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Newsletter

July - August 2016

Brexit - Berlin - Nuclear commemorations and more...



BREXIT: What consequences in terms of defence and security?

Whither UK defence and foreign policy?

This briefing considers what the Leave vote and ensuing changes to the British government might mean in the short, medium and long term for the UK's defence and foreign policy, including decision-making and accountability mechanisms, and the still-urgent need to build sustainable security. It looks in particular at the implications of the constitutional uncertainties over Scotland and Northern Ireland's place in the Union, the budgetary implications of economic recession, the UK's likely posture in relation to Europe, the Middle East and the wider world, and environmental issues.

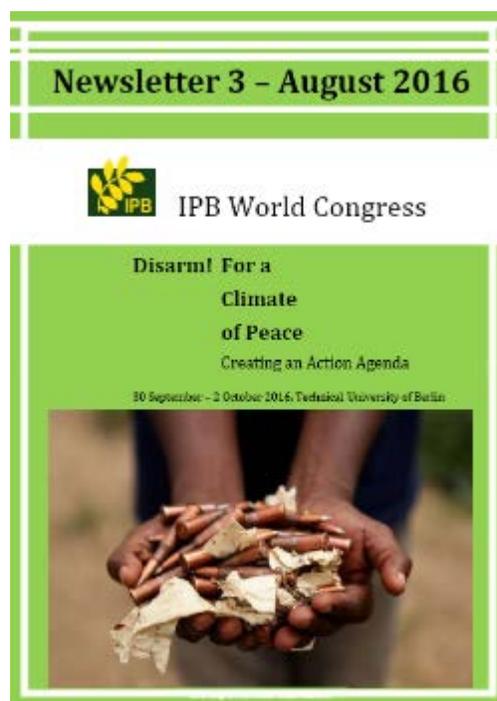
Read more [here](#).

Will Brexit have political ramifications at UN?

The much-ballyhooed British exit from the EU is likely to have political ramifications at the UN— both in the short and the long term. If Scotland and Northern Ireland eventually decide to break away, as expected in the not-too-distant future, the UK, as it is formally known in the world body, may be reduced to a minority of one: a kingdom sans unity. Still, will Brexit make any significant difference at the UN? At first glance, the answer seems to be not much. After all, the UN is composed of nation states, he said, pointing out that the UK will continue, as before, to participate in its national capacity in all UN activities, most notably the Security Council where it is one of five key Permanent Members. **Read more [here](#).**

More articles on the subject of Brexit:

- **EU pushes broader security, defence cooperation after U.K. vote**
- **Brexit is good news for Russia but a headache for NATO**
- **UK defence industry seeks 'bold' government backing after Brexit vote**
- **Brexit: impact on Trident**
- **Greater threat than Brexit? The militarization of Europe!**
- **Brexit vote could allow for nuclear weapons rethink**
- **Brexit and the UK's uncertain nuclear future**
- **Alliance in question: How will Brexit affect NATO?**



BERLIN CONFERENCE: Disarm! For a Climate of Peace: Creating an Action Agenda: 30 September - 03 October 2016

IPB Berlin Congress: Newsletter no 3 now available

The latest **Congress newsletter** brings you more news of the programme, the speakers and some thoughts about current issues. You can also see pictures of Berlin and the Congress venue. Pass it on to those who might be interested to attend. Early booking means cheaper travel costs! **Don't forget to register [here!](#)**

Abolition 2000 annual meeting in Berlin on 29-30 September

Join Abolition 2000 for the **Abolition 2000 Annual Meeting** in Berlin on 29-30 September. Nuclear disarmament activists from around the world will share campaign reports, discuss nuclear disarmament strategy, highlight opportunities for action and plan further campaigns. Then you can stay on after the Abolition 2000 Annual Meeting for the exciting congress '**Disarm for a Climate of Peace**' organised by **International Peace Bureau**, Berlin Sep 30 - Oct 3. **Read more [here.](#)**



71st ANNIVERSARY of HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI:

Commemorations of the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

As the world commemorates the nuclear attacks on the two Japanese cities in 1945, their respective mayors released their annual declarations. Here you can find the **Peace Declaration** of Hiroshima Mayor Matsui Kazumi. Here is the **Nagasaki Peace Declaration** by Mayor Tomihisa Terae. A few years back, while visiting the sites of the bombings, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed his **support** for negotiations on a ban on nuclear weapons. This year's **Open Ended Working Group** is currently discussing options in Geneva for next steps in this direction. Finally, Pax Christi International (IPB member organisation) also published a **statement** on the 71st anniversaries.

