



The [IPB](#) is dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. Our current main programme centres on [Disarmament for Sustainable Development](#). Within this, our focus is on the [Global Campaign on Military Spending \(GCOMS\)](#), which advocates for reallocation of global military expenditures to fund human and environmental needs.

IPB ACTIVITIES



Global Campaign on Military Spending

CUT MILITARY SPENDING - FUND HUMAN NEEDS

- [Global Campaign on Military Spending gets under way](#)

IPB's new [GCOMS campaign](#), launched in December is picking up speed, especially with preparations beginning in several countries for this year's [Day of Action](#). In Geneva there will be a UN seminar; Nairobi a march with tree planting; in Oslo a breakfast briefing; in New Zealand a weekend of workshops: "*Remembering war / ending war: challenging militarism and building peace*". IPB asks all organisers to consider labelling their events '[Preparatory activity for the Berlin world congress on military spending, Sept 2016](#)'. Materials are being developed to help campaigners facing a public fearful about terrorism and the new 'Cold War' tensions.

MILITARY SPENDING

- [Obama calls for a surge in government spending : \\$74b for military and domestic budgets](#)

Declaring an end to "mindless austerity," President Barack Obama called for a surge in government spending and asked Congress to throw out the sweeping budget cuts. Obama's proposed \$74 billion in added spending - about 7%- would be split about evenly between defense programs and the domestic side of the budget.

- [Ukraine crisis: NATO to bolster Eastern Europe against Russia](#)

Nato is set to announce details of a plan to bolster the alliance's military presence in Eastern Europe in response to continued fighting in Ukraine.



This announcement followed an offensive by pro-Russian rebels in Ukraine. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State John Kerry is to hold talks in Kiev as the US considers whether to send weapons to help Ukraine fight pro-Russian rebels.

- [USA: Bigger Budget & More Strategic Failure - Reset Defense Bulletin](#)

This detailed analysis from Reset Defense Bulletin includes several distinct aspects on military spending. Among them, an insightful article on the failure of the war on terror. The Obama administration has favored military means of countering terror, such as overreaching with stand-off drone attacks, which are very far from suitable means to bring stability to Middle East countries. In the case of Yemen, we see evidence that military means are, in effect, destabilizing.

Another article highlights how the permanent environment in Washington for the "threat inflation" is boosting military spending in the Pentagon which expects to spend money at rates comparable to all but the highest years of Reagan presidency, the Vietnam War and the Korean War.

ARMS TRADE

- [The illusion of transparency in the EU: defence industry influence in Brussels](#)

The European Union and the defence industry are becoming ever closer partners, aimed at securing economic benefit for industry, and to meet the defence-political goals of the EU. This can be seen in three ways; A natural progression where European integration inevitably also leads down the path of common foreign policy and military integration; a worrying trend of corporate-fuelled militarism driven by partially invisible and unaccountable forces; or a combination of both.

- [France confirms sale of Rafale fighter jets to Egypt](#)

France has sold 24 Rafale fighter jets to Egypt along with a naval frigate and short and medium-range missiles in a deal worth more than €5 billion. It is the first time a foreign buyer has been found for the French-built warplanes. Concerns over the rise of jihadist groups in neighbouring Libya and in Egypt's Sinai province have also seen the two countries establish closer ties in recent years.



IMPACTS OF WEAPONS

- [Japan Gets Rid of All Cluster Munitions](#)

Japan has destroyed its entire stockpile of cluster munitions. As a State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Japan had until 1 August 2018 to finish destroying its stocks. With this important accomplishment, Japan joins the United Kingdom, Denmark, Chile, The Netherlands, Belgium, Ecuador and many other countries that have destroyed their entire stockpiles of cluster munitions.

- [Canadian financial institutions banned investments on cluster munitions](#)

NEI Investments and Desjardins Investments (Canada) announced they have banned investments in cluster munitions producers. Both financial institutions already had cluster munitions policies in place for specific funds and have now extended that exclusion to all products, according to the financial companies.

- [Towards an integrated approach to the material legacies of war: landmines, explosive remnants](#)

The threat to civilians from landmines and other explosive remnants of war – seen as one dimension of the humanitarian and environmental impact of conflict – became isolated from environmentalism in the 1980s through early 2000s. Mine action agencies are increasingly expanding the scope of their work into related operational and policy areas, one of which is the environment. But the recent reinsertion of mines into these broader considerations has often occurred in a depoliticized, technocratic context, rather than re-enlivening a critique of the wider costs of militarism.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- [Peace & Planet](#)

Peace & Planet calls on all people who want to build a fair, democratic, ecologically sustainable and peaceful future to join them in the streets and meeting halls in New York and in your own capitals and cities worldwide in late April and early May, both before and during the NPT 5-year Review Conference. Joining with “*move the money*” and climate change forces, together we will press the nuclear powers to fulfill their Article VI commitments to eliminating their nuclear arsenals, for deep reductions of military spending in order to meet human needs, and for measures to reverse the devastation wrought by climate change. IPB is a member of the International Planning Group.

