

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".

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IPB FAMILY MEETS IN STOCKHOLM, ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP



IPB's Triennial conference was held just at the critical moment when the balance in the Syrian chemical weapons drama shifted from possible US-led military strikes to a super-power deal to eliminate the Assad regime's arsenal...The gathering provided opportunities for IPB members and others to meet in several different contexts over the 3 days: at the Nobel Museum, at the ABF Labour House, and at the Immanuel Church. Topics tackled by the speakers included military intervention (Syria - Afghanistan - Iraq..) space weapons, nonviolent alternatives, campaigning on global military spending. See [IPB website](#) for reports, speeches, photos, + new Board and Council members.

Reiner Braun (Germany) was elected the new IPB Co-President, working alongside Ingeborg Breines (Norway) and a new team.

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DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

MILITARY SPENDING

UNITED STATES

[US SIGNIFICANTLY BOOSTS MILITARY FUNDING FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA](#)

By Voice of America, Defence Talk

28 August 2013—The United States will significantly increase the funding for military education and training programs in Southeast Asia. U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel made the announcement Sunday during a speech at the Malaysian Institute of Defense and Security in Kuala Lumpur. He said the latest Pentagon budget includes \$90 million for these programs, an increase of more than 50 percent compared to four years ago. The decision comes as Washington is shifting its strategic focus increasingly toward the Asia-Pacific region. Hagel said the U.S. administration is seeking to “rebalance” diplomatic, economic and security engagements with the Asia Pacific “to reflect Southeast Asia’s emerging prominence and importance.

[ONE STATE MOVES FROM WAR TO PEACE ECONOMY - SO CAN YOURS!](#)

By RootsAction

10 September 2013—While military spending produces jobs, it produces fewer of them than civilian spending, or even than tax cuts for working people. RootsAction members in Connecticut asked their governor to sign a bill creating a commission to plan for conversion from military industries to civilian and environmentally sustainable manufacturing. The governor signed it. A path to both a peaceful world and a stronger economy lies through localities and states. [Click here](#) to ask your own state legislature to follow this example.

[MAKE WAR UNPROFITABLE](#)

By Joseph Giza, Space Alert!

Fall 2013— In current edition of *Space Alert!*, the newsletter edited by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, Joseph Giza calls for congressional investigation into the arms industry. He also quote Harvard historian Jill Lepore’s article ‘[The Force](#)’ on the huge sums spent by military contractors to influence public policy.

[ESTIMATE FOR URANIUM FACILITY GOES FROM \\$600 ml TO \\$11.6 bn](#)

By Ralph Vartabedian, Los Angeles Times

24 September 2013—The [Project on Government Oversight](#), a watchdog group based in Washington, revealed that the cost of a proposed uranium processing facility for nuclear weapons in Oakridge, Tenn., has soared as high as \$11.6 billion — 19 times the original estimate. It would be one of the largest nuclear weapons investments since World War II.

[THE NUCLEAR BOMB WE DON'T NEED](#)

By Steve Andreasen, The Los Angeles Times

13 June 2013—Policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic ought to be more inclined than they have been to trim defense programs tailored for a Cold War that has been over for two decades, in particular during an era of sequestration in Washington and austerity in Europe. If Americans understood that their government plans to spend about the same amount of money this year, \$537 million, on the B61 bomb as it will spend on Alzheimer's research, while financing nearly three-quarters of NATO's military spending, the B61 would deservedly become a dead man walking.

[U.S. NEEDS TO CHANGE ITS MILITARY SPENDING](#)

By George Banziger, The Marietta Times

18 September 2013—As the Congress and the President embark on the difficult and contentious tasks of deficit reduction and decreasing federal spending, it is important and timely to put military expenditures on the table.

EUROPEAN UNION

[EDA COMPARES EU/US DEFENCE SPENDING](#)

6 September 2013—European Defence Agency has compared the 2011 defence expenditure of its participating Member States with that of the United States for the same year. The data show that the US spent €503 billion on defence in 2011 compared to €193 billion spent in the EU: around 2,5 times more.

AUSTRALIA

[AUSTRALIA SWINGS TO THE RIGHT](#)

By Peter Jones, GDAMS website

9 September 2013—Australia turned in on itself on September 7th, bringing a right wing Coalition back into power after seven years. Tony Abbott committed his government to wasting more money on unwise military procurements such as the ageing Collins class submarines, \$16 billion worth of the Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, and long-range pilotless surveillance aircraft, known as Global Hawks, from the US Navy. These developments are being opposed by [IPAN, the Independent Peaceful Australia Network](#), the new alliance of peace groups from all regions of Australia, who are united in their support for an independent Australian foreign policy based on peaceful resolution of conflicts.

