

NEWSLETTER



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IPB LAUNCHES GLOBAL CAMPAIGN IN MILITARY SPENDING



After many months of preparations and consultations, the IPB is delighted to announce the launch of the all-year-round **Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS)**. Since today is Human Rights Day, we feel the timing is very appropriate! Today's launch sees the unveiling of our **new Campaign website** - at the same address as the GDAMS one: www.demilitarize.org. The launch announcement will be made today at the **Future of Human Rights Forum** held at the UN in Geneva. The event is entitled 'Divest from War: Invest in Our Future'.

For specific information about the Global Day, go to: <http://demilitarize.org/global-day-action-military-spending/>

For our Facebook page, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/globaldayofactiononmilitaryspending>

What you can do:

- Disseminate, translate, post on your web/newsletter/social media pages/e-lists.
- Start thinking about actions your group might like to take on next year's Global Day (April 13, 2015) - OR at any other time.
- Consider longer-term plans for involvement in our planned **World Conference**, to be held in **BERLIN on 23-25 Sept 2016** - and for 'precomms' any time before that.
- Send us your news, proposals, pictures, videos, comments.... let's make this an ongoing festival-of-protest against the militarism of our times!
- Write to: mailbox@ipb.org

DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Military Spending

Angolan military expenditure to top \$13 billion by 2019

Angola's military and defence expenditure will increase from the current \$6.5 billion to \$13 billion by 2019 due to increased demand for border security equipment, fighter jets, multi-role aircraft, helicopters, navy vessels and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Ukraine "should increase military spending"

Ukraine has no choice but to increase military spending to strengthen the country's defense capabilities, Ukrainian

President Petro Poroshenko has said. "Reform of the defense sector - the army, security services and the defense sector – should be part of tectonic changes. The entire world believed too much in the prospect of peace, and we believed too early in eternal peace - now we are reaping the bitter fruits of someone else's aggressiveness and our own irresponsible pacifism," he said.

Turkey Announces Plans for \$5B Extra for Procurement

The Turkish government has announced a plan to raise about \$5 billion for defense procurement through a conscription exemption fee. The plan exempts from military conscription all Turkish men older than 28 as of Jan. 1 who pay a lump sum of 18,000 Turkish lira (about \$8,150). Turkey requires every male citizen over the age of 20 to serve five to 12 months in the military, depending on his education.

BICC Global Militarisation Index 2014: For the first time five European countries ranked among the Top 10

The Global Militarisation Index (GMI) depicts the relative weight and importance of the military apparatus of one state in relation to its society as a whole. According to GMI Middle East remains the most militarised region. This is due to the defence of existing authoritarian regimes against possible internal or external conflicts and potential threats from the outside. In Europe neighbouring states Armenia and Azerbaijan have initiated major increases in their military expenditures over past years. With Singapore (position 2) and South Korea (position 7), two countries from East Asia can be found amongst the ten most militarised countries in the world.

\$1tn cost of longest US war hastens retreat from military intervention

The Afghanistan war, the longest overseas conflict in American history, has cost the US taxpayer nearly \$1tn and will require spending several hundred billion dollars more after it officially ends this month, according to Financial Times calculations and independent researchers. Around 80 per cent of that spending on the Afghanistan conflict has taken place during the presidency of Barack Obama, who sharply increased the US military presence in the country after taking office in 2009.

Modernizing the Polish Military

By law, Poland must spend at least 1.95 percent of its GDP on its military. That's just a shade under the 2 percent that NATO asks its members to devote. Aside from Estonia, however, Poland is way ahead of the rest of the region in military spending. And when President Barack Obama visited Poland in June 2014, Poland committed to upping its allocation to 2 percent, with an expectation that it will rise to 2.5 percent in 2015. The situation in Ukraine – a divided country, with Russia backing separatists in the East – is fueling security concerns in Poland and the Baltic countries in particular.

Asia's military budgets surge as armies go high-tech

One of the mystery planes, a light aircraft being ferried from Darwin in northern Australia to its new owners in the Philippines, was chased a long distance before being forced to land in Manado, a city on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. The other, an executive jet flying Saudi officials to Brisbane ahead of the Group-20 meeting, was ordered to land in the Indonesian city of Kupang on the island of Timor.

Arms Trade

Sales by largest arms companies fell again in 2013 but Russian firms' sales continued rising

This is the third consecutive year of decline in the total arms sales of the 100 largest arms producers and military services providers. With a decrease in sales of 2 per cent in real terms compared to 3.9 per cent in 2012, the pace of the decline has slowed slightly. This is partly attributable to significant increases in arms sales by Russian companies and other emerging suppliers.

