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Newsletter

June - July 2016

Berlin Congress - Presidents Panel - Humanitarian Summit



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Berlin Congress programme no.2 published – including a panel of six IPB Presidents

The second draft program for IPB's world congress 2016 Disarm! for a Climate of Peace (Berlin Sept 30 - Oct 3) has been published. Download it [here](#)! Discover the great number of interesting panels and inspiring workshops! There is a Youth Programme, cultural presentations, side events, and more....

A special highlight is the Presidents Panel

Our speakers have been involved in many peace campaigns. We shall hear from them of the joys and frustrations of campaigning, their assessments of the current situation and their hopes for the future. We hope they will offer some guidance for the work of the International Peace Bureau in the coming years. Join us in Berlin for a truly historic occasion! **SEE programme for Oct 2.**

IPB will compile a set of articles on the peace implications of Brexit in the next newsletter.

Humanitarian World Summit, the big fiasco

At the summit's closing session, both Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon expressed strong "*disappointment*" on the absence of leaders of the most powerful countries. Though they reiterated their appeal for solidarity to rescue the most vulnerable people on Earth – 130 million victims of conflicts and natural disasters and growing, none of them could hold out or offer any hope soon. "Their absence (G-7 and Security Council leaders) is not an excuse for inaction," Ban said. "*The resources required to rescue the lives of tens of millions of human beings represent only 1 per cent of the total world military expenditure*", he added.

See IPB's call for action [here](#).

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Military Spending



How Asia's military spending growth is outpacing the world

Global defense contractors are circling for business in Asia, with countries from Australia to Vietnam upgrading and adding everything from submarines to fighter jets as China expands its military reach. Defense budgets will keep rising, according to IHS Jane's, which forecasts spending in the Asia-Pacific region will climb 23 percent to \$533 billion annually by 2020. That will put it on par with North America, which is expected to account for a third of global defense spending by then, from almost half now. The figures reflect a shifting strategic dynamic, as China pushes for greater influence and the U.S. seeks to preserve decades of dominance in the western Pacific.

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Europeans fear ISIS and refugees, yet oppose increased military budgets

A wide-ranging survey carried out across Europe has reported that most EU citizens believe Islamic State is the biggest threat to security. However, a majority of respondents opposed bigger military spending as a solution. Unsurprisingly, the terror group came out on top of the biggest perceived threats, with 76% of respondents answering as such. Only 17% said otherwise, in the survey carried out by the US-based Pew Research Centre. In the spring, the pollsters surveyed over 11,000 Europeans in ten different EU countries. This selection of countries represents 80% of the EU population and 82% of the bloc's economic output.

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More on Military Spending

Stoltenberg: NATO defense spending to rise for first time in decade

USA: Slush funds, secrets and splurges: How Pentagon budgets keep getting bigger

Pakistan: 11% hike in defence budget maintained

Tensions in the South China Sea will drive up defense spending by 23%

How the American military economy promotes bipartisan support for large defense budgets

In a reversal, Germany's military growth is met with Western relief

Global Peace Index

2016 launch

Study finds uptick in EU defence spending

New Zealand: defence spending obscene opening for more wars
More on the subject [here](#).

KENYA: Slash military spending by Sh20bn and use money to feed students, says MP

USA: House passes \$576B defense spending bill

The Pentagon's real Strategy: keeping the money flowing

Nuclear



SYDNEY: Human survival project tribunal

The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (Human Survival Project), and the Sydney Centre for International Law (SCIL) at Sydney University, with co-sponsorship by People for Nuclear Disarmament (PND) NSW and Aotearoa Lawyers For Peace, have released the provisional program and the indictment for the International Peoples Tribunal on the Nuclear Powers and the Destruction of Human Civilisation. *"We are indicting the nuclear powers in light of the increasing evidence of the risks of nuclear weapons use arising from their policies and practices, and the catastrophic consequences of such use,"* says Prof Peter King, a founder of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and convener of its Human Survival Project at Sydney University, and one of the Tribunal organizers.

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New data dampens hope of a global ban on nuclear weapons

While campaigners for a world free of nuclear weapons are confident that **"a ban is coming"**, the **annual nuclear forces data** launched by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on June 13 gives little hope for optimism. Despite the ongoing reduction in the number of weapons, the prospects for genuine progress towards nuclear disarmament remain gloomy," says Shannon Kile, Head of the SIPRI Nuclear Weapons Project. "All the nuclear weapon-possessing states continue to prioritize nuclear deterrence as the cornerstone of their national security strategies." But for the Geneva-based International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (**ICAN**), "it is now clear beyond doubt that an overwhelming majority of the world's nations are ready to start negotiations on a treaty banning nuclear weapons".

