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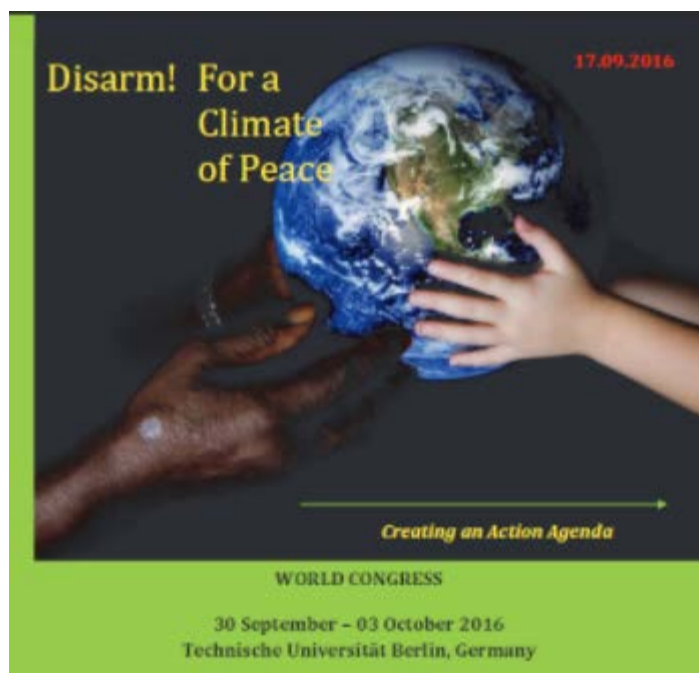
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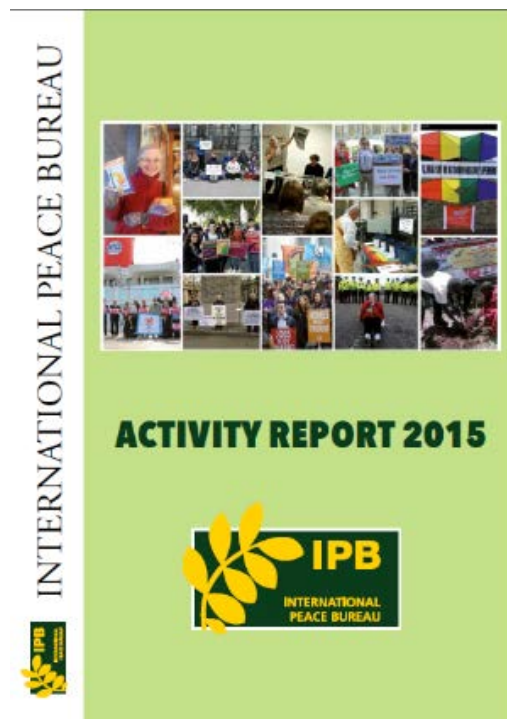
September 2016

Latest IPB News



Berlin congress: Full programme

Now available on website: 72pp! As the date of the IPB's world congress 2016 *Disarm! for a Climate of Peace* is approaching fast, we are happy to present the (almost) final version: [Here](#). **Registration still open!** Remember to check the [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for day-to-day updates.



Activity Report 2015: Just published!

2015 was another intense year for IPB. [Read the illustrated Activity Report here \(16pp\)](#). Among the highlights:

- We reinforced our efforts to promote the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS). We organised the 5th edition of the Global Day of Action (GDAMS).
- We focused our UN work on the adoption of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, making the case for the inclusion, not only of military spending, but also wider issues related to peace and disarmament.

We helped establish a new network on the links between militarism and climate change, with a gathering in Paris during COP 21....[MORE](#)



IPB and friends welcome hibakusha in Athens

On Sept 16, Colin Archer visited Athens, on the invitation of IPB member organisation PADOP (Observatory of International Organisations and Globalisation, Greece). He spoke at the ceremonies organised to welcome the visit of Peace Boat to Piraeus and Athens. The Japanese group on board included a delegation of Hibakusha/Second generation and Youth Communicators. The programme comprised: a meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister Dimitris Mardas; an informal gathering with the Mayor of Tripolis; and a formal session in the Senate Chamber of the Greek Parliament, chaired by the Deputy Speaker, and attended by MPs from several political parties.

MILITARY SPENDING



Report: Contractors outnumber U.S. troops in Afghanistan 3-to-1

Defense Department contractors in Afghanistan still outnumber U.S. troops by a 3-to-1 margin according to new research released this week, raising questions again about the role those workers play in the ongoing wars overseas and the oversight they receive. The data, compiled by the Congressional Research Service and first reported by Politico, shows contractor numbers in both Iraq and Afghanistan dating back to fiscal 2007. Combined, the Defense Department spent more than \$220 billion on contractors in both war zones for a variety of services and support.

