



International Peace Bureau



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Introducing IPB

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.

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:

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Global Day of Action on Military Spending 2013



GDAMS 2013 will be on April 15. To sign up for the GDAMS newsletter, please join our [Google group](#). Have a look at the newsletter [here](#). For more news and updates visit www.gdams.org, like GDAMS on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#)!

IPB report from ICAN and Governmental conferences on Humanitarian Effects of Nuclear Weapons - Oslo



IPB Co-President Ingeborg Breines writes: The conference in Oslo on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (4 - 5 March 2013) gathered some 500 persons representing 129 countries (2 of the 9 nuclear states: Pakistan and India, not the P5, not Israel, not North Korea), several UN agencies, ICRC/Red Cross and civil society (50 persons as chosen by ICAN). The same number of participants attended the Civil Society Forum organized by ICAN just prior to the official conference... [Full text](#).

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DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

MILITARY SPENDING

USA

Special focus: US Sequester

[GDAMS: Opinion - Of Sequester, Squander, and How Congress Sold Out the People \(Carl Gibson\)](#)

March 2, 2013 - *“Cutting our military budget in half, from approximately \$700 billion to \$350 billion, would provide plenty of tax dollars to pay for job creation and social safety nets, which would reduce the deficit by default and still mean the U.S. is #1 in global military spending. Given all of these options, none of us should believe our congressmen for a second when they try to sell us the lie that our country is broke.”*

[The US Nuclear Weapons Budget after Sequestration](#)

[Beyond March Madness: The Nuclear Weapons Budget after Sequestration \(Usha Sahay\)](#)

March 4, 2013 – Confronted with the budget sequester, the question arises whether nuclear weapons are the “right place to be spending scarce defense dollars”. Indeed, it is estimated that nuclear weapons will cost about \$640 billion over the next 10 years while strategists argue that nuclear reductions could promote more stable relations between countries and thus contribute to national security.

More:

[To Cut Wasteful Spending, Start With Nuclear Weapons](#)

[U.S. on Track to Spend \\$640 Billion on Nuclear Weapons over Next Decade](#)

[Minimum Returns: The Economic Impacts of Pentagon Spending \(William D. Hartung and Natalie Peterson\)](#)

February 7, 2013 - Over the past two years, Pentagon contractors have financed a series of studies that have made exaggerated claims about the economic impacts of reductions in Pentagon spending. This report refutes a number of the key findings of those industry-backed reports, which have been extensively promoted in an effort to influence politicians and the media in Washington and around the country. Specifically, this analysis looks at the impacts of Pentagon contracting for weapons, supplies and services.

[Legislation to establish a Dept. of Peacebuilding introduced \(The Peace Alliance\)](#)

February 2013 – Congresswoman Barbara Lee has reintroduced legislation calling for the establishment of a cabinet-level U.S. Department of Peacebuilding in the House of Representatives. A Department of Peacebuilding would address the root causes of peace and apply peacebuilding capacity in an organized and systematic approach.

RUSSIA

[Russia Army Upgrade: Putin Calls For Dramatic Military Development \(Natalia Vasilyeva\)](#)

February 27, 2013 - Russian President Vladimir Putin told the country's top brass on Wednesday to drastically upgrade the armed forces in the next few years as part of response to attempts by the United States and NATO to "tip the strategic balance" in the world.

CHINA

[New China Leader Courts Military \(Jeremy Page\)](#)

March 4, 2013 – China forecasts an increase of 10.7% in military spending for the year 2013 even as economic growth slows. Analysts say that China's new leader, Xi Jinping, wants to establish himself as a strong military leader as tensions about a group of islands occur between China and Japan. China also seeks to counteract the U.S. strategic pivot toward Asia.

THE NETHERLANDS

[Dutch Banks nuclear weapons investment- Opera, action, successes! \(IKV Pax Christi\)](#)

February 14, 2013 - The Dutch Fair Banking guide launched a report showing seven Dutch banks invest more than 1.5 billion Euros in nuclear weapons producers. Rabobank already announced it will end its investment in companies producing Indian nuclear weapons as of March 1. Delta Lloyd also agreed to divest from nuclear weapons producers.

IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

[South Sudan: Landmines threaten people of Unity state \(Bonifacio Taban Kuich\)](#)

March 4, 2013 - A unexploded ordnance has been discovered in the Unity state capital, Bentiu. Landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs) – legacies of the two-decade civil war - remain a major problem across South Sudan. Furthermore, in some areas of South Sudan, populations do not have access to mine risk education.

[Iraq: Iraq's depleted uranium clean-up to cost \\$30m as contamination spreads \(Rob Edwards\)](#)

March 6, 2013 – Cleaning up more than 300 sites in Iraq still contaminated by depleted uranium (DU) weapons will cost at least \$30m, according to a report by a Dutch peace group. DU can contaminate the environment and has been linked to health problems. Furthermore the report warns that the contamination is being spread by poorly regulated scrap metal dealers such as children. More: [A decade on and depleted uranium contamination stills blights Iraq](#)

[International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munition Coalition News](#)

On the occasion of the fourteenth anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty's entry into force, ICBL campaigners will carry out actions around the world. These actions are also aimed at urging all governments to take steps towards achieving a mine-free world. For its part the Cluster Munition Coalition continues to call for Syria to immediately stop the use of cluster bombs and for all governments to condemn and address this use. To learn more on these issues, read the [ICBL-CMC Newsletter](#).

["Hot Water" new film exposes the toxic legacy of nuclear power](#)

March 7, 2013 - Filmmakers Liz Rogers and Kevin Flint go to South Dakota following a story about Uranium contamination only to discover that the problem flows much farther, and runs deeper than they could have imagined. Three years and thousands of miles later, "Hot Water" tells of those impacted by Uranium mining, atomic testing, nuclear energy and the contamination that runs through our air, soil and even more dramatically, our water.

ARMS TRADE

[Closing the Deal on a Robust Global Arms Trade Treaty \(Arms Control Association\)](#)

March 13, 2013 - Diplomats from the United States and over 100 other countries will meet in at the United Nations in New York this month for the "final" meeting to negotiate a legally-binding, global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

[Arms Trade Treaty: Letter to Obama from Nobel Laureates](#)

March 2013 - A group of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates has jointly written a letter to President Obama to encourage him to ensure that the US supports the Arms Trade Treaty when [negotiations re open on 18-28 March 2013](#) in New York.

[SIPRI new figures: Top 100 arms companies' sales decreased in 2011](#)

February 18, 2013 - Sales of arms and military services by the largest arms-producing companies - the SIPRI Top 100 - totalled \$410 billion in 2011. Though sales decreased in 2011, the study found that since 2002 arms sales have increased by 51% in real terms.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

[Non-proliferation treaty Review, PREPCOM](#)

22 April to 3 May 2013 - The states parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) meet every five years at a Review Conference (or RevCon) to assess the implementation of the treaty. There is a Preparatory Committee (or PrepCom) conference that meets for two weeks in the three years leading up to the Review Conference. After Vienna in 2012, states parties will meet in Geneva in 2013. The NPT is the only multilateral treaty that contains a binding commitment to nuclear disarmament. See also: [Joint programmes at NPT PrepCom: IPB - IALANA - INES](#) and [International Day of Action on Nuclear Disarmament](#).

[Gensuikyo's activity in the Marshalls is now available on the Internet](#)

Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo) sent a delegation to the Marshall Islands from Jan. 13-22, 2013 in order to support Rongelap Islanders who have been suffering from US H-bomb Bravo test in 1954. Rongelap people are being forced by the United States to go back to their home islands where radioactive contamination still remains. By doing so, the US government is trying to finish its responsibility for the damage nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. The delegation's activity in the Marshall Islands was broadcast by NHK World.

[UK: Trident may consume one third of defence budget \(CND\)](#)

February 27, 2013 – The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament opposes Lord West's call to back replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system. This replacement system would consume over a third of the defence budget within a decade, while nuclear weapons do not address threats identified by the government's National Security Strategy such as terrorism, cyber warfare, natural disasters or climate change.

