by Handicap International. For more information, visit their website at [www.handicap-international.ch](http://www.handicap-international.ch). For more on their 'broken chair' banner click [here](#), and for further information about the treaty, visit <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org>

### **Army 'vacuum' missile hits Taliban**

In a recent article in Times Online, the British Ministry of Defence (MoD) admitted to the use of controversial thermobaric weapons to fight the Taliban in Afghanistan. Apache attack helicopters have fired the thermobaric weapons against fighters in buildings and caves, to create a pressure wave which sucks the air out of victims, shreds their internal organs and crushes their bodies. These weapons have been condemned by human rights groups as "brutal," and are so controversial that MoD weapons and legal experts spent 18 months debating whether British troops could use them without breaking international law. Click [here](#) for the complete article.

### **Guam: the invisible colony's struggle for survival**

Two representatives of Guam's Chamoru people are visiting Australia. Lisa Natividad and Julian Aguon are fighting against the militarization of their land by the US. Guam has been a US territory since 1898, and, noted a November 5 *Newsweek* article, it "is fast becoming the linchpin of Washington's new Asia strategy". "Guam is an ideal lily pad" for the Pentagon, the magazine reported, "since the United States can act there without seeking permission from allies ... Declares Carl Peterson of the Guam Chamber of Commerce: 'This is the US in Asia. This is the tip of the spear.'" Read the full story at [Green Left Online](#)

### **Pentagon fights the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on pollution cleanup**

The Defense Department, the nation's biggest polluter, is resisting orders from the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up Fort Meade and two other military bases where the EPA says dumped chemicals pose "imminent and substantial" dangers to public health and the environment. See the complete article at [The Washington Post](#).

### **Weapons of Mass Destruction**

**40th Anniversary of NPT commemorated by release of parliamentary statement on nuclear weapons convention**

On Tuesday July 1st 2008 a cross-party group representing 69 Members of the European Parliament from 19 European Union member states launched a Parliamentary declaration in support of the Nuclear Weapons Convention. Their support marks the 40th anniversary of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and the unfulfilled promise of the official nuclear weapon States to move towards total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. See <http://www.gsinstitute.org> for more information.

### **US nuclear weapons withdrawn from the UK**

The United States has withdrawn nuclear weapons from the RAF Lakenheath air base 70 miles northeast of London, marking the end to more than 50 years of U.S. nuclear weapons deployment to the United Kingdom since the first nuclear bombs first arrived in September 1954. The withdrawal, which has not been officially announced but was confirmed by several sources, follows the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Ramstein Air Base in Germany in 2005 and Greece in 2001. In less than a decade, nuclear weapons have been removed from three bases in two NATO countries. Click [here](#) for the complete article, or [www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org) for further information.

### **Mayors for Peace membership climbs to 2,227 cities in 130 countries**

During the last 3 weeks of May another 51 new member cities have joined Mayors for Peace which now counts 2,277 member cities in 130 countries. They welcomed new members from Austria (1), Belgium (1), Chile (2), Croatia (1), Iraq (27), Japan (7), Spain (2), Switzerland (3) and USA (7). Click [here](#) for the list of the new 51 member cities, or visit their main site at <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>

### **UK statesman call for a world without nuclear weapons**

On June 30th, The Times published a piece authored by three former UK foreign secretaries (including two Conservatives) and one former secretary general of NATO. They essentially subscribe to the 'Hoover' agenda, and call for support for moving towards a nuclear weapon free world. Sir Malcolm Rifkind (Conservative), Lord David Owen (Crossbencher), Lord Douglas Hurd (Conservative), and Lord George Robertson (Labour), in an article titled *'Start worrying and learn to ditch the bomb'*, warn that the world is entering a dangerous new phase "that combines widespread proliferation with extremism and geopolitical tension". They argue that the only way to deal with this danger is to work multilaterally towards complete nuclear disarmament. See [TimesOnline](#) for the actual article, or click [here](#) for another article on the topic from the Times.

