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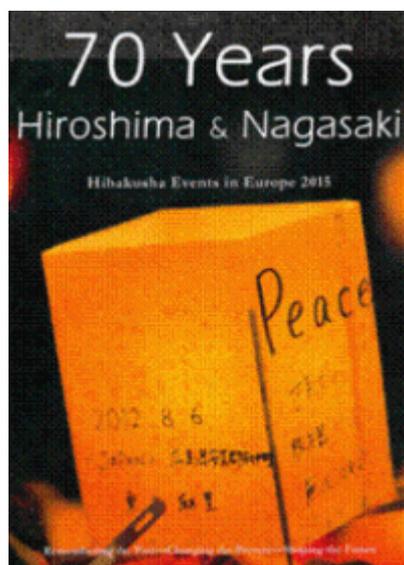
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Newsletter

September 2015

IPB Organizes European Speaking Tour



As a contribution to the commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, IPB is organizing a European speaking tour for a group of Hibakusha and a representative of the survivors of the Fukushima nuclear disaster. The tour will be held in September-October 2015; the group will visit Belgium, Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, France, Spain and UK. In each city the group will be hosted by IPB member organizations and will speak to a variety of audiences, including the media. We are glad to cooperate on this project with our members in Japan: [Gensuikyo](#) and [Nihon Hidankyo](#).

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UN Summit Adopts New Development Goals- Including Peace



On 25 September 2015 the UN General Assembly adopted 17 new Sustainable Development Goals for the period 2016-2030. Amongst topics of health, education, environment, and equality, for the first time, peace (goal 16) is being recognized as one of the most important factors in sustainable development. While this is a remarkable new step towards an agenda that fully addresses conflict issues, there was no mention of reallocating military spending to finance these development goals, an objective that is increasingly demanded by civil society. To learn how you can promote this work, join our **Global Campaign on Military Spending**.

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Making Peace: Going Strong After Five Years



*Students from Cape Town walk through Section 5 of Making Peace, that focuses upon the importance of Sustainable Development and the Environment.
Photo by Ashley Woods.*



*FW de Klerk, former President and Nobel Laureate opens Making Peace in Cape Town.
Photo by Steve Sherman.*

Five years ago, Making Peace made its debut along the banks of Lake Lemman in Geneva as a central part of the IPB's Nobel Peace Prize Centenary (1910 – 2010). Since then, the exhibition - curated and managed by Ashley Woods of Real Exhibition Development, an IPB member organization - has been presented in nine major cities reaching a global audience of over 25 million. For 2016, Making Peace has planned presentations in France, Ireland, Luxembourg, UK, USA and at the Graduate Institute in Geneva!

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Military Spending



Japan's Parliament Passes Unconstitutional Bill

Despite the mass anti-war demonstrations over the past few weeks, Japan's upper chamber of Parliament approved controversial bills allowing the country's military to engage in overseas combat. The codification of such actions contradicts the legislation of Article 9 of Japan's post- World War II constitution, which outlaws war as a means to settling international disputes.

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Xi Jinping Announces Budget Cut as Military Parade Shows Off Power

At the very moment when China's military was on display in early September, President Xi Jinping announced a 13% cut in the nation's armed forces. Xi also preached the message of a peaceful future for China; saying that the nation will never seek hegemony or expansion. Around the world there are mixed reactions regarding what the purpose of the parade was, and the sincerity of Xi's words.

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More on Military Spending

[The Military Dimension of the Malaysian Corruption Scandal](#)

[Mass Demonstration Against Cuts to NGO Sector in Finland](#)

[Israel's New Blank Check Brings Concern](#)

[A Call for Public Participation in National Budget Processes](#)

[Pakistan: The Only Thing Getting more Powerful is the Military and its Expenditure](#)

[UN Human Rights Independent Expert Lambastes Militarism](#)

[The Athens Appeal](#)

Arms Trade



Pope Tells World's Top Arms Dealers to End Arms Trade

On 24 September, the Pope spoke to Congress and called for an end to arms trade. During his speech the Pope proposed this critical question: "Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade."