[New Briefings on the Climatic and Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons \(ICAN\)](#)

February 2013 – The detonation of the nuclear warheads of one UK Trident submarine would have devastating impacts. About 10 million people would be killed directly by blast, fire and fallout from the explosion. But the explosion would also indirectly cause climate crop failure that would threaten the lives of a billion of people.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Peace One Day / 7 Month Countdown \(Jeremy Gilley\)](#)

March 2013 - "Because of all our efforts, an estimated 280 million people were made aware of Peace Day 2012 (September 21), with approximately 5.6 million behaving more peacefully as a result. We want to double the number of those aware in 2013. By getting involved, by spreading the word, by taking action on Peace Day, your participation will have a domino effect that will resonate around the world."

[New Bertha von Suttner stamp issued in Czech Republic](#)

February 2013 - The Czech postal authorities issued a new BvS stamp +First Day Cover on 13th February 2013. It is issued as part of a series of Czech stamps commemorating outstanding personalities. Baroness Bertha von Suttner was a Czech/Austrian radical pacifist, journalist and novelist. Her novel "Die Waffen nieder!" (Lay Down Your Arms), published in 1889 was a major success, placing the author among the leading figures of the global peace movement. BvS was an IPB Vice-President and a close friend of Alfred Nobel.

[More Bike Rides for Peace: Burma, Israel, Russia, USA \(Bike for Peace\)](#)

March 2013 - Bike for Peace Norway plans a peace ride by bicycle in Burma and Israel-Palestine. It also plans bicycle tours against nuclear weapons in Russia and in the United States. During the tours, participants meet with politicians, schools, and media while on the way. If you are interested contact Bike for Peace (Tore Naerland - leader of Bike for Peace, +47 51487777) and inform other people.

RESOURCES

[Guns and Butter: American Wars and Food Featured in Our Progressive Picks \(Truthout\)](#)

March 2013 - How did the United States get to the point where militarism is such an accepted fact of American life? Where there is so little restraint placed upon the military, and so little concern for civilian casualties? Two books offered this month by Truthout's Progressive Picks program grapple with these important questions. Nick Turse's [Kill Anything That Moves](#) looks at how the Vietnam War set the precedent for the "collateral damage" of today, while [National Insecurity](#) by former CIA analyst Melvin Goodman exposes the astronomical costs of America's "defense" policy. Closer to home, Wenonah Hauter's [Foodopoly](#) examines the system that allows a few companies to determine what we eat, from the farm to the dinner plate. If we are what we eat, then we have much to be concerned about, argues Hauter.

[New publication on MANPADS](#)

February 2013 – BICC brief 47 is dedicated to the issue of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS). The authors Dr. Michael Ashkenazi, Princess Amuzu, Jan Grebe, Christof Kögler and Marc Kösling provide a comprehensive survey of all aspects of MANPADS as a challenge to managing civilian security.

[Recovering Nonviolent History: Civil Resistance in Liberation Struggles \(Maciej J. Bartkowski\)](#)

February 2013 - This unique book brings to light the little-known, but powerful roles that civil resistance has played in national liberation struggles throughout history. Ranging from the American Revolution to Kosovo in the 1990s, from Egypt under colonial rule to present-day West Papua and Palestine, the authors of Recovering Nonviolent History consider several key questions: What kinds of civilian-based nonviolent strategy and tactics have been used in liberation struggles? What

accounts for their successes and failures? Not least, how did nonviolent resistance influence national identities and socioeconomic and political institutions both prior to and after liberation, and why has this history been so often ignored? The story that emerges is a compelling one of the agency of thousands and even millions of ordinary people as they used nonviolent force in the course of struggles against foreign subjugation.

IPB's MAKING PEACE EXHIBITION

The Nobel Museum, Stockholm, where Making Peace will open on the 14 June, has just added the exhibition to the website. Take a look!
<http://www.nobelmuseum.se/en/node/2206>

This will be the first time that a museum uses our new specially produced Making Peace Educational Guide created by Christa Tinari of the Peace Praxis, U.S, which we will continue to evolve as the exhibition continues NB. About 10% of the exhibition has been updated since its inauguration in Geneva in 2010 and we estimate that this will continue to be the case each year.

New potential venues this month include: Dublin and Derry, Strasbourg and Lille, New York and Delhi. We have also contact the World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates who convene in Poland in October 2013 with view to a possible collaboration.

Making Peace now has 4 regional coordinators based in Europe and N America. If you know of anyone in Africa, Middle-East or Asia who would be interested in helping the IPB promote Making Peace please do contact us.
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