CANADA

[COST OF F-35 STEALTH FIGHTERS COULD SOON HIT DEFENSE SPENDING CAP](#)

By Lee Berthiaume, Postmedia News

22 August 2013—The military's dream of buying a fleet of F-35s appears to be in growing danger of bumping against a hard spending cap imposed by the Conservative government. A new Defence Department report shows the anticipated cost per plane has increased since December, which combined with others factors has left very little room for error if Canada is to buy 65 of the stealth fighters for \$9 billion.

FINLAND

[FINNISH BUDGET PLAN CUTS MILITARY PROCUREMENT](#)

By Gerard O'Dwyer, Defence News

19 September 2013—The proposed \$67 million reduction in procurement spending contained in the Finnish government's latest austerity budget for 2014 is certain to bring greater challenges and funding headaches for Armed Forces Command (AFC) chiefs. The proposed budget cuts reduce the procurement budget in 2014 to \$628 million. The new savings will take place alongside the AFC's push to complete the core parts of its Defense Reorganization Program in 2015-2016. In real spending terms, the defense budget for 2014 is \$167 million lower compared with the 2013 allocation. Finland's defense spending currently stands at 1.47 percent of GDP, but will fall to 1.36 percent of GDP in 2014.

DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

GREECE

[GREEK DEFENSE SPENDING SET FOR A HIT](#)

By Andy Dabilis, Greek Reporter

31 August 2013—Prime Minister Samaras reached a compromise with the Troika to pare back military spending despite 30 percent reductions during the last three years. Greece allocated the military 5.8 billion euros, or 2.3 percent of GDP, down from 3.2 percent in 2009 when the economic crisis began.

INDONESIA

[NEW TNI LEADERSHIP AND DEFENSE BUDGET](#)

By Anton Aliabbas, The Jakarta Post

August 23 2013—All members of the House of Representatives Military Commission agreed to endorse Gen. Moeldoko as the new Indonesian Military (TNI) commander. He will have the major task of managing the huge defense budget, announced as Rp 83.4 trillion (US\$7.67 billion) in 2014, a 9 percent increase over the previous year. This allocation would support modernization and development of TNI's main weaponry system and defense industries, said President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Moreover, this increase is to be understood in the context of a more general government commitment to reach the target of 55 percent of the Minimum Essential Forces doctrine (MEF) by end of 2015.

JAPAN

[JAPAN SEEKS BIGGEST DEFENSE BUDGET RISE IN 22 YEARS](#)

By Kiyoshi Takenaka, The Star

August 30, 2013—Japan's Defence Ministry said it was seeking a three percent increase in next year's budget allocation, the biggest rise in 22 years. Most of the growth is linked to revised personnel costs and equipment imports made more expensive by a weaker yen. The budget request for the year from April 2014 comes as Japan remains locked in a territorial spat with China over uninhabited East China Sea islets, fraying ties between Asia's two biggest economies and raising security concerns.

LATVIA

[LATVIA'S DEFENSE BUDGET IN 2014 WILL BE SMALLER](#)

The Baltic Course

27 August 2013—The Defense Ministry has adopted a new development program for twelve years. Despite concluding this year making payments for several major projects, the total defense budget next year will be by some LVL 5 million smaller than FY 2013. These cuts have been criticised by those afraid that Latvia's position within NATO could be weakened, particularly in a moment in which Russia increases its defense spending by 10% to 15% every year.

DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

NETHERLANDS

[DUTCH GOVERNMENT'S DEFENSE CHOICES STIR CONTROVERSY](#)

By Fu Peng, English.news.cn

The announcement of cuts to military spending and the purchase of new aircraft for the Royal Dutch Air Force raised controversies in the Dutch media on Wednesday. After parliamentary approval, the [Netherlands would become the seventh export customer for the F-35](#), after Australia, Britain, Israel, Italy, Japan and Norway. Beside the decision to replace the F-16s with F-35s, cuts of 350 million euros (467 million U.S. dollars) in defense spending have been announced, with 2,400 jobs disappearing and 700 to 900 redundancies. Two years ago, the former government announced 1 billion euros of cuts in defense with 6,000 redundancies. Jean Debie, president of the union for civil and military defense personnel VBM, said, "This means a loss of 26,500 people in the last ten years."

NIGERIA

[NIGERIA SPENDS OVER N1 tr IN WAR AGAINST TERROR](#)

By BusinessDay

23 August 2013—The Federal Government may have spent well over N1 trillion in the fight against the Boko Haram and other terrorist groups in the country since 2009. The latest report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) shows that Nigeria raised military expenditure to a staggering \$2.327 billion (N372.3bn) in 2012 alone. The report also point out that the country's military spending is the sixth highest in Africa, competing with the expenditure of countries like Libya (\$2.9bn), Morocco (\$3.4bn), Angola (\$4.1bn), South Africa (\$4.4bn), and Algeria (\$9.3bn).

