



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

17 January 2007

Happy New Year to all readers

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 (now totalling \$1118 billion); 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 builds news partnerships at World Social Forum

As we go to press, the IPB Secretariat is gearing up for the 2007 World Social Forum. Over 100,000 people are expected to gather in Nairobi from January 20-25 for the first fully-global World Social Forum to be held in Africa. The event will open with a massive Peace March starting from Kibera, a huge informal settlement on the edge of the Kenya capital. On 22nd Jan, IPB Secretary-General Colin Archer will speak at a workshop on the theme 'Disarmament to Combat Poverty' organised jointly by the French development agency Freres des Hommes, together with the Pakistani labour organisation PILER and the Indian peasant movement Ekta Parishad. Many other sessions on related themes will also be held. IPB Vice-President Arielle Denis (France), as well as representatives of many IPB member organisations, will also be present. Report to follow in a future newsletter.

For details, go to conference site (4 languages): www.wsf2007.org/

Kenya: World Social Forum Descends On Kenya:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200701170337.html>

Blair faces new challenge over Saudi arms deal

The British Prime Minister is likely to face confrontation with the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development over his government's alleged thwarting of the investigation regarding bribery of a Saudi official on an arms deal. They are expected to meet by the end of January 2007.

More... <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/economics/story/0,,1984657,00.html>

U.S. selecting Hybrid Design for warheads

The US is selecting a new hybrid design for nuclear warheads. If approved by President Bush and financed by congress its estimated cost might exceed \$100 billion.

More...

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/07/washington/07nuke.html?_r=2&adxn1=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1168437729-fOPzv4900xRFmt4tDDmQ6w

South African plea to outlaw gun ownership

South African plea to outlaw gun ownership as gun related crimes surged end of last year. South Africa is most likely the final destination of many AKs and other weapons from the long civil wars in Mozambique and Angola.

More... <http://www.capetimes.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=3612950>

Threat to UN's Dept of Disarmament Affairs: Civil Society reacts

The new Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-Moon, is purportedly considering subsuming the Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA) into the Department of Political Affairs, reducing the status of disarmament within the UN at a time when the problems posed by nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as small arms, are escalating.

More... <http://reachingcriticalwill.org/action/saveDDA.html>

Belgian ban on investments in cluster munitions

The Belgian Senate voted in favour of a law proposal, forbidding financial institutions to invest in or finance cluster munition producers. To ensure its implementation, the law would make a duty for the Belgian state to produce a list of cluster munition producers. The proposed law needs to be discussed and hopefully approved in the chamber.

More... www.netwerkvlaanderen.be

RAPTORS, ROBOTS AND RODS FROM GOD: The nightmare weaponry of our future

Despite the setbacks in the war on terror notably Afghanistan and Iraq, the Pentagon continues to put millions of dollars in developing future weapons. From wars in space to sci-fi battlescapes without soldiers, scenarios are being scripted and weaponry prepared, assuring no future victory but limitless spending.

More... <http://www.tomdispatch.com/index.mhtml?pid=155521>

MoveOn mobilize to stop Bush's escalation in Iraq

Owing to Bush's continuous belligerent ambitions towards Iraq, the US campaign group MoveOn launches Avaaz, a new international partnership to mobilize progressive global voices. They call for a global mobilization to help stop US occupation of Iraq.

More... http://www.avaaz.org/en/iraq_campaign_jan_2007/

100,000 mercenaries, the forgotten "Surge"

The private contractors (mercenaries) make up the second largest military force in Iraq after the US army. They are estimated to be about 100,000 but no one is certain of the exact number as they answer to no central command. Their salaries, are, in the end, paid directly by the U.S. government or considered additional "security charges" to the bills of private American or other contractors.

More... <http://barrylando.com/?m=200701>

ICBL urges Pakistan to abandon mine laying plan

The International Campaign to Ban Landmine (ICBL) urged Pakistan to look for alternatives to address its security concerns without resorting to antipersonnel mines. "Using antipersonnel mines is not the answer to a country's legitimate security problems," said ICBL's Executive Director Sylvie Brigot.

More... http://www.icbl.org/news/pakistan_minelaying_plans

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Impassioned call for US leadership to abolish nuclear weapons by a bipartisan foursome of prominent former US Cold Warriors.

Former US top officials including Henry Kissinger US Secretary of State during the cold war plead for complete abandonment of nuclear weapons. Owing to the recent N. Korean nuclear test and Iran refusal to abandon Uranium enrichment, the top officials mirror a very dangerous world that might be compared to the cold war era of "mutually assured destruction" between the US and Soviet Union. In their commentary, they outline steps and groundwork that would set the pace for a nuclear free world.

More...<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB116787515251566636.html>

Opponents of Nevada bomb test fault impact studies

Some inhabitants of Nevada (Las Vegas) risk radioactive exposure if the twice-postponed non-nuclear bomb test goes ahead. The purpose of the \$23 million experiment, known as Divine Strake, is to test the impact of certain levels of force on underground bunkers.

More...

