



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working for a World Without War

IPB News

October 30th 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 media programme. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

Launch of a new IPB **CALL FOR ACTION** on military spending

IPB has drawn up an important *Call For Action* on military spending which we are distributing very widely. We hope it will resonate with many people's worries about the current financial crisis and the on going mis-appropriation of huge amounts of money. This will be a process. The first round of organisational endorsements will be sent to the upcoming UN conference on Financing for Development. We will then do further outreach in order to reach wide communities around the world, and to stimulate actions at many levels. **Please send organisational endorsements to [IPB Secretariat](#) before the deadline of **NOVEMBER 15**.** Find the Call [here](#) or at ipb.org

Women & Micro-Disarmament at United Nations

On Oct. 10th, *Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network* and [Control Arms Foundation of India](#) held its first ever meeting at the United Nations, on the theme "Women and Micro-Disarmament". A panel discussion focused on the origins of conflict in Manipur (India), the massive arms proliferation in the region and the efforts undertaken by women in Manipur and others in search for solutions to bring an end to the decades old problem. A short report of this meeting is available [here](#), with related [interview](#) by *Inner City Press*.

Pope: Military spending creates food shortages

In a [message](#) for the World Food Day (Oct. 16th), Pope Benedict XVI blamed food shortages on "feverish speculation" that drives up prices, along with "corruption in public life or growing investments in weapons and sophisticated military technologies to the detriment of people's primary needs." The number of hungry people increased by 75 million last year to reach a total of 923 million, according to the [FAO](#).

Military vs. social spending

We Have the Money. If Only We Didn't Waste It on the Defense Budget

Renowned US foreign policy expert *Chalmers Johnson* explains that the problem is not the lack of resources, but the fact that they are wasted: "Spending hundreds of billions of dollars on present and future wars that have nothing to do with our national security is simply obscene. And yet Congress has been corrupted by the military-industrial complex into believing that, by voting for more defense spending, they are supplying "jobs" for the economy. In fact, they are only diverting scarce resources from the desperately needed rebuilding of the American infrastructure and other crucial spending necessities into utterly wasteful munitions." Full [article](#).

US Congressman breaks taboo on cutting military budget

Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts suggested in a recent interview a 25% cut of the defence spending to cope with the country's deficit and to meet social security and medical needs. Although the committees overseeing defence budget are likely to reject such a sizable cut, reduction in military spending might well become inevitable, says [The Hill](#).

US defence spending to fall, predicts military industry analyst

While indentifying Australia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and Brazil as key emerging defense markets, Jane's predicts the U.S. defense budget will fall by \$75.9 billion to \$620 billion by 2010. Military spending in the 27 EU states is expected to rise 2 percent to \$297 billion. Read the [AP report](#).

US: Intelligence Agencies Face Austerity

Spending on intelligence operations increased by some 9% last year, to \$47.5 billion, the director of national intelligence, said on Oct. 28th. That figure includes most intelligence spending, including the budget for the [National Security Agency](#), the [Central Intelligence Agency](#) and the operation of spy satellites, but it does not include several billions that the military services spend annually on intelligence operations.

Yet current and former intelligence officials said that some belt-tightening had already begun because of the economic crisis, and that further large increases in the budget were unlikely, no matter who became the next president. [Full article](#) of the *New York Times*.

Pakistan rules out possibility of slashing its military budget

Pakistan has ruled out any major cut in its military spending in the face of an IMF proposal for a 30% reduction in the defence budget if it opts to avail of financial assistance from the global institution, saying it would not be possible. Full article available [here](#).

Cambodia defence spending to double, reaching 25% of the state budget

The government has proposed a massive increase in military spending in next year's budget, as conflict on the border with Thailand raises fears over the Kingdom's readiness to do battle with a better-equipped foe. Previous

National Assembly budgets had been reducing national defense funding by two to four percent annually in line with the government's spending priorities. Full articles of the [Phompenh Post](#) and [asianews.it](#).

Weapons and their effects

Successful disarmament actions ongoing in Sweden

20 antitank launchers and large amounts of other armaments were damaged, Oct. 16, as activists broke into plants belonging to BAE Systems and Saab in Sweden. The non-violent actions were simultaneous, with four activists hammering on arms bound for export to among others the US, UK and India. The Campaign [Avrusta](#) (Disarm) was launched last year by the Swedish peace group "Ofog - for a nuclear free and demilitarised world", inviting people to begin to physically disarm Swedish weapons for export, as the country ranks among the largest arms exporter in the world. Find videos, texts in various languages and the latest developments at [www.europeanpeaceaction.org](#).

Final push for the Clusters Munitions Treaty

71 countries are taking part in the *Global Week of Action to Ban Cluster Bombs*, running until Nov. 2nd. Supporting events will also take place during the meeting of the Convention on Conventional Weapons in Geneva (Nov. 3-14), to urge all governments to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo on Dec. 3rd. Find more details, including about the *Banbus* [here](#).