Nuclear disarmament petition!

Joseph Gerson writes from Hiroshima: *"I am writing to ask that you sign, circulate and otherwise support the international petition campaign launched by the Japan Confederation of A- & H- Bomb Sufferers organizations. It is supported by a broad spectrum of Japanese disarmament and peace organizations. This signature campaign, for which they are seeking HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS of petition signatures worldwide, is titled "Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons". In today's World Conference rally, Hibakusha from across Japan, South Korea and North Korea spoke about their hopes for the campaign, and Bui Lien Huong of the Vietnam Peace Committee presented more than 80,000 signatures they collected in Vietnam over the past two months."* Completed petitions can be sent to the address at the bottom of the English language **PDF** or to: **AFSC, 2161 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Ma. 02140 USA.**



CHILCOT REPORT: The Iraq War

Bush says 'world is better off' without Saddam as Blair mounts Iraq war defence

Key findings include: Blair deliberately exaggerated the threat posed by Saddam Hussein; the UK chose invasion before it had exhausted peaceful options; **British intelligence produced “flawed information”**; the US ignored UK advice on postwar planning; the British military was **poorly prepared** for war, Blair ignored warnings, **kept his cabinet in the dark** and had no plans for occupation. Six days after invasion, Tony Blair said to George Y Bush: “*This is the moment when you can define international politics for the next generation: the true post-cold war world order.*” The former prime minister insisted he made the right decision. “*I believe it is better we took that decision. I acknowledge the mistakes and accept responsibility for them,*” he said. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn apologised on behalf of the party. He apologised to Iraqis, British soldiers and to “*the millions of British citizens who feel our democracy was traduced and undermined by the way in which the decision to go to war was taken*”. **Read more here.**

Chilcot confirms Tony Blair must now be brought to justice

CND, Stop the War and many others are gathered in Westminster listening to the revelations of the Chilcot report. Kate Hudson, CND general secretary, said: “*The report shows that Tony Blair had no respect for cabinet procedure, no respect for Parliament, and no respect for international law. “A country was destroyed, millions of innocent Iraqis were killed, British soldiers were killed, and terrorism has spread across the Middle East. “Chilcot reveals the evidence that must now be used to bring Tony Blair to justice. This is our demand. “Only when justice is served can we prevent disasters like the Iraq war ever happening again.*” **Read more here.**

More articles on the subject of the Chilcot Report:

- **Peace pledge union: Overlooked parts of Chilcot Report suggest military commanders share blame for war**
- **Veterans' families push for Blair to face trial over Iraq – but is it possible?**
- **Stop the war coalition's response to the Chilcot report**

MILITARY SPENDING



Trump's military spending flip-flop

Before Donald Trump favored boosting the defense budget, he was for slashing it. At a rally this week in defense-industry-rich Northern Virginia, the GOP nominee agreed with an audience member who decried the damage caused by congressionally mandated, across-the-board budget cuts. "It's true, it's true," Trump said after the person **yelled** out, "Sequestration's killing us, too!" But three years ago, Trump cheered the cuts — which included **shaving** the Pentagon budget by \$31 billion in 2013 — as an important way to tackle the federal debt. He even said they were too small.

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A flawed strategy and how to rectify it: Aquino, Duterte, and the West Philippine sea

Former Philippines senator and NGOs expert Walden Bello offers an important analysis of the implications of the ICJ ruling: "*We won in The Hague but our legal victory has been compromised by the ill-advised entry of the Aquino administration into a military alliance with the United States aimed at containing China. Moving beyond the volatile stalemate in the West Philippine Sea requires another strategy from the new Duterte administration*".