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/11/us/11nevada.html?ex=1169355600&en=a46544c103a8bedf&ei=5029&partner=RRSANDIEGO>

N. Korea nuclear test likely

Officials of South Korea claim to have spotted some activities near the N. Korean Nuclear site. Despite their speculations of another likely nuclear test from Pyongyang, they were short of evidence that another nuclear test from the North is in fact imminent.

More...http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070109/ts_nm/korea_north_commander_dc

Faslane anti-trident protest, update

Anti nuclear campaigners completed the 3rd month of blockade at Faslane Scotland. 42 Blockading Groups have covered 59 days.

More...http://www.faslane365.org/en/newsletter_december_2006

Global Security Institute advisory board member testifies on Congress hearing entitled: weapons of mass destruction and current nuclear proliferation

Former Ambassador Thomas Graham and GSI Advisory Board member Frank von Hippel testified in US congress hearing on the subject of weapons of mass destruction and current proliferation. GSI is an IPB member organisation.

More...http://www.middlepowers.org/gsi/newsletter/newslettertest_2007-01-08.html#highlightbsg

Doomsday Clock Closer to Midnight - public opinion need to mobilize

Due to new and increasing nuclear dangers, on Wednesday 17 January 2007 the hands of the Doomsday clock will be moved closer to midnight. The hands of the Doomsday Clock are changing for many reasons, including the upgrading, modernizing and testing of new nuclear weapons by Nuclear Weapon States, Australia supplying uranium to China, Iran's refusal to freeze its nuclear programme and North Korea becoming the 9th state to possess nuclear weapons.

More...

www.ICANW.org

www.IPPNW.org

www.mapw.org.au

http://news.independent.co.uk/world/science_technology/article2160081.ece

Other

IPB joins 13 Nobel laureates seeking strong backing for UN resolution on Myanmar - and joins visa action.

Thirteen Nobel Peace Prize winners called on the UN Security Council to give unanimous support to a US-proposed resolution condemning political repression in military-ruled Myanmar. They also sought visas to visit sister Laureate [Aung San Suu Kyi](#); the only imprisoned Nobel Peace Laureate.

More... http://www.nobelwomensinitiative.org/about.php?WEBYEP_DI=11

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/LZEG-6X6SJT?OpenDocument>

IPB women programme in Lebanon

We are very pleased that Silvi Sterr, Director of the Women in Peacemaking Program has been invited to Lebanon by the national section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She will meet a range of groups from civil society, and on 3rd February she will address the

meeting at the opening of the *Bertha von Suttner* exhibition in Beirut. This is the first time the exhibition will be shown in the Arab world. In a future edition of this newsletter we hope to present her report.

Women lead in peace and stability

Women from the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands, Sudan and Uganda were in Washington to discuss ways to bring youth into peace processes.

More... <http://www.cedpa.org/content/news/detail/1036>

Peace Research Centre, Spain, to close

After more than 22 years of work on major conflict situations, the Peace Research Center of Madrid (Centro de Investigación para la Paz—CIP) has announced its closure. During the last six months of 2006, the new Board of the Worker's Home Foundation (Fundación Hogar del Empleado) (FUHEM), main donor and provider of part of the Infrastructure of CIP, decided to end its existence.

More...

<http://cip1984-2006.blogspot.com/2007/01/end-of-peace-research-center-spain.html>

Resources

Council Unbound: The Growth of UN Decision Making on Conflict and Post Conflict Issues after the Cold War, by Michael J. Matheson

This book examines the Security Council's new, expansive exercise of legal authority. It looks at its bold and lawful innovative measures to counter terrorism and stop war. It also surveys the roles played by the Council in post-conflict environments.

December 2006, 336PP. 6x9 \$19.95 (paper)/£12.50, ISBN-13: 978-1-1-929223-78-7, \$50.00 (cloth)/£31.25 ISBN-13: 978-1-929223-79-4.

Visit <http://bookstore.usip.org>

Joseph Rotblat: Visionary for Peace

This book is composed of five major articles on Rotblat's biography including his work on science and peace. As a scientist, he won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts towards nuclear disarmament. He was nominated by IPB.

Edited by R. Braun, D. Krieger, H. Kroto, R. Hinde and S. Milne.

Feb.2007 Hardcover. 265 pages approx 20 figures, Approx. sfr 56, ISBN-10: 3-527-40690-5, ISBN-13: 978-3-527-40690-6.

Visit: <http://www.wiley-vch.de/>

Newsletters

- [1325 PeaceWomen E-news](#)
- [Campaign Against Arms Trade](#)
- [Campaign Against Depleted Uranium](#)

- [Civil Society Watch](#)
- [Faslane 365](#)
- [Global Campaign For Peace Education](#)
- [Global Security Institute](#)
- [IANSA](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [Movement for the Abolition of War](#)
- [NGO Congo](#)
- [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)
- [Nuclear Age Peace Foundation](#)
- [Pax Christi](#)
- [Peace Women Across the Globe](#)
- [Swisspeace - KOFF](#)
- [The Monitor- News from the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court](#)
 - [UNIDIR Highlights](#)
 - [War Profiteers](#)

Calendar

Click [here](#) for IPB's international events calendar.

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

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