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# Newsletter

April 2016

## From GDAMS to Berlin Congress



- **Launch of GDAMS:** On Tuesday 5 April, a banner action opened the **GDAMS** two-week-long campaign. IPB staff took **photos** in front of the UNHCR in order to show their support for the refugees.
- **IPB Seminar *Military costs vs. Humanitarian needs (GDAMS)*:** This year's IPB's **GDAMS Geneva seminar**, held on 6 April, served also as a prepcomm for the **Berlin Congress**. The programme included 4 presentations, mainly on humanitarian financing and civil-military coordination, and was followed by a short IPB **film** about alternatives to violence in dealing with terrorism. The discussion raised important issues about the role of the military and its financing. See full report **here**.
- On Monday 18 April, the GDAMS campaign has ended. We are very happy about all the great actions that have been taken across the world. IPB Staff are working on a full report on actions around the world. You can find the full listing at **GDAMS Find an Event**
- You can find the different information and info graphics we used for our campaign **here**.
- Plans for the Berlin Congress '*Disarm! for a Climate of Peace*' (Sept 30 - Oct 3) are advancing well. See **first draft of the programme**; a second one will be published in time for the Programme Committee meeting on May 27. If you wish to put on a workshop please see the **Guidelines**. A total of **6 Prepcomms** have now taken place. We are especially excited at the prospect of several more Prepcomms in Latin America: in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Colombia. The Youth group is working on a **programme to involve young people**, both before and during the event. Dont wait to register! Find the form online at: **<https://www.ipb2016.berlin/event/ipb-world-congress-berlin/>**. More details in forthcoming newsletters and on our websites/Facebook pages.

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# Military Spending



**Defense industry donors prefer Hillary and Bernie over GOP rivals**

In recent history, the GOP has positioned itself as big defense spending supporter, and its candidates typically get more defense-related contributions. But given the atypical tenor of the 2016 race, perhaps it should come as no surprise that the defense industry seems to prefer Democrats Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders over their GOP counterparts. According to an **analysis** by the Center for Public Integrity, Hillary Clinton has collected the most campaign contributions from employees of the 50 largest Pentagon contractors, and Sen. Bernie Sanders comes in at number two, edging out hawkish Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas.

More on this: **'Defense contractor employees give the most money to Hillary Clinton'**

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**Oil riches help Azerbaijan outgun Armenia in military spending**

**April 6, 2016:** Buoyed by a surge in oil revenue, Azerbaijan has raised its military spending by at least 10-fold over the last decade to as much as \$4.8 billion last year, according to authorities in Baku "to strengthen the Azerbaijani defense to force the Armenians to the negotiating table" said Svante Cornell (director at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and the Johns Hopkins University). Azerbaijan's purchases include \$4 billion worth of Russian armaments since 2010. The Caspian Sea nation has also forged closer ties with Israel, buying advanced weapons, and has signed an agreement on military cooperation with Turkey. For its part, Armenia signed a \$200-million loan with Russia in February to buy and modernize weapons and other military equipment.

More on this matter: **Economist: Higher military spending could increase burden on Armenian economy**

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## More on Military Spending

**Slovenia's President wants to double defense spending**

**New British Empire? UK to re-establish military bases east of Suez**

**India becomes the 4th largest defence spender in the World**

**These Lancaster County pacifists refuse to pay portions of their taxes in silent protest of war**

**New Zealand government plans major increase in military spending**

**'The Pentagon's Twisted Potlatch'**

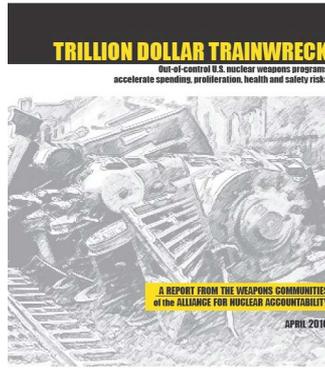
# Nuclear



## Dutch Parliament about to discuss a nuclear weapons ban

**April 28:** As a result of a national campaign initiated by PAX, the Dutch parliament will discuss a national ban on nuclear weapons for the first time. PAX gathered over 45,000 signatures to put this on the political agenda. Various Dutch VIPs, religious leaders, youth wings of political parties and mayors all over the country have publicly signed the petition. Dutch Red Cross and ethical bank ASN Bank are key partners.

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## "Trillion Dollar Trainwreck" New report:

Trillion Dollar Trainwreck focuses primarily on the US FY 2017 budget for nuclear weapons and wastes. It highlights Life Extension Programs (LEPs), proposed new production facilities, and other projects at Department of Energy sites. Despite a clear obligation under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the United States continues to pursue LEPs that introduce exotic elective changes to the nuclear stockpile. To see the whole report, [click here](#).