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Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty: Summary and Analysis

The first Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty took place from 24-27 August 2015 in Cancun, Mexico. Overall there were successes regarding procedures, finances and leaders of the treaty for 2016 and also frustrations about reporting procedures. While these topics were heavily debated, various leaders from around the world, on the behalf of Arms Control, emphasized that the Treaty needs to be put into action, and soon for lives and nations are depending on the implementation of the Treaty to bring peace to their communities.

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More on Arms Trade

[British Aid and British Arms: A Coherent Approach to Yemen?](#)

[Poland to Purchase \\$40bn in Defense Equipment](#)

[History Repeats Itself- How Long Before Russia sends 'advisers' to Afghanistan?](#)

Nuclear



Atomic Survivors: Hiroshima

On August 5th, during the 2015 World Conference Against A&H Bombs, a special meeting was organized by **Nihon Hidankyo**. Many Hibakusha attended and several delivered very moving testimonies. IPB Secretary-General made a presentation entitled **'Why IPB Recommends the Hibakusha for the Nobel Peace Prize: Freeing the world from the threat of nuclear annihilation'**. Following this meeting Nihon Hidankyo issued a special 70th Anniversary Declaration.

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Future Plans for an Expansion of Nuclear Arsenal in the U.S.

The U.S. Defense Department's plan to modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal is an extremely expensive proposition. It will roughly double the percentage of the budget that is allocated to nuclear weapons during the 2020s and 2030s. The cost to build and sustain these new nuclear weapons is projected to average \$18 billion per year between 2021 and 2035. Critics warn that these cost predictions could be inaccurate, making these plans even more intimidating and dangerous.

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More on Nuclear Weapons

[The "I Was Her Age" Documentary is now released!](#)

[The Nuclear-Free Future Awards Names 2015 Laureates](#)

Impacts



800 Military Bases Create Insecurity

Costing the nation at least \$85 billion in 2014, the United States likely has more bases in foreign land than any other people, nation, or empire in history. With approximately 800 military bases world-wide, this global presence has contributed to a permanently militarized society that harms U.S. military personnel and their families, locals living near the bases, the environment, U.S. tax payers and many others.

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First Review Conference of Cluster Munitions Convention: A Great Success

From 7-11 September, the first Review Conference was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia with government delegates representing more than 100 countries and with more than 100 CMC members participating. As a result, State Parties adopted a Dubrovnik Declaration that condemns the use of cluster munitions. Efforts by a handful of States Parties to water down the strong language in the Declaration were rejected by the vast majority of States ensuring that the conference sent a clear message about the stigma around all use.

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More on Impacts

Introducing the Toxic Remnants of War Network

Miscellaneous



Gandhi Foundation International Peace Award 2015 to Tore Naerland

The Gandhi Foundation in UK has decided to award its annual International Peace Award to Tore Naerland, the founder of **Bike for Peace**. This Award is given to individuals and organizations that are committed to peace-making and peace-building. Founded in 1978, Bike for Peace uses the sport of cycling to bring together people from different sides of conflicts to 'bike for peace' and promote a nuclear-free world.

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International Network of Museums for Peace

Museums for Peace Newsletter

From The International Network of Museums for Peace August newsletter is now available! Packed with information from INMP Associates, the issue includes nuclear weapon and peace-related museum and art announcements and amongst many other engaging articles, the introduction of the World's first Empathy Museum.

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More Miscellaneous

**The Institute of
Economics and Peace
Website is now Live!**

**The Nonviolent
Change Journal's Fall
2015 Issue of
Nonviolent Change has
been Posted on Their
Website!**

**A Guide to Fundraising
on Social Media**

**Catalan Magazine
"Peace in Progress"
Pacifists During the
First World War**



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