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# Newsletter

January-February 2017

## IPB NEWS

### Global Campaign coordination moves to Barcelona

As part of the restructuring of the International Peace Bureau's operations, the coordination of the Global Campaign on Military Spending has now moved to Barcelona. See [here](#) the message sent recently to all Campaign partners.

Furthermore, this year's Global Day/GDAMS will be held from April 18th-28th.



### IPB nominates SIPRI for Nobel Peace Prize 2017 - also Cyprus

This year the IPB Board has decided to nominate for the Nobel the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute** (SIPRI), an independent research and policy analysis body recognised as one of the world's top think-tanks. IPB believes that effective policy change, especially in favour of disarmament, can only come about on the basis of verifiable data and an extension of transparency, especially in military matters. This is precisely the area in which SIPRI excels. Of all the institutes in this field, we believe it is the one with the highest reputation among the peace community.

We can testify to the excellent quality of their service when working with their annual data, and in taking advantage of the expertise of their staff, to develop our Global Campaign On Military Spending ([GCOMS.org](http://GCOMS.org)). See **TEXT OF LETTER**. Also: IPB's Co-President Lisa Clark has **nominated 3 key persons** involved in the Cyprus peace talks.



### **Nobel Peace Laureates Summit adopts final statement and other documents**

IPB Co-President Lisa Clark (2nd from left) officially represented our organisation at the 16th **World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates**, held in Bogotá, Colombia. The Summit closed on 5th February after adopting a series of statements:

- Final Statement (Building Roads To Peace) - **English**, and also **Spanish**
- The Colombia Charter - **English**, and also **Spanish**
- Appeal for the release of Chinese Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo
- **A Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons** (individual signature)



### **IPB supports Syria Peace Talks, calls on all sides to participate**

*Geneva, 9 January 2017.* The final days of 2016 offered a glimmer of hope in the darkness of the Syrian conflict, with the new ceasefire deal brokered by Russia and Turkey. But 2017 has started badly, with the refusal by 10 rebel groups to join the peace talks in Astana because of what they describe as government violations. IPB believes the talks offer a vital opportunity which must not be lost. We urge that all parties to the conflict (including the Kurds), and all concerned external powers, be allowed to participate. The talks, expected to start on January 23 in the capital of Kazakhstan, will be mediated by Russia, Turkey and Iran, though Russian officials have said that other key players, including the USA, will be welcome. IPB believes that in the longer-term the process is best conducted under UN auspices, and in that context we commend the tireless efforts of Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura and his predecessors.

Meanwhile we applaud the courageous initiative taken by a range of civil society activists to organise a **Civil March to Aleppo**. While opinions may differ on the responsibility for the conflict and what the political outcome should be, it is right that voices be raised to demand an end to attacks on civilians. For a more detailed statement of IPB's position, please visit our website.



# TRUMP

President Trump is in the middle of all the discussions. We would like to share just a few of the views of our members and partners.



## Stop Trump 10 point strategy

AJ Muste Memorial Institute (USA) writes: *It's exciting to see so many people engaged and motivated, taking action against fear and hatred. How can we transform this energy beyond reaction into a broad movement for lasting social gains?*

*Longtime nonviolence trainer George Lakey has some great strategy ideas. It suggests for example to strengthen civic institutions and their connections with targeted populations, avoid one-off demonstrations, link campaigns to build movements, and to link movements to create a movement of movements.*

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## Analysis by Joseph Gerson

Joseph Gerson (IPB Vice-President) works for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC, Quakers) and is the Coordinator of Peace and Planet. In the following analysis, he reflects on the challenges to the peace movement posed by the Trump administration, and on the emerging resistance movement.

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## More on Trump

**A call to address identity-based violence through teach-ins at American universities**

## MILITARY SPENDING



### McCain, Thornberry plan to hike FY2018 defense spending by \$30 billion

Leaders of the U.S. armed services committees are working on a \$640 billion defense spending plan for fiscal 2018, which will include some of the priorities President-elect Trump touted on the campaign trail. The base budget would be roughly \$90 billion more than the base budget of \$551 billion from fiscal 2017. Under the Budget Control Act, the estimated cap on defense spending for fiscal 2018 would be about \$550 billion. Still, some experts have predicted that Congress may be willing now to repeal the Budget Control Act, both because of Trump's stated focus on the issue and because of growing threats around the world facing the U.S. that require the military to be more ready.

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### After decades of pacifism, Japan set to increase defense spending by \$44 billion

After World War II, it seemed unlikely that Japan would ever return to its prior state as a military power, largely due to article 9 of its post-war constitution that “forever [renounced] war as a sovereign right of the nation.” Following the Allied occupation of the country and near complete disarmament, Japan was all but forced to align itself to US interests as it came to rely on the American military almost exclusively for its defense. Yet, Japan's current prime minister, Shinzo Abe, transformed Japan's Defense spending, making its defense budget the 7<sup>th</sup> largest in the world despite the fact that they still have no “formal” military. This year, Abe's efforts at militarization continue as Japan's government just approved a record-breaking defense budget of ¥5.1 trillion (~\$44 billion). The stated reason for this increase largely revolves around a chain of disputed islands, which both Japan and China claim as their own. [See also.](#)

[READ MORE](#)

### More on Military Spending

[The Pentagon's \\$125-billion cover-up](#)

[Poland's senate approves defense budget hike](#)

[Vicious spiral of military spending \(Jammu and Kashmir\)](#)

[2016 edition of World Military Expenditures and Arms Transfers \(WMEAT\) published online](#)

[Plans for protests against NATO at NATO Summit 2017, Brussels 24/25 May](#)

## NUCLEAR



### **Sending A-bomb photo sets abroad campaign starts**

In order to raise public awareness about humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in the leadup to the UN negotiation conferences in March and June 2017, the Japan Council against A and H Bombs started a campaign to send A-bomb photo sets abroad. It is a portable A3 size and 1 set has 15 pieces of photos and 3 pieces of information about nuclear weapons. Please inform Yayoi Tsuchida

([antiatom@topaz.plala.or.jp](mailto:antiatom@topaz.plala.or.jp)) if you want to get these photos and use them in your actions/campaigns or/and bring them to local governments/schools for their use.