- [Marshall Islands vs World's Nuclear Weapons States](#)

The Republic of the Marshall Islands sued in front of the International Court of Justice all nine states currently possessing nuclear weapons accusing them of violating their duty to negotiate in good faith for the elimination of nuclear weapons. A similar lawsuit against the United States was brought. The US conducted 67 nuclear tests on their islands between 1946 and 1958; with the equivalent power of 1.6 Hiroshima bombs daily for 12 years. The US government filed a motion to dismiss the case on the grounds that the lawsuit is barred by the political question doctrine. The US lawyer found that the harm of the future spread and use of nuclear weapons is too speculative “to establish injury in fact”. [Read more](#)

- [Conference on disarmament fails to adopt programme of work for 2015](#)

The Conference on Disarmament has once again failed to reach consensus on a draft Programme of Work. Although the vast majority of delegations expressed support for the draft, consensus was not reached: Iran asked for more time and Pakistan blocked consensus by proposing amendments to the draft relating to the start of negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty.

- [America Has a Very Expensive Plan to Replace Very Old Nukes](#)

The Air Force wants to build an entirely new booster stack. The government spent \$8 billion upgrading the current Minuteman system in the 2000s. Advanced command-and-control satellites boosted into orbit and the bomber force received



several new features. The Air Force is simultaneously seeking funds to buy new bombers worth \$550 million each. [See also.](#)

- [33 Latin American and Caribbean states endorse Austria pledge and call for negotiations on a ban treaty](#)

At the third annual summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), heads of state of all 33 countries issued a declaration fully supporting the outcomes of the Third International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna and recognized the existence of a "legal gap" in the international framework regulating nuclear weapons. They called on all states to join in efforts to fill this legal gap by pursuing measures which would stigmatize, prohibit and lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

RESOURCES

- [Grappling with the Bomb: Opposition to Pacific nuclear testing in the 1950s](#)



In the fifty years from 1946-1996, the US, France and the UK conducted over 315 nuclear tests in the Pacific islands. In the 1940s, there was popular opposition to these testing programs across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, led by trade unions, churches and indigenous organisations. The author, who was a member of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific movement (NFIP) discusses the impacts of nuclear testing on the civilian and military personnel who staffed the test sites over fifty years, as well as neighbouring island communities. Using British nuclear testing on Kiritimati (Christmas Island) as a case study, the article will detail ongoing efforts by nuclear survivors to seek recognition and compensation for the health and environmental impacts of testing.

- [Hibakusha testimony movies](#)

Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A- and H- Bomb Sufferers Organizations) and No More Hibakusha Memorial Heritage Society have jointly produced a series of four movies of Hibakusha testimony with English subtitles.

- [Waging Peace by David Hartsough](#)

David Hartsough follows in a long tradition of citizens' nonviolent resistance to evil. He is an outstanding example of that particular Gandhi/King-inspired US peace movement which puts a high value on living out the values of nonviolence. This autobiography is a renewable testimony- a must read!

MAKING PEACE EXHIBITION

Making Peace on show in Sweden and South Africa

According to 'The Company's Garden' - where Making Peace is being exhibited in Cape Town (South Africa), over half a million people have so



far visited the outdoor presentation of the exhibition since it opened in early November 2014. As a result the Swiss Embassy in South Africa has given its support to prolonging the exhibition until the end of February 2015. Talks are also underway with the Dutch Embassy in South Africa to open the show in Pretoria later on in the year.

Meanwhile more than 500 people attended the opening of Making Peace at the Östergötlands Museum, and the Swedish Air Force Museum, Linköping, Sweden over the weekend (Sunday 15 February), where they listened to a musical performance as well as speeches from former IPB Co-President Tomas Magnusson and Making Peace Curator and Organiser Ashley Woods.

This is the first time that Making Peace is being shared by two museums in the same city at once, and also the first time that the show is presented in a national military museum. Given the fact that Linköping is the home of the Saab Group, Sweden's military aircraft manufacturer, this is an especially symbolic and courageous decision by the museum's director. One of the activities that the museums have organised is folding origami peace cranes which the city hopes to send to Hiroshima as part of this year's commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Japan in 1945.

LINKS

[Östergötlands Museum](#)

[Swedish Air Force Museum](#)

Contact us today and help bring [Making Peace](#) to your city:

help@makingpeace.org



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