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Newsletter

May 2016

Humanitarian Summit, Tunis Exhibition, Money for Nukes



- As you will know, the **World Humanitarian Summit** takes place on May 23-24 in Istanbul. In taking advantage of this big and very relevant Summit, the International Peace Bureau has circulated the following pledge text, to encourage states to promote the idea of military spending reallocation at the Summit: *"We pledge to reallocate 10% of our national military budget this year for rapid application to humanitarian projects. We support, and urge other governments to support, the proposal to establish a global fund into which such resources can be invested; to be managed by the United Nations in order to reach those most in urgent need."*

- **MAKING PEACE exhibition to open in Tunis on the 26th May**

In January 2011, tens of thousands of people took to Avenue Habib Bourguiba in downtown Tunis, demanding the departure of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who ruled over the country for 23 years and the end of corruption and human rights abuses including torture. In 2015 the National Dialogue Quartet, a group of four civil society organisations and trade unions were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Five years after the revolution, in presenting **Making Peace** along [Avenue Habib Bourguiba](#), we pay tribute to the courage of the Tunisian people, as well as civil society organisations such as the **World Organisation Against Torture** (OMCT), and the **Arab Institute for Human Rights** (AIHR) - both key partners of Making Peace – in helping to build a safer and more sustainable future for Tunisia.

Click here for the **invitation** and the flyer (**Arabic**, **English** and **French**).

To read more, click **here**.

- **BERLIN NEWS** - Our World Congress (Sept 30-Oct 3) on themes relating to military spending comes at a very appropriate time - with tensions rising among the great powers, and many bitter and very bloody conflicts unresolved. The challenge is to work out an effective civil society response, and to coordinate our efforts better. The event will showcase many campaigns and will offer multiple spaces for debates and decisions, culture and comment! The second draft programme will be published in June. If you wish to put on a workshop please see **the Guidelines**. **Don't wait to register!** Find the form online at: <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/event/ipb-world-congress-berlin/>. This month saw the publication of our **first Congress Newsletter**: pass it around! See also our **websites/Facebook** pages.

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Military Spending



USA: House defense spending bill boosts procurement

The Senate Armed Services Committee and House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee take their debates of the annual

defense policy and spending bills behind closed doors. The Senate panel begins work on the National Defense Authorization Act. One of the two bills is the following: **House Defense Spending Bill Boost Procurement Blocks Army Cuts:** The House defense spending bill includes an additional \$15.7 billion from the war budget moved to cover base Pentagon programs, echoing a similar move by the House Armed Services Committee. With the extra money, the bill boosts procurement funding by \$9.6 billion, including an additional 11 F-35 fighters and 14 F/A-18 Super Hornets as well as a third Littoral Combat Ship. The full bill is here, and a summary is here. The measure's funding tables will be released ahead of the full appropriations committee markup.

More on the matter [here](#).

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United Nations: Analysis: Why the UN Needs a "Peace Industrial Complex"

UNITED NATIONS, May 17 2016 (IPS) - In a world where annual defence spending is over 1.6 trillion dollars and the UN Peacebuilding Fund receives less than 700 million dollars, it would seem that the military

industrial complex is unwaveringly entrenched. *"We need to build a peace industrial complex,"* said Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN and Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, an advisory body that supports efforts to prevent conflicts around the world. Building this "complex" would mean increasing political commitments, ensuring predictable financing, and strengthening international partnerships for peace operations targeting the roots of conflicts. *"If we want peace in any given society, in any given region, we need to address the underlying causes ... the root causes, the drivers of the conflict,"* Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, told IPS. "The key [prevention] element of the UN charter has many times been treated as an afterthought," Fernandez-Taranco continued. *"That afterthought needs to become the first thought, before we have conflicts escalating and running out of control."*

More on the matter [here](#).

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More on Military Spending

U.S. Weighs More Troops, Hi-Tech Weapons in Europe to Counter Russia

Americans not Sold on Defense

Spain: New general elections will occur next June 26th: it is time to change policies!