### **UN Secretary-General commits to nuclear abolition**

On Monday January 23, UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced his commitment to the abolition of nuclear weapons. Speaking by **video message** to the opening of the Conference on Disarmament the United Nations in Geneva, Mr Guterres said: "As Secretary-General, I am firmly resolved to actively pursue the abolition of all weapons of mass destruction and the strict regulation of conventional weapons. I am committed to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons."

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### **More on Nuclear**

#### **Nuclear Requiem - FILM**

**Monthly action against  
nuclear weapons in  
front of the French  
Ministry of Defense**

**Marshall Islands Voted  
Arms Control Person  
of the Year**

**IALANA statement on  
ICJ dismissal of  
Marshall  
Islands' nuclear  
disarmament case**

## ARMS TRADE



### Israel: Call for partnership - June 2017 countering arms trade and military export

Hamushim – ‘armed’ in Hebrew – is a joint project of Coalition of Women for Peace and American Friends Service Committee. It aims to expose the true human price of the Israeli military industry and to mobilize action to counter it. Hamushim is looking for partner organizations, activists and groups working on countering arms trade, disarmament, anti-militarism and war resistance to join an activists-seminar in the West Bank and an open conference on countering Israeli arms trade in Tel Aviv marking 50 years to the occupation of 1967. The week of action shall be in June 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> 2017.

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### New US congressional report - conventional arms transfers to developing nations, 2008- 2015

This report provides Congress with official, unclassified, quantitative data on conventional arms transfers to developing nations by the United States and foreign countries. According to the findings of this report, the sale of global arms dropped in 2015 to \$80bn from 2014's \$89bn with the US responsible for around half of all sales. Developing nations continue to be the primary focus of foreign arms sales activity by weapons suppliers.

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## MISCELLANEOUS



### Official video from Berlin Congress now online

The Berlin Congress (*Disarm! for a Climate of Peace*, Oct. 2016) was the largest IPB gathering since the Barcelona Forum 2004. Around 1000 attended...This short video (3 min) was produced at the request of the organisers by the video team of **UNI Global Union**, one of our main partners. For those who attended the Congress, it will remind you of some great times spent together with colleagues from across the world; for those who did not, it will convey a vivid impression of what the event was all about. Send this link to your friends!

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### Peace Boat launches Ecoship

The Ecoship Project is the next stage of Peace Boat's journey to promote peace, human rights and sustainability around the world. The design was finalised in 2015, after a 3-year, whole-system integrated design process involving an international team bringing together expertise from a diverse range of specialties in both marine and land-based industrial sectors. Ecoship will address climate action via the responsibilities of maritime transport in carbon reduction and in preventing oceans and coastal areas degradation. It will be a showcase for what the industry can do. Its four annual world cruises will create the framework for hundreds of educational programs, advocacy campaigns and applied research, as well as for the hosting of international conferences and world-class exhibitions on green technologies and climate action.

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### More on Miscellaneous

**UN has decided to tackle the issue of killer robots in 2017**

**Alexander Soros donates \$500,000 for Crisis Group fellowships on the economics of conflict**

**Alexei Yablokov, grandfather of Russian environmentalism, dies at 83**

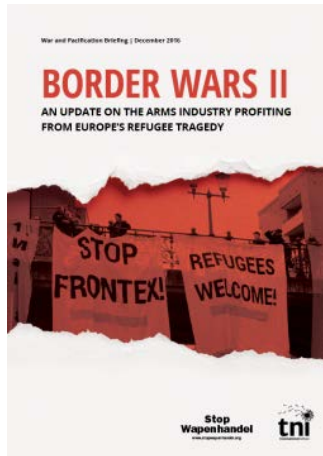
**IANSA's Rebecca Peters honored with prestigious Australian award**

**President Trump, military split on climate change**

**New UN-Secretary-General sets out priorities**



## RESOURCES



### Report: Border Wars II

The report, Border Wars II, is an updated briefing by Stop Wapenhandel, the Dutch campaign against the arms trade, and the Transnational Institute. It builds on research published earlier this year, that revealed that the industry that benefits from the militarisation of border security is the same that fuels the conflicts and human rights violations in the Middle East and North Africa, where many of the refugees come from. Three prominent winners of border security contracts - Airbus, Finmeccanica and Thales - were also among the top four European arms traders actively selling to countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

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### The Economics of Peace and Security Journal: new SIPRI data

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has long been researchers' primary source for countries' military expenditure data. For the most part, the data were limited to the time period from 1988 onward. Now, SIPRI is releasing revised and backdated data for, in most cases, 1960 onward. The articles in this issue of EPSJ examine the new data and use them for comparative studies relative to the use of the "old" SIPRI data.

[READ MORE](#)

### More on Resources

[Origins of the Warfare State: World War II and the transformation of American politics](#)

[EPS Quarterly - climate and the military](#)

For upcoming events see IPB Calendar



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