



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

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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 \$1204 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 ANNUAL SEMINAR, ALEXANDRIA (NOV. 07) - BROCHURE + REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE

The IPB Secretariat is pleased to announce the opening of registrations for the seminar *Books or Bombs?* to be held at the Alexandria Library (Egypt) on Nov.11 and 12. This will be followed by the 2007 IPB Council meeting on Nov. 13. The provisional programme with initial speakers list, information about co-sponsors, and other details can be found in the newly published brochure - click [HERE](#) for pdf version. The registration form can be downloaded [HERE](#). Paper copies are available on request. Please forward this information to your contacts and colleagues.

Ban Ki-Moon on Disarmament for Development

UN Secretary-General, to the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, in New York, 18 July: "Progress towards disarmament yields obvious security dividends. But it could have myriad other benefits. Just consider that world military spending now exceeds \$1.2 trillion. Even if 1 per cent of it was redirected towards development, the world would be much closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals." For complete statement: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/sqsm11096.doc.htm>.

Franco-German Arms Producer makes Arms Deal with Libya

The jointly owned manufacturer of military equipment, European Aeronautic Defense & Space (EADS), has signed the first arms deal with Libya after the removal of the EU arms embargo in 2004. The deal was finalized suspiciously near the release of the six Bulgarian hospital workers and it has been discussed whether there was a trade-off involved. EADS claims this was the result of 18 months negotiations, similarly the French authorities deny the connection. However, Libyan sources have stated the French had a finger in the game. More <http://www.guardian.co.uk/france/story/0,,2141219,00.html> or <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2007/08/03/europe/libya.php>

Military Spending Converter Shows Comparisons with Social Spending

The NGO Share The World's Resources (STWR), aiming for a reformed world economy, has set up a 'military spending converter' to compare military spending to social needs. Fundamental reforms could each day prevent 50,000 people from dying. The fight against terrorism has to this date swallowed \$ 500 billion, which could have provided for 1,2 trillion meals for hungry people. One single F-15 Fighter costs \$ 105 billion, which corresponds to 28,000 schools. See http://www.stwr.net/component/option,com_costofwar/Itemid,165/

The US Is Missing Weapons in Iraq

The total US spending on the Iraq war, only for training and equipping Iraqi forces, amounts to almost \$ 20 billion. Recently the Defence Department requested two additional billions. The US appears unaccountable for a lot of the resources it is pouring into the conflict. In fact, recently they have admitted to have 'lost' 190,000 weapons. More http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/06/world/middleeast/06iraq-002.html?_r=2&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1187013620-5xzwYQ8acOGWFDuyTAmkIQ and <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,,2143071,00.html>

US House of Representatives Approves \$ 460 Billion Defence Budget

'The House approved modest changes to President Bush's record Pentagon budget proposal early Sunday, but Democrats signalled plans to resume a more contentious debate over the Iraq war after the August recess. The House's \$459.6 billion version of the defence budget, approved on a 395-13 vote, would add money for equipment for the National Guard and Reserve, provide for 12,000 additional soldiers and Marines, and increase spending for defence health care and military housing.' See http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/080507Y.shtml.

DESO in UK to be Shut Down

On 25th July 2007, the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, has confirmed that the [Defence Export Services Organisation](http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/deso.php) (DESO), part of the Ministry of Defence, is to be shut down. This has been a longstanding aim of the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), launched in 1974. The closing of the department implies that the UK government will save £15 million annually, which now could be reallocated into social spending. See <http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/deso.php> and http://www.caat.org.uk/caatnews/2007_08/news_shutDESO.php.

Calls for Stricter Export Laws in the UK

'An influential group of British parliamentarians has called for a change in the law so that all UK residents must obtain licences before selling or buying arms. Licences are currently required for trading long-range missiles, but not for short range missiles or small arms. The committee also identified a need for tighter control over UK businesses based overseas, to ensure that arms produced abroad by a UK parent company do not end up in countries under an arms embargo.' From <http://www.iansa.org/updates/index.htm>.

Brown Increases Military Spending in UK with 1,5% until 2011

The new UK Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, plans increased state resources for military purposes. The policy is motivated by the need to safeguard British jobs, realised by building new aircraft carriers for almost £ 4 billion. This will supposedly preserve working opportunities for 10,000 people. By 2011 the military spending will reach an annual £ 36.9 billion. More on <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/gordonbrown/story/0,,2148235,00.html>.