Berlin to beef up German military after

years of cuts

Australia: Budget 2016-17 - Medicare or Warfare

Indian Military Modernization: Growing Dust

UK: Trident replacement cost rises to £205 billion - #205andRising

Singapore expands military training in Australia

Australia: Preparing for war isn't a suitable economic boost

USA: Obama and Congress Are about to Go to War over War Funding

Armenia: "The Young women's Peace Award in the Caucasus" – Annual conference from September 7-9, 2016 in Yerevan

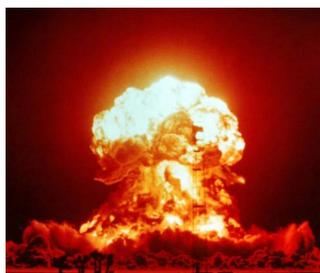
Nuclear



US: Republicans don't want to know costs of US Nuclear Arsenal

Republican lawmakers in the House of Representatives have **lined up** to quietly kill a cost estimate of the Pentagon's three-decade nuclear modernization program, which experts predict will exceed **\$1 trillion**. The vote was mentioned briefly in *Politico's* briefing **list** last April but otherwise received no media coverage. Brian McKeon, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for policy, told reporters in October that the Pentagon was "wondering how the heck we're going to pay for it," and that current leadership is "thanking [their] stars we won't be here to have to answer the question." In November, the Pentagon comptroller **called** the cost of nuclear modernization "the biggest problem we don't know how to solve yet."

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UN Open Ended Working Group closes session on upbeat note

The UN General Assembly voted in December 2015 to establish a special working group with a mandate to develop "legal measures, legal provisions and norms" for achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. The Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) – backed by 138 nations – is focusing its efforts largely on elaborating the elements for a global treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. The May 2-13 sessions ended with indications that a group of non-nuclear countries is ready to start negotiations in 2017 on a treaty to outlaw nuclear weapons. Exciting news! Except that there are many other views...For contrasting perspectives on these crucial proceedings - which will not conclude until August - here are a few reports that crystallise some of the various positions:

Report 1, Report 2, Report 3, Report 4

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More on Nuclear

Good Thinking, The Documentary - Those Who've Tried to Halt Nuclear Weapons

Arms Trade



European Union: ENAAT Press Release on the EU Annual Report on arms exports control

The European Network Against Arms Trade

(ENAAT) strongly criticized “the Council of the European Union for not taking democratic control on arms exports seriously”. “In spite of the requests of EU Parliament and civil society, again this year the Report has been published too late, it is incomplete and the data are inconsistent” – adds the note of ENAAT, a network of 16 national and international organizations on arms trade control in Europe, also raising that this is partly due to the **emerging negative impact on exports controls of the intra-EU arms trade liberalisation**. The latest figures show that the first geopolitical zone of destination of EU countries military systems in 2014 has been the **Middle East** (over 31,5 billion Euros of licences in 2014) where there are **major conflicts and authoritarian regimes**. ENAAT is calling on the EU to implement a comprehensive response to conflicts by acting on their social, economic, environmental or political causes. “It is time for peace and security interest to prevail over profits and national powers rivalries”, conclude ENAAT members.

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UK: Women chain themselves to gates of Brimstone missile factory #Women4Syria

03 May 2016: Sisters Against The Arms Trade protested at the MBDA missile factory in the UK, closing its operations. MBDA are manufacturers of the Brimstone missile, a weapon which played a key role in David Cameron’s arguments in favour of precision British airstrikes. Since the vote in favour of airstrikes, the UK has bombed oil wells and tankers, but left alone **the Assad regime, the No.1**

customer for ISIS oil. Now Assad and his allies are escalating their bombardment of Syrian civilians while the UK stands by offering nothing but words in response. The Assad regime and its allies are maintaining starvation sieges against Syrian civilians while the UK refuses to drop aid. The Assad regime’s violence is driving more and more Syrians to flee, while the UK refuses to give sanctuary to unaccompanied child refugees.