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Japanese Defense Ministry seeks record \$51B budget

Japan's Defense Ministry is seeking a record-high 5.17 trillion yen (\$51 billion) budget for the 2017 fiscal year to bolster missile defense capability amid an escalating North Korean threat and to better protect disputed islands also claimed by China in the East China Sea. If approved by parliament, the budget request submitted yesterday would be the fifth annual increase under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who ended a decade of defense budget cuts after taking office in late 2012. Military spending would rise 2.3 percent for the fiscal year beginning April 1. Japan is particularly concerned about North Korea's recent nuclear and missile development, saying it has increased tensions on the Korean Peninsula and poses a threat to regional and global security.

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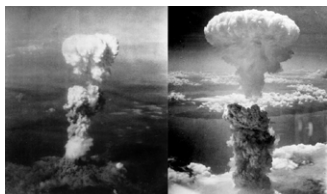
More on Military Spending

Opinion : "We can reduce extreme global poverty by three-fourths - right now"

Opinion : "Why does women, peace & security financing matter?"

Press release: the EU should promote peace not subsidize the arms industry!

NUCLEAR



Montreal Declaration for a Nuclear-Fission-Free World

As citizens of this planet inspired by the Second Thematic World Social Forum for a Nuclear-Fission Free World, conducted in Montreal from August 8 to August 12, 2016, we are collectively calling for a mobilization of civil society around the world to bring about the elimination of all nuclear weapons, to put an end to the continued mass production of all high level nuclear wastes by phasing out all nuclear reactors, and to bring to a halt all uranium mining worldwide. This call goes out to fellow citizens of all countries worldwide who see the need, whether as an individual or as a member of an organization, for a nuclear--fission free world.

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People's tribunal on nuclear weapons convicts leaders – Tribute to tribunal visionary

An International Peoples' Tribunal on Nuclear Weapons and the Destruction of Human Civilisation held in Sydney handed down its judgement yesterday affirming the illegality of any use or threat to use nuclear weapons and convicting the leaders of the nine nuclear-armed States of war crimes, crimes against humanity, crimes against peace and crimes of threatening, planning and preparing acts which would constitute genocide, ecocide and omnicide.

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More on Nuclear

APLN media release: Asia Pacific leaders call for 'No First Use' nuclear policy

Sunflower Newsletter: September 2016

Powerful 1 minute video for the International Day Against Nuclear Tests

ICAN Youth Academy (20-23 Oct 2016, Paris-France)

How did a nuclear warhead end up lying in a ditch in Arkansas?

Global week of action against gun violence 2016

Doubling of the budget of the military nuclear

Nuclear disarmament - can the UN Secretary-General play a role?

ARMS TRADE



Greater transparency around the Arms Trade would save countless lives

The arms trade has operated in the shadows for decades. With the ATT (Arms Trade Treaty) in force, arms deals may not be made covertly any more. Each state must submit an annual report that declares which transfers have been authorised. This week, states will also decide whether these reports should be made public or stay secret. There should be no question about this. They shouldn't even be given a choice. Reports must be made publicly available. Greater transparency can help stop illegal sales, reduce the risk of arms being diverted to terrorist groups and criminals; stop the flood of weapons to human rights abusers, and stop the arms that are being used to violate humanitarian law in too many communities on too many days. It's time to shine a light on this deadly trade.

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US, Israel agree on \$38 billion, 10-year defense deal

"Israel and the US have reportedly reached a defense aid package deal to the tune of \$38 billion over the next decade, with the Jewish state pledging not to seek additional funding from Congress. According to a report by Channel 2 on Monday, Washington and Jerusalem have all but sealed the \$38 billion agreement, which is set to be signed "within days." (The Times of Israel)"

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More on Arms trade

Decision time: Will Europe divert public money to the arms trade?

IMPACTS OF WEAPONS



New-Zealand : "KiwiSavers switch schemes after unethical investments revealed"

The KiwiSaver system opened in 2007 with the aim to offer to New-Zealander the opportunity to save their money for different life projects as retirement or house purchase.

“KiwiSaver members are switching providers and demanding answers from banks after learning their schemes were investing in companies making cluster bombs and anti-personnel mines. RNZ revealed that hundreds of thousands of KiwiSaver members in government-appointed default schemes may be unknowingly investing in such companies. At least five of the nine default KiwiSaver providers invested in these types of companies, despite them being banned by government agencies such as the New Zealand Superannuation Fund and ACC. The default funds run by ANZ, Westpac, ASB, AMP and Grosvenor invested in the anti-personnel mine manufacturer Northrop Grumman and nuclear weapon or base operators Fluor Corp, Honeywell International and Lockheed Martin. Westpac, ASB, BNZ, Grosvenor and AMP also invested in cluster bomb manufacturers General Dynamics and Textron.”

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Laos: Barack Obama regrets 'biggest bombing in history'

The bombs, as one Laotian recalled, "fell like rain", US President Barack Obama said on a visit to Laos, a first for any sitting US president. "Given our history here, I believe that the United States has a moral obligation to help Laos heal," he said. He referred to America's secret and devastating bombing of Laos during the Vietnam War in the 1960s and 70s. Some \$90m (£68m) will be spent over three years for the removal of cluster bombs and other unexploded ordnance.