*The report of the Kampala Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which gathered 42 African states last September is now [available](#).

Weapons of Mass Destruction

UN Secretary General Urges Nuclear Disarmament

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged, on the United Nations Day, the world's nuclear powers to start negotiations on eliminating nuclear weapons and laid out the key points on the way to nuclear disarmament in an address to the East West Institute on Friday. The full speech in both text and video can be found [here](#). Click [here](#) for a short summary of the speech.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union discusses Nuclear Disarmament

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, an international organisation of exchange and cooperation between parliaments, discussed the necessity of parliamentary action towards nuclear disarmament during its 119th IPU Assembly in Geneva. A lively discussion among parliamentarians from over 40 countries over topics such as Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones or the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty laid the groundwork for next year's IPU Assembly in Ethiopia, when a resolution on future activities of IPU in the field of nuclear disarmament will be discussed.

Read the full report prepared by the *Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament* [here](#).

Atomic-Bomb Survivors Address the United Nations General Assembly

A delegation of 4 Hibakusha (Atomic Bomb Survivors) visited the United Nations Headquarters from October 22 to 31 and addressed the UN General

Assembly's First Committee on Disarmament and International Security. The Hibakusha appealed to delegates and members states at a panel calling for a nuclear free world on Oct. 27th.

Disarmament actions in Japan and UK

The Japan Council against A & H Bombs (*Gensuikyo*) conducted a nationwide action on Oct. 24th, the first day of the U.N. Disarmament Week, visiting embassies of nuclear weapons states and holding a meeting with the Japanese Foreign Ministry. It issued a "[Letter to the Leaders of All National Governments](#)", featuring three key demands vital to nuclear disarmament, including moving for an agreement on a total ban on nuclear weapons as an urgent vital task and ensuring concrete steps to be taken inside the UN disarmament framework.

On Oct. 27th, [Trident Ploughshares](#) has organised with other groups a big blockade of the Aldermaston nuclear bomb factory to mark the World Disarmament Week. More than 30 people were arrested out of the 400 demonstrators. They were denouncing the expansion of the production facility, the continued deployment and replacement of the Trident system, as unnecessary expenses and a serious hazard to life, health and the environment.

Global Fissile Material Report 2008 & companion volume of country studies

In its 2008 report, the *International Panel on Fissile Materials* has proposed key elements for a verifiable Fissile Material (Cutoff) Treaty. In addition to a ban on all future production of fissile material for weapons, the report makes a case that the treaty should also address pre-existing stocks of fissile material held by nuclear weapons states. The Companion Volume provides a country-by-country analysis of the concerns of key states to different aspects of a prospective Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty. Both resources are available at the [IPMF website](#).

Other news

Nobel Peace Prize Committee criticised for not respecting Nobel's will

Just three days before the announcement of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, (awarded to Martti Ahtisaari), former IPB Vice-President Fredrik S. Heffermehl launched a broadside against the Norwegian Nobel Committee through his new book *Nobels vilje* (Nobel's will). Heffermehl accuses the Committee - through its choice of laureates over many decades - of not respecting the provisions of Nobel's will. More [here](#).

Resources

SIPRI paper on private military services industry

The trend towards increased outsourcing of military activities has led to a rapid expansion of the military services segment of the arms industry in recent decades. The involvement of private companies in assisting military operations in armed conflict situations such as Iraq also raises serious concerns about the democratic accountability of armed forces, the status of

civilian contractors in military roles, and the political influence of companies that have a vested interest in the continuation of the conflict. Download the latest issue of *SIPRI Insights on Peace and Security* [here](#).

Colourfully pictured approaches to peacebuilding

The Peacebuilding Approaches Catalogue is a full-colour glossy publication describing 18 approaches from the fields of conflict resolution, conflict transformation and peacebuilding around the world. It is also a learning resource for readers to discover and integrate fresh perspectives and an opportunity to showcase your approaches around the world. This catalogue is available in many languages at www.globalpeacebuilders.org, a Belfast based network, which provides as well various resources and databases.

Women and peace and security

This [report](#) by UN Secretary-General stresses that countries need to take more action to increase the role of women in the search for peace and justice and enhance their input in decision-making, even though positive steps have been made in recent years. It also calls on the Council to fortify their capacity to end sexual violence and that it “should be prepared to dispatch missions to assess situations when violence is used or commissioned as a tactic of war or as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians.” More on the related Security Council’s open debate at the [NGLS](#).

Military vs. Climate Security, a comparison of budgets in the US

This 30pp [report](#) compiled by *Foreign Policy in Focus* found that in 2008 “for every dollar allocated for stabilizing the climate, the government will spend \$88 on achieving security by military force” and that in international assistance, it “will devote 50 times as much to arming the rest of the world as to helping it prepare for and avoid global climate catastrophe”.

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

Newsletter edited by: Frederic Durand – frederic@ipb.org and Jacob Romer

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

Tel: + 41 22 731 6429 / Fax + 41 22 738 9419

www.ipb.org