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## [More on Nuclear Weapons](#)

Strange spectacle:  
Nuclear security summit 2016.  
Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy

Feeding the  
'Monster': Escalating  
Capital Costs for the  
Trident Successor  
Programme

Nuclear costs in  
uncharted territory

## Arms Trade



Arms trade activists NOT GUILTY! Shut down DSEI 2017

Eight activists on trial for blocking the **London arms fair, DSEI**, last September 2015, have been found **NOT GUILTY!** After 4 days of powerful and moving

testimonies the judge ruled that the activists were acting to prevent a greater crime. The judge said the court heard "compelling evidence" that arms sales at DSEI were for repression and human rights abuse. The protesters had taken action as part of a **huge week of action** to stop the set up of the arms fair. DSEI brings over 30,000 arms dealers together with the world's largest arms companies and military delegations from around the world. As they were protesting against the arms fair in 2015, UK weapons were being used in Saudi Arabia's bombing of Yemen. **This is not acceptable.**

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## Impacts



'Peace activists call attention to Textron cluster bombs

Peace activists took to the sidewalks in front of Textron's world headquarters in downtown Providence on April 18, to protest the conglomerate for making and selling cluster bombs. Textron's cluster bombs, one of the world's most controversial weapons of war, made international news recently after Human Rights Watch

exposed that Saudi Arabia is indiscriminately using them in Yemen. Cluster bombs are outlawed by 119 nations, but not by the United States which buys them from Textron and sells them to Saudi Arabia. Megan Burke, the director of the Cluster Munitions Coalition said Americans "need to tell our government that this needs to change. If we can convince our government that this needs to change, Textron won't have a market."

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## Miscellaneous



### 'Real Leaders' magazine features IPB

Global media company 'Real Leaders' launched a special peace edition of their magazine at the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Barcelona in November last year. The magazine featured exclusive interviews with Peace Laureates, business leaders and celebrities who had found innovative ways of promoting peace. The publication was given to all who attended the Summit and features photographs from IPB's **Making Peace exhibition**. Real Leaders plans to have another peace edition out for the 2016 World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates and invites all organizations with peace-related stories to get in touch: [grant@real-leaders.com](mailto:grant@real-leaders.com)

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### Catholic conference in Rome calls for a clear stand creative and active nonviolence

As Christians committed to a more just and peaceful world we are called to take a clear stand for creative and active nonviolence and against all forms of violence. With this conviction, and in recognition of the Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis, people from many countries gathered at the Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and Pax Christi International on April 11-13, 2016 in Rome. Many of them live in communities experiencing violence and oppression. They are grateful for the message to their conference from Pope Francis: *"your thoughts on revitalizing the tools of nonviolence, and of active nonviolence in particular, will be a needed and positive contribution"*.

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### More on Miscellaneous

#### 'Save Jeju Now No War Base on the Island of Peace:

Please click [here](#) to show some support for the urgent appeal for protest.

#### 'In the ISIS War, Congress Surrendered the Last of Its Authority to Regulate U.S. Wars

New report calls for ban on 'killer robots' amid UN meetings

#### Manifesto by Kazakh President calls for global nuclear disarmament, steps to end global conflicts

US Military christens self-driving Sea Hunter warship

## Resources

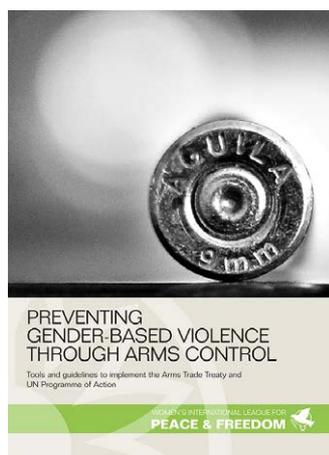


### 'War is a lie' by David Swanson

This book challenges the repetitive falsehoods generated by those in power to justify armed conflict. *War Is A Lie* is a handbook of sorts, an engaging, always informative manual that can be used to debunk future lies before new wars have any chance to begin. Veteran antiwar activist Daniel Ellsberg calls *War Is A Lie* "a terrific tool for recognizing and resisting

*war lies before it's too late." This updated and expanded edition outlines lessons from America's most recent wars, what can be done to end warmaking, and an epilogue that analyzes new trends in war lying and in resistance to it".*

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### Preventing gender-based violence through arms control: tools and guidelines to implement the Arms Trade Treaty and UN Programme of Action

This report provides tools and guidelines for effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons provisions related to gender-based violence. It also provides informative guidelines for preventing GBV through arms control measures, such as legislation, national commissions, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, data collection, and international aid.

Find the video [here](#).

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### [More on Resources](#)

[Transcend Media Service - Solutions-oriented peace journalism](#)

[Almighty: Courage, Resistance, and Existential Peril in the Nuclear Age](#)

[New publication in April: "Businessmen in Arms"](#)

['New book publication: 'Peacebuilding in a Globalized World. An Illustrated Introduction to Peace Studies](#)

[Report: Disarmament, development and patterns of marginalisation in international forums](#)

[For upcoming events see IPB Calendar](#)



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