Impacts of Weapons

UN General Assembly backs help for depleted uranium clean-up

150 states have supported a UN General Assembly resolution recognizing the need for international assistance for countries affected by depleted uranium contamination. In a second vote on the UN's fifth resolution on DU weapons at the General Assembly in New York, 150 states have supported a call for the international community to provide assistance to states affected by DU contamination.

Costa Rica launches a call to reach 100 States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

In celebrating the sixth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica and Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties, Mr. Manuel González Sanz, issued a call to reach a total of 100 States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions before the First Review Conference, to be held in Croatia in September 2015.

Angola: European Union Releases 20 Million Euros for Landmine Clearing

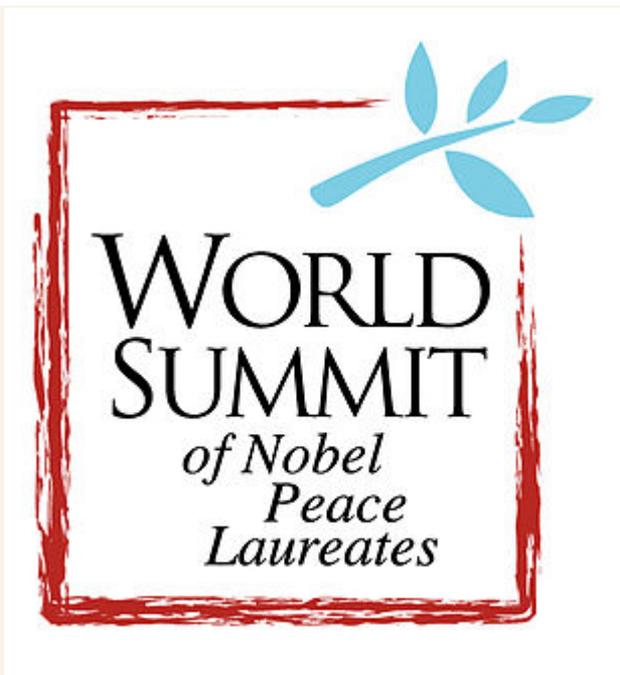
Twenty million Euros have been released by the European Union this year to support landmine clearing projects in 11 Angolan provinces, Angop learned. The information was released Friday in the municipality of Bailundo, central Huambo province, by the head of the National Multi-sector Demining and Humanitarian Assistance Commission (CNIDA), Rita Botelho Jesus Riba.

MAKING PEACE PHOTO-EXHIBITION

Up until now Making Peace has remained mainly in Europe - however in 2015 it will travel across the Atlantic to America. We are of course talking in symbolic terms as the exhibition is printed and mounted in situ with no travel or storage costs involved.

If you and / or your organisation is based in the United States and you would like to get involved in Making Peace, then do contact us:
help@makingpeace.org

Planned US venues so far include; Washington



D.C., New York, Chicago and Seattle with a special presentation in Atlanta for the 15th World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. Hosted by Nobel Peace Laureate Mohammed Yunus and President Jimmy Carter and chaired by Ted Turner, the Atlanta Summit aims to be the largest ever gathering of Nobel Peace Laureates, attracting high-profile state and business leaders, celebrities and the world's media.

Have a look at Atlanta's Summit promotional video:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uc9W5D4Pe5w>

2015 will be a memorable and perhaps emotional year for many people as it marks a number of important anniversaries, including the atomic bombing of Japan, the end of the Second World War and the subsequent founding of the United Nations in 1945; not forgetting the end of the war in Vietnam in 1975, spurred-on by massive anti-war demonstrations. For these reasons we feel it is important that Making Peace be seen by as many

people as possible and especially youth, so as to remind us not only about the horrors of war but also about the huge amount of work that has, and is still being done by so many, to promote peace around the world.

www.makingpeace.org

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Ufold Zero thanks its supporters for co-sponsoring the UN Commemorative Event in Geneva for the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. You can see a report of this very successful event at 'To disarm' must be in present tense, says senior UN rep in Geneva. Below is the most recent UNFOLD ZERO update, with information about the inspiring activities around the world to commemorate the day - including video links - and an update on actions at the United Nations for nuclear abolition.

