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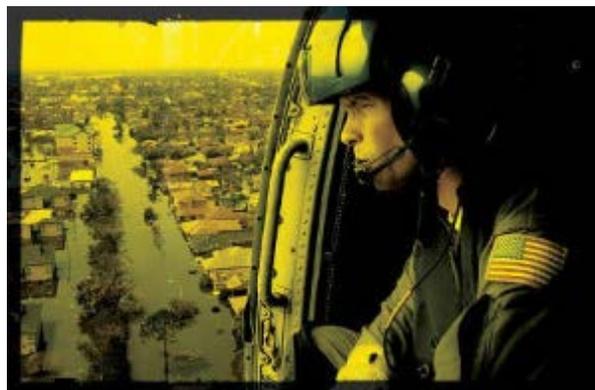


# Newsletter

*December 2015*

★ *Seasons Greetings to All Readers!* ★

## COP21: Wars, Military & Climate Conference



From 4-6 December, a conference was held at COP21 on the linkages between the military-industrial-security complex and its relationship to climate change. French and international organizations met to explore the relationships between climate/ecological crises, conflicts and military activities. As well as exploring how military activities impact the environment, it also analyzed how security/military responses to environmental crises affect vulnerable groups and create winners and losers. Find the full program of the conference [here](#).

During the conference, many sources were shared - including IPB's [Demilitarization for Deep Decarbonization](#), which was circulated multiple times over the three days.

One of the key presenters, Nick Buxton of Transnational Institute, used a tool called Storify to summarize the events and discussions that took place during the conference. Follow the link below to view the Story!

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## Small Wins at COP21: Possible Loss of Military Emissions Exemption



### Pentagon to Lose Automatic Emissions Exemptions Under Paris Climate Deal -

Armed forces around the world - including U.S. military - will no longer be automatically excluded from including their carbon emissions under national reductions targets. Under the Paris Agreement, countries would not be obliged to cut their military emissions but, equally, there would be no automatic exemption for them either. This could prove to be a small step in the right direction.

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IPB Intern Sarah Lucek illustrates the military-environment financial complex of 2015.

# Military Spending



## Amid Fight Against ISIS, NATO European Military Spending Questioned by Pentagon

Although Britain and France have renewed their anti-ISIS efforts both militarily and financially, the U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter insists that European countries are not doing enough to help defeat the terror group. Nearly all European states' defense spending has fallen below the minimum requirement as mandated by NATO, due in part to the debt crisis, but also for political and strategic reasons. The 2014 figures show that Greece - the state with arguably the largest debt crisis - has the highest rate of military expenditure; with 2.4% of their GDP dedicated to defense. Even with many nations still implementing austerity programs, the U.S. and NATO continue to call on states to invest more in the fight against ISIS.

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## Budget 2016 de la France: Ou est le Budget de la France Pour la Paix?

Suite aux récentes attaques terroristes de Paris, il paraît plus que jamais nécessaire de promouvoir une culture de paix et de non-violence. Malheureusement, le gouvernement français semble opter pour une solution plus préjudiciable, en accordant de nombreux crédits dans le domaine des armes nucléaires ainsi que de leur modernisation. Le Mouvement de la Paix condamne cette approche sécuritaire dont l'utilité est sérieusement questionnable et déplore le manque d'institutions et de budget encourageant une politique de paix (seulement 0,62 milliards d'euros pour la jeunesse, le sport et la vie associative en 2016).

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### More on Military Spending

**OPINION: Divert Arms Dollars to Environmental Security**

**States Throw Money at Military Bases to Keep them Open**

**NZ Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**

**US Invasion of Mideast Could Boost Defense Industry**

**Military Budgets Unexplored Source for Developing Funding**

## Arms Trade



### Annual SIPRI Data on Top 100 Arms-producing and Military Services Companies

SIPRI has released their annual report on the world's 100 largest arms-producing and military services companies, ranked by their arms sales - totalled \$410 billion in 2014. This represents a decrease of 1.5% compared to 2013. However, despite four consecutive years of decreasing sales, total arms revenues for the top 100 companies in 2014 remained 43% higher than those in 2002.

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### Africa Envisions to Silence Guns by 2020

The United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) in collaboration with its partner Africa Union (AU) says it's working on silencing all guns in Africa by 2020. Dr. Abdel-Fatau Musah of the UN Office for the African Union admits that the

challenges that bodies like UNREC face have grown more complex, causing yet more extensive damage and destruction. As apart of meeting this challenge the two sides have launched a program this year to combat small arms trafficking in the Sahel Region.

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### More on Arms Trade

**US Gives Over 100 Military Vehicles to Philippines**

## Nuclear



### Marshall Islands Wins Right Livelihood Award

For the first time in the history of the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize', the award was given to the people of an entire nation. The Republic of the Marshall Islands, an island of 70,000 people in the Pacific, and their Foreign Minister Tony de Brum, received the award 'in recognition of their vision and courage to take legal action against the nuclear powers for failing to honor their disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and customary international law'.

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### UNFOLD ZERO Presents Declaration - UN Adopts Nuclear Disarmament Resolutions

UNFOLD ZERO presented a Joint Statement of Mayors, Parliamentarians and Religious Leaders for a Nuclear Weapon Free World to Mogens Lykketoft, the President of the UN General Assembly, at the opening session of the UN on its 70th anniversary year in late September. The statement highlights the moral and security imperative to achieve nuclear abolition, noting that nuclear initiatives hold 'funds that could instead be used to reverse climate change, eliminate poverty and address other social and economic needs'. It calls specifically on leaders to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention or framework agreements to eliminate nuclear weapons; a proposal advanced by Ban Ki-moon and supported by over 130 countries. On 7 December, the UN General Assembly adopted 23 resolutions on nuclear weapons.

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### More on Nuclear Weapons

**The U.S. Nuclear Weapon Spending Binge**

## Impacts



### Germany Destroys All its Cluster Munitions

Germany completed the destruction of its entire stockpile of cluster munitions on 25 November 2015, almost three years ahead of its mandatory deadline. The German Federal Foreign Office, jointly with the Federal Ministry of Defense, reported that 50,000 tonnes of cluster bombs were destroyed in recent years. Germany never used cluster munitions, but produced, exported and imported them in the past. By the end of 2014, Germany had destroyed 99% of a stockpile that once consisted of 573,700 cluster munitions and 58 million submunitions.

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## Miscellaneous



### UN Security Council Adopts First-ever Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security

On 9 December the United Nations Security Council adopted a historic resolution on youth, peace and security that urges greater representation by young men and women in the prevention and resolution of conflict amid 'the rise of radicalization to violence and violent extremism among youth, which can be conducive to terrorism'. Along with positioning youth and youth-led organizations as important partners in efforts to counter violent extremism and the promotion of peace, the resolution gives impetus to the youth-led peacebuilding and conflict-prevention interventions.

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## Resources



### Introducing: Demilitarize! Research & Action

*Demilitarize!* a new bi-monthly publication for informing and empowering activism to demilitarize police in the United States and stop US weapons sales for the war in Mexico. Wage Peace of the American Friends Service Committee in San Francisco is undertaking a multi-year effort to support movements to demilitarize police in the United States and Mexico. They aim to strengthen the documentation, analysis and solidarity networks among activists, impacted families and others concerned about these difficult issues.

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