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# Newsletter

March 2016

## 6th EDITION OF GDAMS: READY TO ROLL!



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As we go to press, the 2016 edition of the **Global Days of Action on Military Spending** will open in just a few days! Dozens of events are being prepared in many countries. As usual, some are public actions, others more like seminars with expert speakers, etc. Some of them are set up as 'Prepcomms' for the **World Congress, to be held in Berlin** on Sept 30-Oct 3.

We have also launched a **Thunderclap social media action** which will send a message to almost 200,000 addresses on April 5! The data for military expenditure in 2015 will be **released by SIPRI** on the same day. This year the IPB has chosen to focus on the disparity between the huge sums allocated to the military and the comparatively tiny amounts called for by the humanitarian agencies. This is an important issue to highlight, given the current refugee crisis, but also in view of the **UN Global Humanitarian Summit** (Istanbul, May 2016). See **Statement**.

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# Military Spending



## Australia to increase defence spending by \$26bn amid rising regional tensions

White paper raises concerns over 'points of friction' including military buildups, terrorism and US-China disagreements over the South China Sea. Australia's annual defence spending will increase by \$26bn over the next decade amid concerns about the increasing pace of military modernization to its north, regional tensions and the continuing threat of terrorism. The Turnbull government's defence white paper raises concerns about "a number of points of friction" including differences between China and the United States over the South China Sea, and calls on China to be "more transparent" about its defence policies.



## German defence spending hike

In an environment of growing international security threats, the German government is reversing the trend of recent years and is proposing a significant hike in defence spending for the next fiscal year. Federal budget proposals for 2017, released on March 23, have earmarked an additional €1.7 billion (US \$1.9 billion) on defence — a 6.8 percent rise on planned spending for the current year. Under the proposals, the German armed forces will receive €36.61 billion in 2017, compared with the current year's €34.29 billion, and more than double the growth rate of 2.7 percent for the federal budget as a whole.

## More on Military Spending

China to increase military spending to \$146bn

The Pentagon's secret foreign aid budget

The funding of military research by the EU

South, Central Asia military spending tops \$66bn

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# Nuclear



## Day seven at the ICJ: Making a big fuss

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) recently concluded the preliminary phase of oral arguments in nuclear disarmament cases brought by the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) against India, Pakistan and the United Kingdom. The hearings, which took place at the ICJ from 7-16 March, were the first contentious cases on nuclear disarmament

ever heard at the Court. This set of hearings addressed the respondent nations' objections to the cases relating to questions of jurisdiction and admissibility. This morning, India delivered its final oral arguments. India's legal team doubled down on its assertions that its words speak louder than its actions. While repeatedly highlighting "irrefutable evidence of India's positions in United Nations forums on disarmament," India's lawyers denied that test-launches of nuclear-capable missiles — including on Day One and Day Three of the ICJ's hearings in the case against India — indicated participation in the nuclear arms race.



## America's nuclear weapons in Europe are the nuclear elephant in the room

A little more than 60 miles from Brussels Airport, Kleine Brogel Air Base stands as one of six overseas repositories in the world where the United States still stores nuclear weapons. The existence of the bombs is officially neither confirmed nor

denied but has been well-known for decades. Yet, the presence of these weapons — an estimated 20 American B61 nuclear bombs to be carried and delivered by the Belgian Air Force's dwindling inventory of F-16 fighter jets — did not come up in the news coverage following the Islamic State (IS) bombings in Brussels, or in the run-up to President Barack Obama's fourth and last Nuclear Security Summit, being held this week. Nor was Kleine Brogel mentioned in reports about the **shooting death**, days after the bombings, of a security guard who worked at a Belgian nuclear facility, or in stories about **vulnerabilities** at Belgian's nuclear facilities and power plants.