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More on Impact

UN lawyers present revised post-conflict environmental protection principles

Liberia Grants 'Full Amnesty' for surrender of small arms

MISCELLANEOUS



South Korea: Resistance to THAAD deployment spreading to alternative candidate site

A campaign against deploying the THAAD missile defense system is also gaining momentum in the city of Gimcheon, located next to Seongju County. On one evening this past weekend, residents of Gimcheon held their first candlelight vigil against THAAD. At 7:30 pm on Aug. 20, a candlelight vigil opposing THAAD deployment was held at the amphitheater at the Riverside Park in Gimcheon's Bugok Neighborhood. The event was organized by the Association of Democratic Civic Groups in Gimcheon (composed of 11 civic groups in the area, including branches of a cargo union, railroad workers' union, medical workers' union, and teachers' union) and an action committee against THAAD that represents Nongso Township and Yulgok Neighborhood. At the vigil, protestors demanded that the central government and the Defense Ministry cancel their plans to deploy THAAD at the Lotte Sky Hill Seongju Country Club.

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133 Organisations Nominate Syria's White Helmets for

Nobel Peace Prize

Syria's White Helmets – the volunteers who rescue civilians from collapsed buildings – could be the “most popular” nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize ever, according to human rights group, the Syria Campaign. The nomination for the 2016 prize has received support from 133 organisations and individuals in Syria and around the world. The Syria Campaign launched a **website** to build public support for the White Helmets' nomination earlier this week. It comes after a difficult week for the White Helmets, the collective of ordinary Syrians who have signed up to dig for hours on end to rescue civilians from the rubble of collapsed buildings. Earlier this week, Khaled Omar Harrah, one of the best known White Helmets was killed during a rescue operation in Aleppo, Syria.

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More on Miscellaneous

Peace Prize Awarded to IPB member organisation

Women Scholarship for Peace: Global South

Exposition : Et si on osait la paix ? Le pacifisme en Belgique d'hier à aujourd'hui

The Anthropocene epoch: scientists declare dawn of human-influenced age

UN General Assembly High-level Meeting to Address large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

RESOURCES



Eric Schlosser's "Command and Control" Important Education & Mobilizing Film

The 90-minute documentary thriller focuses on the 1980 nuclear armed Titan II missile accident in Damascus, Arkansas, which threatened death and destruction across much of the Midwest. With references to other nuclear weapons accidents, the film provides a wakeup call to the little discussed mortal dangers that U.S. nuclear accidents pose to the U.S. (and other) people.

The film was co-produced and co-written by Eric Schlosser, author of the book *Command and Control* and Robert Kenner, who has two Academy Award nominations and two Emmys under his belt.

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From Preventive Diplomacy to Sustainable Peace: A Gender-Based, Eco-Feminist and Nonviolent Approach to Canadian Defence and Security Policy

Although the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this defence policy review (DPR), our organization is concerned that women's voices and the voices of peace are minimized and marginalized. The DPR maintains a masculinized perception of defence and a militarized conception of security. VOW contends that men with guns and the male-dominated institution of the military do not defend our human security. Rather it is the realization of gender equality, the protection of human rights, the adherence to the rule of law, and the investment in social welfare and environmental protection that secures the lives of women, men, girls and boys at home and abroad.

[READ MORE](#)

More on Resources

**Economists for Peace and Security
NewsNotes August 2016**

New Film: 'Love and Solidarity', Non-violence for systemic change

Launch of 'The Arms Trade Treaty: A practical guide to

Border wars report

Peace Science Digest: Special issue on peace education!

International Journal of Peace Economics and Peace Sciences

COLOMBIAN PEACE AGREEMENT



On the Verge of Peace: Colombia Reaches Final Agreement with the FARC

Many challenges remain after the final peace agreement between Colombia and the FARC. On October 2, 2016, Colombians will vote in a plebiscite to accept or reject the deal. The weapons abandonment process led by the FARC will play a major role in the decision of the population. A special UN mission is already deployed to monitor and verify the laying down of arms. It will have difficulties to gather reliable information and the different parties involved may question its impartiality.

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Support for 'Yes' in Colombia's Peace Vote Continues to Grow

A new poll has revealed growing public support for the peace accords between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the government of Juan Manuel Santos. The poll shows that an estimated 72 percent of the population intend to vote "yes" in the upcoming peace plebiscite on October 2, when the public is due to decide whether or not they support the final accord for the end of the conflict and the construction of stable and lasting peace. A resounding victory of the "yes" vote would deal a significant political blow to former far-right former President Alvaro Uribe, who has been campaigning for a "No" vote.

[READ MORE](#)

More on the Colombian peace agreement

[Colombia Peace Agreement : IPB statement](#)

[Colombians celebrate as peace deal is reached with Farc rebels](#)

[Thousands rally to support Colombia's FARC deal](#)

[Colombia and FARC rebels reach historic peace deal](#)

[Colombia will defeat the NO camp](#)

[Israel Training Colombia to Clear Land Mines Left by Conflict With Rebels](#)

For upcoming events see IPB Calendar



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