## **Other news**

### **New IPB paper: McCain V. Obama - A short comparison of policies**

With the US presidential campaign heating up it is often hard to keep track of all the proposed policies, actions or statements from the two front running candidates. Therefore IPB has put together a short guide to the policies of McCain and Obama to help our readers better understand their stances on various issues. Click [here](#) for this guide.

### Winter Soldier project: Anti-war testimonials

The US hearing in March 2008 gathered testimony from veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, giving an accurate account of what is really happening day in and day out, on the ground. This four-day event brought together scholars, veterans, journalists, and other specialists to give context to the testimony. The panels covered everything from the history of the GI resistance movement to the fight for veterans' health benefits and support. In 1971, a courageous group of veterans exposed the criminal nature of the Vietnam War in an event called Winter Soldier. Once again, this project seeks to make sure the voices of veterans are heard. Along the same lines, Jonathan Hutto wrote his own story titled 'Anti War Soldier.' An interview with Hutto and more information about his book can be found at <http://www.fpif.org/fpiftxt/5280>, and more about the Winter Soldier project can be found at <http://ivaw.org/wintersoldier>

### The French army chief of staff, General Bruno Cuhe resigned

General Cuhe offered his resignation July 1st after a soldier used real bullets instead of blanks at the public demonstration at a barracks in south-western France. Four people, including a child, were seriously injured in the incident though they are all now in stable condition. The shooting occurred during a public demonstration of hostage-freeing techniques at a barracks in Carcassonne, in the Aude region. Everyone involved in the incident is being questioned, and inquiries are also being made about the organisation of the event, in which an actor posing as a terrorist was positioned among the public that meant that the soldier was firing straight into the crowd. See the full story at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7483159.stm>

### Resources

#### New book: After the party; a personal and political journey inside the ANC

Andrew Feinstein became an active - and ardent - member of the ANC in the 1980s, and campaigned energetically for the party in the first democratic elections. He was elected to parliament and rose swiftly through the ranks, earning the label 'Mr Clean' for his unstinting work against graft and corruption. But his feelings of euphoria at being part of the new South Africa slowly soured. Initially disappointed by the constant jockeying for power and the denialist AIDS policy of President Thabo Mbeki, Feinstein's disillusionment grew as he sought unsuccessfully to investigate the corruption surrounding the Arms Deal. Isolated from his former comrades, Feinstein was forced to choose between his principles and the party he had so admired. This is his story. Click [here](#) for more information.

#### Pamphlet on Abdul Ghaffar Khan - Muslim champion of nonviolence

Abdul Ghaffar Khan (1890-1988) was nicknamed 'the Frontier Gandhi' because he too gave his life to social and political transformation through nonviolent means - in his case a nonviolence rooted in Islam. He created a highly disciplined nonviolent army which challenged British rule in the North West Frontier region bordering India and Afghanistan that became a part of Pakistan. Ghaffar Kahn spent a quarter of his life in British and then

Pakistani prisons. The Movement for the Abolition of War believes his heroic story deserves to be better known, and thus together with IPB, has published a pamphlet on his life's work. Click [here](#) for the flyer and order form.

### Newsletters

IPB receives many e-newsletters, both from our members and non-member organisations. Click [here](#) for a list with hyperlinks.

### New on IPB website

### IPB Publications

The IPB book "*Warfare or Welfare?*" is now also available in German as well as French and English. You can find this and other German texts on the [IPB Website](#).

### Calendar

Click [here](#) for IPB's international events calendar. For disarmament events, go to the comprehensive **Disarmament Calendars** of UN and other intergovernmental, grassroots and civil society events in key cities by the Geneva Forum at [www.geneva-forum.org](http://www.geneva-forum.org) and by Reaching Critical Will at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/disarmcal08.html>

**Message to IPB members: if you have reports of activities that are relevant to this newsletter please email them to the Secretariat.**

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This is the last edition edited by Kenneth Mostad. We would like to thank him for his hard work over the past six months, and wish him the very best at the Department of Peace Studies at Bradford University in the UK.