UN Member State Views on New Arms Trade Treaty

The UN Department for Disarmament Affairs has posted the first member state views to the new Arms Trade Treaty on its website. According to GA resolution 61/89, adopted in 2006, the treaty is to establish common standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. See <http://disarmament.un.org/cab/att>.

Lebanon anniversary: Cluster Munitions still Claim Victims

"The past year of suffering in Lebanon shows once more why cluster bombs must never be used. As we move closer than ever to an international treaty banning this weapon we call on all responsible states to join this effort," said Thomas Nash, Coordinator of the Cluster Munition Coalition.

<http://www.stopclusterbombs.org/>

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th of August

The atomic bombs released over Japan in August 1945 killed a total of 145 000 people before the end of that year. Today, 62 years later, the victims of this tragic event are remembered all over the world. 'Kaz Sueishi, who was 19 years old at the time of the Hiroshima atomic bombing and survived, said: "One second before it was heaven. One second after it was hell."' See http://wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/08/04_krieger_sixty-two_years_after.htm.

The new Mayor of Nagasaki Tomihisa Taue marked the anniversary of the atomic bombing by saying in a peace declaration that Japan should enact its three non-nuclear principles into law. See <http://mdn.mainichi-msn.co.jp/national/news/20070809p2a00m0na012000c.html>.

For the Hiroshima Peace Declaration issued the Aug. 6 2007 <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/declaration/English/index.html>.

The UN Secretary-General's statement: <http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=2696>.

IPB President Speech in Hiroshima

The current IPB President, Tomas Magnusson, made a speech during the commemoration ceremonies of the nuclear bombings in Hiroshima. The topic was 'How to reach nuclear abolition within three years - the DC method', 'D' standing for diversity and 'C' for concentration. 'Diversity means we will all continue the peace work that we find most fruitful, and most adjusted to our own abilities, whether it is to organise and motivate our neighbours or colleagues, or whether it is to be part of international meetings like the world conference in Hiroshima.... But to reach our goal

within a time limit of three years, we need also to find a common approach - a peak for our work, a concentration on something we can have in common.' For the entire speech see http://www.ipb.org/pdf/World%20conference_Thomaspeech.pdf.

Iran Confirms Inspections of Nuclear Plant

Iran's most controversial nuclear plant was the target of inspections in the end of July. This took place according to the agreement between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The reactor in Arak is producing uranium for medical purposes but has long been the subject of suspicions with regards to Iran's nuclear programme. More in French <http://www.lemonde.fr/web/article/0,1-0@2-3210,36-940513@51-677013,0.html> or in English <http://www.iranmania.com/News/ArticleView/Default.asp?NewsCode=53247&NewsKind=Current%20Affairs>.

New Film on the Nuclear Bombings of Japan

Academy Award winner Steven Okazaki has produced a new film, '*White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*'. Critics say it is a very powerful illustration of the events at the end of the Second World War. It features 14 survivors and their experiences. More <http://www.hbo.com/docs/programs/whitelightblackrain/>.

Other

JOB: Nonviolent Peaceforce Seeks a Project Director for Sri Lanka

The position, based in Colombo, Sri Lanka, is responsible for the overall management of the NP project in Sri Lanka. For more information see <http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/>.

JOB: Youth Empowerment Initiative Director

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, USA; seeks a Youth Empowerment Initiative Director to manage the Foundation's youth programs and assist in planning additional programs for 2008 and beyond. http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/about/opportunities/youth_director.pdf.

Resources

New UN Website for Disarmament Education

The UN Department for Disarmament Affairs has launched a new website called Disarmament and Education - resources for learning. 'Disarmament, non-proliferation and peace education efforts are becoming important means to better understand and address these concerns. They are important for strengthening involvement by civil society and are a source of inspiration for constructive national and international action.' See <http://disarmament.un.org/education-new/index.html>.

Publication on Law and Nuclear Weapons

In July 2006 legal experts and civil society representatives met in Brussels to examine the legality of nuclear weapons in depth. The conference developed proposals for action by citizens to uphold the law, calling on

diplomats and politicians to honour their Good Faith obligations. World Court Project UK, working with the World Court Coalition, has just published "Freedom from Nuclear Weapons" which records the presentations and conclusions of the conference and outlines a way forward. To order copies see <http://abolition2000europe.org/index.php?op=ViewArticle&articleId=235&blogId=1>

Gender & Mine Action Web-Portal

The Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines has established an Internet portal, dedicated to encouraging and supporting gender mainstreaming in mine action. The portal is both a source of information, and an interactive space for mine action actors and stakeholders to exchange questions, perspectives and experiences. <http://www.scbl-gender.ch/>.

Newsletters

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

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.

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