



## International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 edition

### NEW IPB-WEBSITE !

Our new website is available at the normal address [www.ipb.org](http://www.ipb.org) . We hope you like the new site. It is not yet 100% complete and there will be many changes, additions and improvements as we go along. We plan to put frequent new stories on 'front page' so that it is more lively than the old one. There will also be an archive which can be perused with the search engine. The new site is intended as a tool to promote the whole range of IPB's work and that of its members and partners. It also should be very valuable in fundraising efforts. Your feedback will be welcome. Please pass the word on to your colleagues to encourage them to make an electronic visit.

### 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.

### Military Spending

#### Long war needs more money

In his first speech as chairman of the Pentagon's Joint Chief of Staff, Michael Mullen insisted on the war fought by the US in Afghanistan and Iraq being a long war. He said Pentagon needed more money and acknowledged that the army had a serious manpower problem. According to him, everybody would have to pay more for the military and cuts should be made on social spending. Read Bruce Gagnon's article by clicking [here](#).

#### US Spying said to cost \$50 billions

According to anonymous sources from the Congress and the administration, the cost of all intelligence activities undertaken by the US (national intelligence agencies and military intelligence programs) for fiscal 2007 is \$50 billions. Since 1998, figures for intelligence spending are classified. By that time, it was \$26.7 billions. Read more at [http://www.truthout.org/docs\\_2006/103007M.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/103007M.shtml)

### **“War tax” in Colombia and the debate on defence and security spending**

A new tax on patrimony was applied in Colombia on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 to fortify and modernize the armed forces. While for the government military spending produce security, a precondition for the development of the country, others ask whether this really contributes to security. Social organizations argue that military spending is reducing vital funding for social concerns. Click [here](#) to read the article from UNDP “Facts on the road to peace” special edition on Colombia, September 2007.

### **Weapons and their effects**

#### **Nuclear testing and the Marshall Islanders**

Between 1946 and 1958, the US used the Marshall Islands as testing ground for nuclear weapons. Despite disastrous effects on Marshallese such as cancers, birth defect and thyroid disorders, the US administration is paying very little attention to the problem. Medical treatment and other compensations are hardly provided, and Senate seems to oppose new bill provisions. Read full article at <http://www.thebulletin.org/columns/hugh-gusterson/20071025.html>

#### **Depleted uranium resolution voted at UNGA first committee**

A resolution called “Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium” was passed by an overwhelming majority at UNGA first committee on November 1<sup>st</sup>. It urges countries to re-examine the health hazards posed by the use of uranium weapons and requests that states and international bodies submit a report on depleted uranium to the UNGA during next year’s session. Read ICBUW’s article at <http://www.bandepleteduranium.org/en/a/144.html>

#### **Call for researchers for the 2008 landmine monitor report**

The 2008 call for researchers and application form are online at [http://www.icbl.org/lm/updates/call\\_researchers\\_08](http://www.icbl.org/lm/updates/call_researchers_08). Complete applications must be received by 30 November 2007 at the very latest. The Landmine Monitor Editorial Board will be meeting in early December to review and take decisions on applications, and all applicants will be notified on the outcome of their application by 21 December 2007.

#### **UN Secretary General calls for treaty banning cluster munitions**

Ban Ki-Moon has urged States on November 7<sup>th</sup> to tackle the terrible humanitarian, human rights and developmental effects of cluster munitions by concluding a legal binding instrument banning this particular type of weapon. Read UN press release at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=24581&Cr=cluster&Cr1=munitions>

#### **Wales government and MP’s support cluster bombs manufacturers**

Despite a UE Parliament resolution to ban investments in companies that produce cluster bombs, Wales’s government launched a high profile

development project with Raytheon, a company producing these types of weapons, to redesign the training system.

<http://www.cynefinywerin.org.uk/index.php?docid=288>

## Weapons of Mass Destruction

### PNND to change name

The Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament will change its name to Parliamentarians for Non-proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament. This change has been decided by the PNND global council to eliminate the misconception by certain countries of disarmament being unilateral and non-proliferation multilateral. The transition should be completed by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. <http://www.gs institute.org/pnnd/index.html>

## Resources

### The US employment effects of military and domestic spending priorities

This report looks at the jobs created with a same amount of tax payers' money invested in different categories. It shows that public dollars invested in health care, education, mass transit and construction create more jobs than investing an equivalent amount in the military. For education and mass transit, twice as many jobs would be created. Read full report at

<http://www.ips-dc.org/reports/071001-jobcreation.pdf>

### Too risky for business - investors in uranium weapons

This joint report by Network Flanders, Banktrack and the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW) shows how more than 40 high street banks and investment funds across the world are investing in companies producing uranium weapons, namely Aliant Tech Systems, General Dynamics and Gencorp. An activist toolkit is also available to download to help carry out actions against these banks. Go to

<http://www.bandepleteduranium.org/en/a/143.html>

### Climate wars threatens billions

According to a report by peace group International Alert to be issued this week, more than 100 countries would face political chaos and mass migration in global warming catastrophe. Much of Africa, Asia and South America would be affected, but Europe is also at risk. Read article at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/nov/04/climatechange.scienceofclimatechange>

## Others

### License-free arms sales treaties to build stronger ties with the allies in the war on terror

The Bush administration hopes to push through two license-free arms sales treaties (with Australia and the UK) that would eliminate much of the oversight that governs international weapons trade. Government and public oversight over the transfers between concerned companies as well as the

accountability for the final destination and use of the weapons would no longer be possible. Report by Truthout at [http://www.truthout.org/docs\\_2006/103007J.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/103007J.shtml)

#### **Rumsfeld flees France, Fearing arrest**

Former US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld fled France on October 30<sup>th</sup> fearing arrest after Human Rights groups charged him under French justice of “ordering and authorising” torture of detainees at both Abu Ghraib prison and Guantanamo bay detention facility. Read article at <http://www.alternet.org/story/66425/>

#### **Programme director at Nonviolent Peace Force (NP)**

Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP), a dynamic international, non-governmental organization that is building an unarmed civilian peacekeeping force, seeks a Programme Director. The position, preferably based in Brussels, Belgium or Minneapolis, Minnesota USA, has responsibility for developing and supervising all of NP’s field projects. Peacekeeping projects are currently located in Sri Lanka, Guatemala and the Mindanao region of the Philippines. At least 5 years of supervising international field projects is required. The full job description and information on how to apply may be found on our website [www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org) Applications accepted until November 19, 2007.

#### **Call for essays on Darfur**

The “Peace Review: a journal of social peace and justice”, an international journal distributed to more than 50 nations, is looking for contributions relating to peace in Darfur for a special issue. Submission deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>. Submission guidelines and contacts at <http://www.usfca.edu/peacereview/>

#### **Peace Bureau Mac Bride Prize to Sri-Lankan diplomat Jayantha Dhanapala**

This year’s annual Peace Bureau Mc Bride peace award will go to Jayantha Dhanapala, a highly respected Sri-Lankan diplomat who has devoted his career to disarmament and global justice. The ceremony will be held on November 11<sup>th</sup> at Biblioteca Alexandria during the international seminar *Books or bombs? Sustainable disarmament for sustainable development*. Read attached press release by clicking [here](#).

#### **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.

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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:

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