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More on Nuclear

Call to action by disarmament ambassadors: Here's how Canada can help eliminate nuclear weapons

Arms Trade

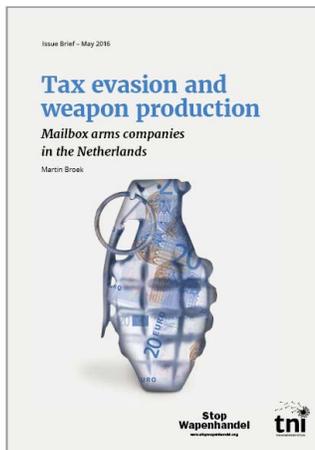


USA: Report: Western defense industry future imperiled by local programs

The European Network Against Arms Trade

(ENAAAT) 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 ENAAAT, 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). “It is time for peace and security interest to prevail over profits and national powers rivalries”, conclude ENAAAT members.

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Netherlands: Tax evasion and weapon production

Six of the top ten world's biggest arms dealers are based in the Netherlands in order to benefit from its favourable tax and trade system. The revelations of the leaked Panama Papers in April 2016 pushed the issue of tax and tax evasion high up the international political agenda. Prompting scandals and high profile resignations, the 11.5 million documents from the offshore law firm Mossack Fonseca unveiled some of the tricks and strategies that countless politicians, businessmen and elites use to avoid taxes. Among them were arms companies and arms traders, including blacklisted individuals as well as major arms corporations such as Italian arms giant FinnMeccanica. However Panama is just one of the many countries offering corporations secrecy and means of avoiding tax. The Netherlands is another leading player, providing a legal home to thousands of corporations, attracted by its low tax rates, its lack of transparency requirements and its bilateral investment agreements with many nations.

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More on Arms Trade
'The real harm of the global arms trade'

Impacts



House Democrats' gun-control sit-in turns into chaotic showdown with Republicans

A Democratic protest demanding votes on gun-control legislation led to pandemonium in the House chamber on Wednesday 22 June at noon and did not end until early Thursday 23 June, when Speaker Paul D. Ryan and his fellow Republicans reclaimed control long enough to force through a major spending bill. They then abruptly adjourned and left the Capitol. Furious Democrats remained on the House floor, where they huddled around their leader, Representative Nancy Pelosi of California, who praised their stand as a "discussion heard around the world."

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NY: 2016 Biennial meeting of states on small arms

From 6–10 June, the UN in New York hosted the **sixth meeting of states** addressing the implementation of the **UN Programme of Action** on the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. The Chair and many member states made valuable progress in connecting UNPoA implementation efforts with other important initiatives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and in recognising related issues such as gender dynamics. But the **tyranny of consensus** once again prevented the adoption of an outcome document with robust new commitments to take on old challenges, leaving once again serious unfinished business—such as that related to ammunition, new technologies, and manufacturing.

More on this subject [here](#).

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More on Impacts

Zeid urges U.S. to adopt robust gun control measures to pre-empt further killings

Global Day of Action – 16 June 2016 Stop unethical investments in cluster bombs!

INEW bulletin #20: UN Secretary-General urges international political response to explosive weapons harm

Explosive weapons and the right to health, education, and adequate housing

IANSA: July 9 International Gun Destruction Day

Miscellaneous



Upcoming U.N. ruling on South China Sea dominates Asian security summit

Thailand's prime minister and India's defence minister called for upholding international law as they spoke at an Asian security summit that is being held ahead of a key U.N. court ruling on the South China Sea dispute. But both stopped short of saying that the decision by the the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, likely within weeks, should be binding. The Philippines has gone to court to contest China's claims to an area of the sea stretching deep into the maritime heart of Southeast Asia. "We support peaceful resolution of the disputes in line with international law, including UNCLOS," Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said in his keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue, referring to the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

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Resources



Peace Jobs: A student's guide to starting a career working for peace

This book is a guide for college students exploring career options who are interested in working to promote peacebuilding and the resolution of conflict. High school students, particularly those starting to consider college and careers, can also benefited from this book.

A major feature of the book is 30 stories from young professionals, most recently graduated from college, who are working in the field. These profiles provide readers with insight as to strategies they might use to advance their peacebuilding careers.

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Ammerdown paper. Rethinking security

The Ammerdown Group brings together peacebuilding practitioners and academics concerned about the effects of geopolitics on the security of people worldwide. The group is seeking a public conversation in search of a new vision for peace and security. This paper is one contribution. It explores the security strategies of Western states, particularly the UK, and proposes principles for a more effective approach in the common interest. We welcome responses from all quarters.

[READ MORE](#)

More on Resources

Defence budgets and cooperation in Europe: Developments, Trends and Drivers

Broken Rifle #105 – Antimilitarism and climate change

New publication— Preventing gender-based violence through arms control

Fukushima farmer Hasegawa Kenichi- "Fukushima's Stoten Lives: A Dairy Farmer's Story"

SDGs and security, small arms survey publications

For upcoming events see IPB Calendar



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