Vienna Conference:

1)U.S. says reduced defense role for atom bombs, Britain against ban now

The United States says it is relying less on nuclear weapons as part of its defense planning, but Britain argued against banning such arms now. Both powers, taking part for the first time in an international conference on the humanitarian impact of atomic bombs, spoke in support of pursuing the goal of a world free of such weapons of mass destruction. The three other officially recognized nuclear weapon states -- Russia, France and China -- stayed away from the meeting. Many of the 157 states taking part are critical of what they see as slow progress on nuclear disarmament.

2)Nuclear States Face Barrage of Criticism in Vienna

Sarcastic laughter erupted when a civil society representative expressed his "admiration for the delegate of the United States, who with one insensitive, ill-timed, inappropriate and diplomatically inept intervention" had "managed to dispel the considerable goodwill the U.S. had garnered by its decision to participate" in Vienna Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.

3)U.N. Urged to Ban Nuke Strikes Against Cities

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 10 2014 (IPS) - Civil society groups are urging the U.N. General Assembly to pass a resolution declaring nuclear strikes on cities to be a clear-cut violation of international humanitarian law. At the Dec. 8-9 Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, supporters of the proposed resolution argued that after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is undeniable that the explosion of a nuclear weapon on a populated area would engender destruction beyond acceptable human limits.

IPB ACTIVITIES

IPB announces GCOMS at the 14th Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, Rome



IPB was represented at this year's Summit by Secretary-General Colin Archer and Board member Lisa Clark. Mr Archer spoke to a packed auditorium on the 4th panel, entitled 'Living Peace, Reconciling Communities.' His announcement that the Global Campaign On Military Spending (GCOMS) had been launched on Human Rights Day, 10 Dec was warmly applauded.

The two IPB reps also ran a workshop for some 50 students from a range of countries.

See: the Final Statement of the Summit

[Rome 2014 Summit website](#)
[Facebook page](#)
[World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates](#)

Sean MacBride Peace Prize awarded to Marshall Islands



On December 5th, the IPB presented the government and people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with the 2014 Sean MacBride Peace Prize, for its leadership in global efforts to highlight the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and to abolish them. It is also in recognition of the legal case submitted by the RMI to the International Court of Justice, against all 9 states with nuclear weapons, for failure to honour their disarmament commitments. The prize was accepted by Foreign Minister **Tony de Brum** at a ceremony in Vienna. [FULL REPORT](#)

RESOURCES

The UN Library at Geneva: new resource guide dedicated to peace

The UN Library at Geneva has a new resource guide dedicated to peace. As Geneva has played and still plays an important role in the struggle for peace, the Library gathered its extensive resources on the theme in a unique tool to make them easily available to all. Every day, key decisions that have an impact on people's lives are made in Geneva. The UN family in Geneva works for peace, rights and well-being.

Global Campaign for Peace Education Newsletter

In this newsletter you can read about: Remembering Nelson Mandela on the first Anniversary of his death: wisdom for peace; Resources for teaching about Ferguson and beyond: Addressing Structural Racism and get some info on different events and conferences.

Arms to renewable - CAAT report Oct. 2014 on conversion

Spending vast amounts of money on military procurement and pushing arms sales doesn't enhance security: it fuels conflict, supports repression and makes the world a more dangerous place. The UK sells arms to over 100 countries across the globe. Despite government protestations that it has "rigorous" export controls, the reality is that the UK routinely arms many of the world's most repressive regimes and supplies arms to countries in the midst of conflict.

MISCELLANEOUS

2015 Peace Scholarships applications open on Human Rights Day

The Peace Scholarships are awarded to assist students at any tertiary education institution in Aotearoa New Zealand with the costs of research that includes analysis of one or more of these topics: the impacts of militarism, militarisation, military deployment and / or warfare; alternatives to militarism, militarisation, military deployment and / or warfare; opposition to militarism, militarisation, military deployment and / or warfare.



The International Peace Bureau is a non-profit association founded in 1891, the oldest international peace organization, dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. Our network includes 300 member organisations in 70 countries. Our current main programme centres on Disarmament for Sustainable Development and we campaign mainly on the reduction of military expenditure. We depend on your support to continue working on this and a range of other topics, including nuclear and conventional disarmament, arms trade, peace education, culture of peace and peace history.



IPB is in need of support! Please consider:

Leaving us a legacy or making an endowment or a simple donation. In this way you can enable IPB to plan its work more effectively and thus help to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". For more information, please contact: Victor de la Barrera, Treasurer - victor@ipb.org - Tel: +41 (22) 731 6429



IPB team thanks all of you for this wonderful year and wishes Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2015!



This Newsletter was edited by Julina Canga.
If you have feedback or material for the next edition please send to: nletter@ipb.org

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