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More on Military Spending

EAI special report: The first step toward participatory budgeting in Myanmar

US: "Black Lives Matter" movement calls for reduced military spending

Xi pressed for armed response in South China Sea after Hague ruling

On military spending and national defence: Interview with William Hartung

US: Senate will cut from bloated military spending... by taking from the troops

NUCLEAR

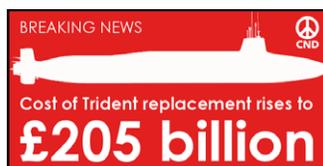


8 July 2016 – 20th Anniversary 1996

International Court of Justice decision on nuclear weapons

20 years ago, the International Court of Justice brought down an advisory opinion, that showed that in almost all conceivable circumstances, the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is illegal. The court ruled unanimously that there is an obligation on the part of the nuclear weapon states to negotiate away their nuclear arsenals. And July 8, the International Peoples Tribunal on the Nuclear Powers and the destruction of Civilization concluded two intense days of taking evidence about the facts and the legalities of nuclear weapons use and possession. Prosecution was led by Alyn Ware, who was instrumental in the original 1996 ICJ decision and who coordinates the Parliamentary network for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament. The Tribunal will bring down its conclusions on 9 August, which is Nagasaki Day.

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CND disclosed that Trident replacement cost rises to £205 billion - #205andRising

On 18 July 2016 MP will decide on whether to replace Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system. But we must have an honest debate. Politicians, like defence secretary Michael Fallon, say Trident replacement will cost £31 billion. But this is the cost of replacing Trident submarines, just one part of the total cost of the new system. In addition to the submarines there is a £10 billion contingency fund. Then there's the missile extension programme (£350 million), replacement warheads (£4 billion), infrastructure capital costs (£4 billion), in service costs (£142 billion), conventional military forces directly assigned to support Trident (£1 billion), and decommissioning (£13 billion).

To see the complete detailed figures and facts, click [here](#), and [here](#) for more information on the subject.

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More on Nuclear

U.S. conference of mayors unanimously adopts a stronger resolution on nuclear weapons

OSCE parliamentary assembly calls for nuclear weapons stand-down

Global Zero: Third annual bike around the bomb

OEWG Chair releases draft 'Zero Report'

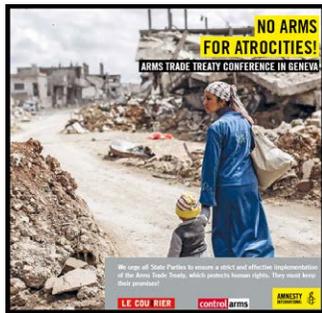
Congratulating the winners of the Nuclear Free Future Awards

Nuclear disarmament: one step forward, two steps back

Regional tensions test Japan's new defence minister on first day

NATO: Increasing the role of nuclear weapons

ARMS TRADE



Amnesty International: No arms for atrocities – Arms Trade Treaty conference in Geneva

Amnesty International will organise between the 22nd – 24th August 2016 different activities to urge all State Parties to ensure a strict and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty that protects human rights. A conference, street action, rally and a panel discussion will be organised. To see the details of the activities, please click [here](#).

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EU development aid to finance armies in Africa

The EU commission wants to finance foreign armies as part of a larger effort to stop people from fleeing to Europe, including in countries with patchy human rights. A commission draft proposal released on Tuesday (5 July) spells out reasons why it is "necessary to provide assistance to the militaries of partner countries". Some €100 million that were initially slated for development aid will be diverted to finance military-led border control exploits and other initiatives like mine-clearing.

More on the subject [here](#).

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More on Arms Trade

British arms exports to Saudi Arabia to be scrutinised in high court

Tightening Gun Laws in India, increase of private weapons manufacturing & the issue of Women, Peace & Security

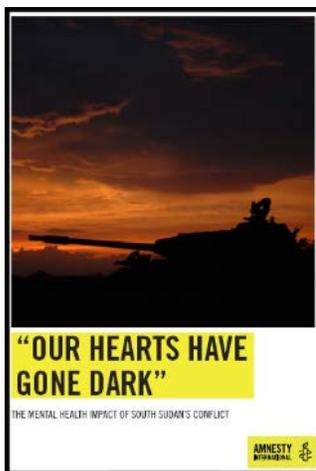
IMPACT



INEW: Protecting children from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas

At the United Nations Security Council open debate on children in armed conflict on 2 August 2016, the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) called on states to recognise the humanitarian harm resulting from the use in populated areas of explosive weapons with wide-area effects, and to support efforts to develop an international political commitment to prevent this harm. In his latest report on children and armed conflict, to be discussed at the open debate, the UN Secretary-General made his strongest reference yet to this issue, urging all parties to conflict to “refrain from using explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas, and to consider making a commitment to this effect.” *He also notes “attacks on schools and hospitals were prevalent in 2015 and were linked to the increasing use of airstrikes and explosive weapons in populated areas.”*

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“Our hearts have gone dark”: The mental health impact of South Sudan’s conflict

In a new report, “**Our hearts have gone dark**”: The mental health impact of South Sudan’s conflict, the organisation documents the psychological impact of mass killings, rape, torture, abductions and even a case of forced cannibalism, on the survivors and witnesses of these crimes. “While the death and physical destruction caused by the conflict and preceding decades of war are immediately apparent, the psychological scars are less visible and neglected,” said Muthoni Wanyeki, Amnesty International’s Regional Director for East Africa, the Horn and the Great Lakes.

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More on Impact

Decades on land mines shatter young lives in Iran

MISCELLANEOUS



Protest actions at Warsaw

NATO summit

While this year NATO Summit took place in Warsaw on 8-9 July, six organizations of the Polish peace, social movements and the international Network Not to War – No to NATO conducted an alternative summit “No to War – No to Militarism – Yes to Refugees” and the demonstration “Money for the Hungry not for Tanks” in Warsaw from 8-10 July. Aim of the protests actions was the continuous delegitimation of the largest military organization of the world which is permanently and worldwide engaged in wars. More than 150 people from 18 countries – among others Russia, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Spain – discussed the current wars, the constitution of peace, social justice and common security in Europe. The protesters peacefully demonstrated from the Charles de Gaulle Square, to the US embassy and to finish at the shores of Vistula River in front of the NATO Summit.

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Turkey: Let's resist the spiral of violence and militarist imposition

Military coups have brought along human rights violations in every location they have taken place. In every place where the army has taken control by force, the violence has been further institutionalized and the societies who witness the coups have been stuck in spirals of violence. On one side military coup scenarios are being put into practice by “Peace at Home Council”, on the other side AKP government's so called “democratic moves” are on the agenda. This equation will enable AKP to further centralize the government by gathering the power in one hand and apply the totalitarian methods even more. Later in this process, the law enforcement forces can be controlled directly by the government; fascism and militarism will be more institutionalized under the name of “democratization”.

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More on Miscellaneous

[Tribute to a nuclear abolition hero](#)

[GNWP Welcomes first Cora Weiss Fellow](#)

[Inside Britain's secret weapons research facility](#)

[Obituary: Joan Horrocks: 20 July 1921 – 18 April 2016](#)

[Peace Review: A journal of social justice: Violent extremism and youth recruitment](#)

[Thousands protest at US bases on Okinawa after Japanese woman's murder](#)

[Chelsea Manning threatened with indefinite solitary confinement for suicide attempt](#)

[The Human Rights Council adopts the declaration on the right to peace](#)



Movie: The Shadow World

SHADOW WORLD reveals the shocking realities of the global arms trade – the only business that counts its profits in billions and its losses in human lives. Directed by Johan Grimontprez and in part based on Corruption Watch UK founder Andrew Feinstein's globally acclaimed book *The Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade*, the film reveals how the international trade in weapons – with the complicity of governments and intelligence agencies, investigative and prosecutorial bodies, weapons manufacturers, dealers and agents – fosters corruption, determines economic and foreign policies, undermines democracy and creates widespread suffering. The movie will be screening in London in September 17-24, Birmingham 16th and Glasgow 21st. For other dates in the world, click [here](#).

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RESOURCES



Museums for peace

The excellent International Network of **Museums for Peace Newsletter # 15** is now available at our website. Newsletter #15 is packed with great peace news from our INMP Associates. The next INMP newsletter (No.16) will be published in September. The deadline for fall submissions is 31st August 2016. (max. 500 words with one or two photos.) Please send your text and images to news@museumsforpeace.org. For peace to flourish people need to know about the peace projects being presented around the world. Don't keep your peace work local; make it global through the INMP newsletter and website.

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More on Resources

On peacemaking: A decade of reflections 2006-2015. A compendium of Oslo forum background papers

Peace education news!

Climate change and EU security policy: An unmet challenge

For upcoming events see IPB Calendar



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