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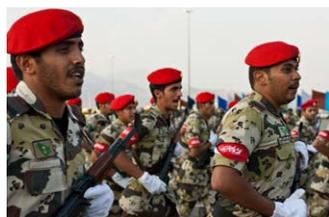
## [More on Nuclear Weapons](#)

**Bulletin of the atomic  
scientists. Special  
issue: Young people  
and existential threat  
(vol 72, issue2, 2016)**

**Trident is vulnerable**

**"Don't you believe in  
democracy?" CND  
asks Fallon, as  
further £642m  
Trident spend  
announced.  
See also: [this article](#)**

# Arms Trade



## Saudi Arabia, Oman set up arms factories

Saudi Arabia and Oman have both announced that they are setting up munitions production facilities. The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on 27 March that an arms factory had been opened in the central city of Al-Kharj by Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman al-Saud, who serves as the kingdom's defence minister, and South Africa's President Jacob Zuma.

SPA said the factory will operate under Saudi Arabia's Military Industries Corporation and was built with the help of the South African company Rheinmetall Denel, which had been paid approximately USD240 million for its services.



## Bombs away! Lockheed expanding missile factories, quadruples bomb production for ISIS long haul

Lockheed Martin is expanding various munitions factories to meet rising demand from the U.S. and its partners fighting the Islamic State — and to start equipping American warplanes for great-power wars at sea. *"We are seeing a lot of international demand for our product set,"* Frank St. John, Lockheed's vice president of tactical missiles, said Tuesday. *"That's causing us to do a lot of work in international partnerships and co-production and we're very excited about those opportunities."* In particular, U.S. and allies are burning through their stocks of Lockheed's Hellfire missile, the signature weapon of Predator and Reaper drones. Helicopters and fixed-wing planes also carry the versatile laser-guided weapon.

**More on Arms Trade**

**UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia face inquiry and high court legal action**

**Western powers unlikely to impose arms embargo on Saudi Arabia**

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# Miscellaneous



### What does France and Britain's drone deal mean for their security relationship?

March 3, 2016: A meeting between top French and British officials cemented the two nations' security relationship and examined the possible exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union. French President François Hollande and UK Prime Minister David Cameron held a bi-annual international summit in the town of Amiens in northern France, where the two leaders discussed their countries' relationship and commemorated the 1916 Battle of the Somme. The two nations agreed to a \$2.11 billion drone development program and discussed conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, all with an aim of solidifying French and British military relationship.

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### Thousands protest as Japanese Government ushers in new age of militarism

Thousands of anti-war protesters rallied outside the parliament building in Tokyo on Tuesday 29 March, railing against the Japanese government's new so-called security law which marks a historic departure from the country's decades-long pacifism. The controversial "war legislation," a package of bills that passed parliament in September and took effect on Tuesday, reinterprets Article 9 of the country's Constitution, which renounced war as a means to settle international disputes following World War II. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pushed for the revisions which "expand the activities of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) overseas, even in situations when Japan is not under direct attack," *The Asahi Shimbun reports*. "The laws call for the SDF to provide greater support to the militaries of the United States and other nations anywhere in the world."

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### More on Miscellaneous

**In memoriam: Aline BOCCARDO fragments of a biography**

**India's "gun windows" on the road to recovery**

**U.S. military spending millions to make cyborgs a reality**

# Resources



## Where to study Peace Education: A global directory

This month the Global Campaign for Peace Education, in partnership with the International Institute on Peace Education and the Peace Education Initiative at The University of Toledo has developed "Where to Study Peace Education: A Global Directory." This online catalog provides an easy search inventory of formal and non-formal programs, courses, workshops and recurring conferences in peace education from around the world.

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## CPNN Bulletin March 1, 2016

The Culture of Peace News Network reminds us through the publication of recent articles that "the culture of peace is increasingly promoted at the level of the city" across the world. In many countries, a campaign is being spread, supporting education for non-violence against the promotion of military responses to the too-many-ongoing-conflicts and attacks the world is facing today.

Along the same lines, here are many interesting items from the Museums for Peace: The International Network of Museums for Peace Newsletter #14 is available for viewing online.

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## More on Resources

The cost of conflict for children - 5 years of the Syrian crisis

Mentes militarizadas: Como nos educan para asumir la guerra y la violencia

A microcosm of militarization: Conflict, governance and armed mobilization in Uvira, South Kivu

For upcoming events see IPB Calender



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