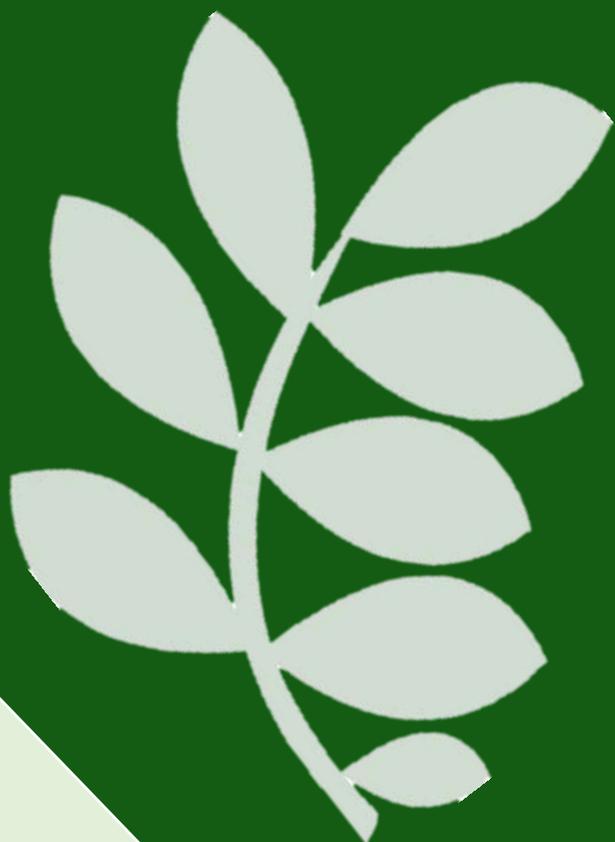
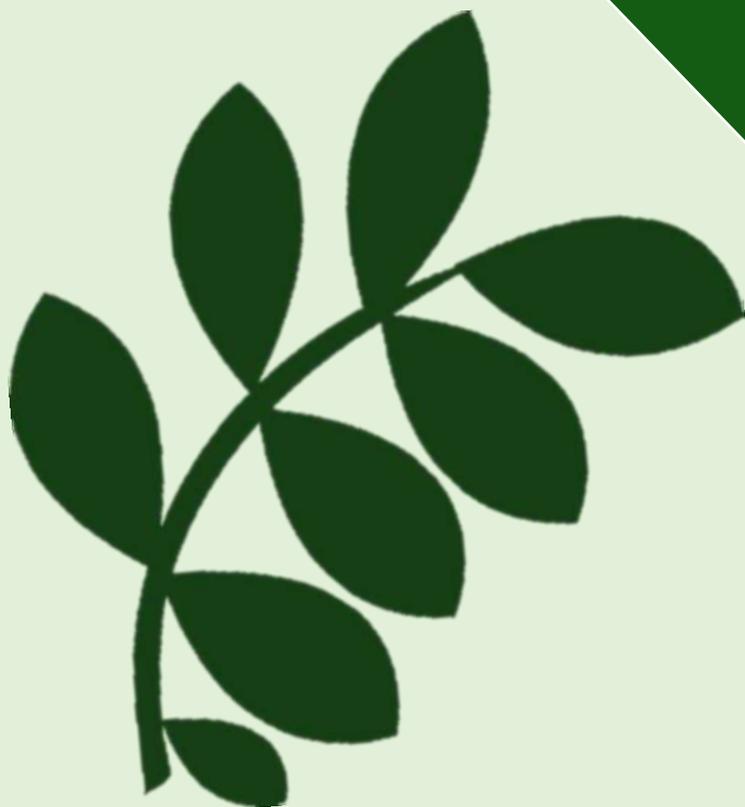




IPB
International
Peace Bureau

Newsletter

December 2017



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The last few weeks were very successful - we had two MacBride Peace Prize Ceremonies, one in Barcelona, and the other in Geneva. In both cities, we were hosted by the mayor and both ceremonies were held in the city hall.

In this issue, we will give you an overview of the ceremonies with links to the photos and the speeches. We will soon publish the videos of the ceremonies as well.

Another ceremony was held in Oslo. ICAN received the Nobel Peace Prize. We congratulate ICAN once again and hope that this will make the Nuclear weapons Ban Treaty more successful. We will all continue our struggle against nuclear weapons.

The end of the year is very close and we would like to take the opportunity to wish you a peaceful, relaxing and enjoyable holiday season.



With our warmest regards,

Amela Skiljan



Do not miss our Statements on US – North Korea relation, the catastrophic situation in Yemen and on the Spain - Catalonia Relation at <http://www.ipb.org/topics/ipb-statements/>



IPB SEÁN MACBRIDE PEACE PRIZE CEREMONIES

Every year the IPB awards the Seán MacBride Peace Prize to a person or organisation that has done outstanding work for peace, disarmament and human rights. These were the principal concerns of Sean MacBride, the distinguished Irish statesman who was Chairman of IPB from 1968-74 and President from 1974-1985.

The award is decided by the IPB Steering Committee. The recipients of this year are the All Okinawa Coalition Against Construction of New Base in Henoko, Noam Chomsky and Jeremy Corbyn.

The Prize is a non-monetary one, consisting of a medal cast by the California-based company **From War to Peace**: “We recycle copper from disarmed nuclear missile systems to create Peace Bronze, the most precious metal in our world”. At this point, we would like to express our deepest appreciation for making and sponsoring the medals.