To see An excerpt from the **Sisters Against The Arms Trade press release:** [click here.](#)

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More on Arms Trade

Britain's biggest arms dealer tells peace activists selling weapons 'encourages peace'

Impacts



Briefing paper by the International Network on Explosive Weapons ahead of the World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul, 23-24 May 2016

Weapons (INEW) is an NGO partnership calling for immediate action to prevent human suffering from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. In 2015, more than 33,000 civilians were reported killed or injured by explosive weapons, according to **Action**

on Armed Violence (AOAV). When explosive weapons are used in populated areas, 92% of the casualties are civilian. The bombing and bombardment of towns and cities causes widespread **civilian death and injury, and destruction of infrastructure**, and is a **root cause of displacement** Strong normative frameworks are vital to the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The Core Commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit are an opportunity for states to renew their commitment to the protection of civilians, in particular from the severe ongoing harm caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and especially explosive weapons with wide area effects.

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Amnesty report on Yemen cluster munitions

- 16 new civilian casualties, including nine children, documented in aftermath of Saudi Arabia-led coalition's cluster bomb use
- Internally displaced people returning home to de facto 'minefields'
- Use of US, UK and Brazilian-made cluster munitions documented
- Urgent need for international demining assistance

Children and their families returning home in northern Yemen after a year of conflict are at grave risk of serious injury and death from thousands of unexploded cluster bomb submunitions, Amnesty International said, following a 10-day research trip to Sa'ida, Hajjah, and Sana'a governorates.

International assistance is urgently needed to clear contaminated areas and countries with influence should urge the Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces to stop using cluster munitions, which are internationally banned and inherently indiscriminate.

UK: more on the matter **here**.

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More on Impacts

Explosive weapons use in populated areas
- Understanding the reverberating effects and their policy implications

Asia's Indigenous Communities Marred by Militarisation

Miscellaneous



Daniel J. Berrigan, pacifist priest who led antiwar protests, dies at 94

The Rev. Daniel J. Berrigan, a writer, teacher and longtime peace activist whose repeated acts of civil disobedience put him at odds with his government and the Roman Catholic Church but made him a major figure in the radical left of the 1960s and 1970s, died April 30 at a Jesuit residence at Fordham University in the Bronx. He was 94.

To learn more about Rev. Daniel J. Berrigan and his achievements, click [here](#) or [here](#).

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Poland: A Call For Actions Warszawa 8-10 July 2016 during the NATO Summit in Warsaw July 8-9 2016

The international network **No to War - No to NATO** together with Polish partners will conduct an alternative summit and a demonstration in Warszawa from July 8-10. On Friday 8 July they will hold a conference bringing together the organisations and activists of the peace and anti-war movements. This will be an opportunity to discuss—and debate alternatives to the policies of militarisation and war being proposed by NATO. Their goal is a world without war and nuclear weapons, which is why they are fighting to overcome NATO through the politics of common security and disarmament and solidarity with global peace, anti-war & anti-militaristic movements.

To participate to the movement, please find the information here: www.no-to-nato.org.

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More on Miscellaneous

Syria: Poverty driving Syrian men and boys into the arms of Isis

Vietnam: Barbara Lee recognizes Vietnam Peace Movement in House Resolution

Colombia authorizes air strikes against criminal gangs

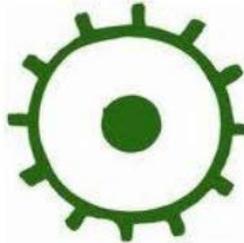
Resources



Peace and other videos - End of Academic Year Sale

"Our mission is to distribute the very best in educational media and documentary programming on critical environmental, global and social issues to the widest possible audience worldwide, including colleges, schools, libraries, businesses, religious groups, government agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Video Project collection features award-winning programs for all ages, including Oscar and Emmy award-winners from over 200 independent filmmakers worldwide. We are the exclusive or primary distributor for most of the programs in our collection."

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New report on countries without armies

There are at least 26 countries around the world that have chosen to exist without an army. Christophe Barbey from the APRED Participative Institute for the Progress of Peace, offers a thorough mapping of these countries in the new working paper *Non-militarisation : Countries without Armies. Identification Criteria and First Findings* (65pp). Starting from the legal and factual criteria for a non-militarised country status, the paper offers a first insight into motives and reasoning for being army-less. Many of the states are very small, often island-states, yet seemingly well off and safe, the author concludes, while opening up this field for more research.

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[Gangeon Village Story](#)

For upcoming events see IPB Calender



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