Two of the three recipients of the Seán MacBride Peace Prize already received the prize.

The first Ceremony was held in Barcelona, where the All Okinawa Coalition Against Construction of New Base in Henoko was awarded. Without the help of Centre Delàs who helped us organize this event in the cooperation with the City of Barcelona, it would have not been possible to make such a successful event. We are deeply grateful for the given support.

Jeremy Corbyn received the prize in Geneva. We would like to express a sincere thank you to the City of Geneva for helping us organize the ceremony.

The Ceremony with Noam Chomsky will be held in springtime 2018 in the USA.

All Okinawa Coalition Against Construction of New Base in Henoko



On November 24th 2017 Suzuyo Takazato and Hiroshi Ashitomi received the MacBride Peace Prize on behalf of the All Okinawa Coalition.

The All Okinawa Coalition was honoured the award for organizing the long-standing, committed and coordinated resistance of the Okinawan people against the new construction of the Henoko base as well as the closure of the Futenma Marine Air Base.

Joseph Gerson stressed out in his laudation “the Coalition’s steadfastness and exceptional range of nonviolent actions, the broad popular support it enjoys, and the spirit and dedication that characterize this exceptional anti-bases movement make it a model for peace and justice struggles and deserving of support and solidarity”.

“70.6% of the US military facilities exclusively used by the US military in Japan is located in Okinawa... The damages caused by the US military have been a part of our daily life.” Said Suzuyo Takazato in her speech.

The Ceremony was held in the Barcelona city hall in the beautiful Chronicle Hall where we were welcomed by the Mayor of Barcelona Laura Pérez.

More information: <http://www.ipb.org/all-okinawa-coalition-against-construction-of-new-base-in-henoko/>

Photos: <https://goo.gl/MrnKNU>

Jeremy Corbyn

The awarding of the prize to a lifelong activist and fighter for peace as well as for civil conflict resolutions and disarmament was a moving and remarkable action in Geneva on December 8th 2017. Jeremy Corbyn courageously stood on the stages of resistance against nuclear armament and war, and stood up for his positions against his own party as chairman.

It was the laudation by Sharan Burrow, the Secretary General of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), who highlighted Jeremy Corbyn’s unique life’s work. She stressed that he stands for people’s social rights, as well as for human rights and peace. A just society is also always a peaceful one.

There were more than 200 guests who attended the ceremony including high-ranking diplomats of the UN, ambassadors and representatives of international governmental organizations who absorbed this message with enthusiasm, which seemed to speak from the hearts of everyone.

It was the mayor of Geneva, Rémy Pagani, who in his opening again stressed the city’s role for peace – a dialogue and city of reconciliation.

More information:

<http://www.ipb.org/jeremy-corbyn/>

Photos: <https://goo.gl/D8j4x7>





NOBEL PEACE PRIZE TO ICAN

“The end of nuclear weapons or the end of us”

by Arielle Denis

On December 10th, in the solemn Oslo City Hall, the Norwegian Nobel Committee officially awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapon (ICAN) “for raising awareness on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons and achieving the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)”. IPB was represented by co-President Lisa Clark and several member organisations. The audience, including the Conservative Prime Ministry of Norway, was deeply impressed by the three lectures in the ceremony.

Opening the Ceremony, Berit Reiss-Andersen, Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, declared in a very political and dedicated speech, that: “The Nobel Committee believes that an international ban on nuclear weapons will be an important, possibly decisive, step on the road to a world without nuclear weapons. Such a goal is fully consistent with the essence of Alfred Nobel’s will.”

Beatrice Fihn, the executive director of ICAN, stated in her acceptance speech that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) adopted on July 7 of this year by 122 nations “provides a choice. A choice between the two endings: the end of nuclear weapons or the end of us.” She called one by one the nine

nuclear weapons states asking them to be “realistic” and join the TPNW.

Hiroshima Survivor Setsuko Thurlow, shared such moving memories of August 6th 1945, when the U.S. dropped the atomic bomb for the first time, that people could feel the presence of the victims in the room, and was asked to co-receive the Nobel Peace Prize by ICAN.

During 3 days, Oslo welcomed many diplomats, campaigners, experts, religious leaders, artists, etc. from all over the world in a wide diversity of events: marches, meetings, concert, banquets and other celebrations that show the growing existence of a large community against nuclear weapons. This Nobel Peace Prize and the events around together with the TPNW, open a new era where civil society and the international community have a road map to unite and free the world from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Wishing you a peaceful and enjoyable holiday season

Dear Friends,

When shopping for the holiday **gifts** this season, please keep IPB in mind. You may want to make a gift to IPB too or there may be people on your list who might truly appreciate having a donation to IPB made in their name, rather than receiving a tangible gift. This is a perfect option for people who “have everything”.

Making a donation to IPB is a great way to show friends, family members, co-workers and even clients that you are thinking about them during the holiday season, as well as sending a message that you are mindful of the needs in your community and respectful of their interests. Also, it shows us that you support the work we do, as IPB depends on donations in order to develop and conduct programmes and events independently.

Every donation, regardless the amount, counts!

Please note that all donations are tax-deductible under Swiss law.

For more details how to make a donation please visit <http://www.ipb.org/donate/>

Many thanks for your support in advance!

We wish you wonderful, peaceful and enjoyable holiday season!