SWITZERLAND

[SWISS VOTE TO MAINTAIN CONSCRIPT ARMY: AT WHAT COST?](#)

In August 2012, the Swiss Department of Defence published [a report](#) in which the overall annual military budget was estimated at 6,2 - 6,4 bn CHF. According to Prof. Reiner Eichenberger of Fribourg University, these figures are far below the reality. He estimates that [military expenditure should be calculated at nearly 9 bn per year](#). Chief of DoD Ueli Maurer rejects these numbers, pointing out the timing of Eichenberger's study, which 'suspiciously' appeared just ahead of a popular vote calling for the ending of conscription. Supporters believe that "compulsory military service is a tool created for wars of the past" as [explained to the NYT by Tobias Schnebli](#) of the [Group for a Switzerland Without an Army](#). Switzerland stayed neutral during World Wars I and II and many Swiss believe their military (including mandatory service) is a strong deterrent that has kept the country out of Europe's wars. Despite the [questionable validity of such an historical interpretation](#), the majority of Swiss people evidently support the militia system, [as for the third time in almost 25 years](#), on Sept. 22nd, voters overwhelmingly voted to maintain it.

TAIWAN

[MA ONCE AGAIN VOWS TO INCREASE DEFENSE BUDGET](#)

By Mo Yan-Chih, Taipei Times

31 August 2013—President Ma Ying-jeou pledged the government would continue to promote an all-volunteer military system, despite the public distrust of the army following the death of conscript Hung Chung-chiu. He also promised once again to increase the defense budget.

IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

[UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS](#)

22 August 2013—Last month a new report of the Secretary-General on Small Arms (S/2011/255) was released. It builds on the 2011 report and updates the Security Council on a number of topics that are within its specific purview. These include current and emerging concerns on the issue of illicit small arms that have an impact on peace and security around the world, in particular in relation to Africa, the protection of civilians in armed conflict and sexual violence in conflict.

[HALABJA SURVIVORS PROTEST SYRIA GAS ATTACKS](#)

By Imran Khan, Al Jazeera

25 August 2013—Some 25 years after Saddam Hussein gassed them, Iraqis voice concern over the situation in Syria. (video)

ARMS TRADE

[WHICH COUNTRIES IS YOUR LOCAL ARMS COMPANY SUPPLYING?](#)

By Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)

20 August 2013—Weapons made in the UK fuel conflict and repression the world over. This week, a big step forwards has been done in tracing their impact: for the first time it is possible to reveal which countries the companies in our towns and cities have supplied. A great tool for campaigning...So, why don't you plan a visit to your local arms company? Watch CAAT video on '[How to pay a visit to your local arms company \(as a grim reaper!\)](#)' for one entertaining way to expose the arms trade's deadly effects.

[AFRICA SEEN AS \\$20bn EMERGING ARMS MARKET](#)

By United Press International

16 September 2013—International defense companies, increasingly dependent on exports because of deep military spending cuts in the United States and Europe, are reportedly looking to mineral-rich Africa to help get them out of a hole. The U.S. weekly Defense News reports that projections for defense spending in Africa will exceed \$20 billion over the next decade, driven by the established or emerging energy booms in the western and eastern regions of the continent.

[WORLD'S BIGGEST ARMS EXPORTER SIGNS THE ARMS TRADE TREATY](#)

By Control Arms

25 September 2013—Another big wave of support for The Arms Trade Treaty is taking place this week at the United Nations as a further 22 states added their signatures to the historic Treaty, taking total number of signatures to 107. The biggest news of the day was Secretary of State John Kerry signing the Arms Trade Treaty on behalf of the United States. With \$12.2 billion in exports, the US accounts for over one third of the global trade in conventional weapons, and their joining the treaty sends a positive message to the entire international community.

Read ATT [summary analysis](#) released by [Control Arms](#) or follow the UN negotiations through tracking State's positions

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

[TWO NEW DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES IN GENEVA AND NEW YORK](#)

GENEVA—Last year the UN General Assembly adopted a [ground-breaking resolution](#) that opened the door for a new diplomatic process to achieve a nuclear weapons free world through establishing a forum open for all UN member states - the [UN Open Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament](#) (OEWG). The OEWG brought together governments, disarmament experts, parliamentarians and civil society representatives for 15 days of deliberations spread over May, June and August this year, on proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations ([Read full Report](#)). Campaigners, organisations and high-level people from around the world joined the '[Open the Door](#)' project to support the OEWG and to encourage governments to make it a success.

NEW YORK— On September 26, New York hosted the first [High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament](#). According to Reaching Critical Will's report, the HLM turned out to be another significant sign that the discourse around nuclear weapons has changed. Most of the statements highlighted the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, which shows a growing confidence and resolve that this is a credible path toward overcoming the challenges associated with making progress on nuclear disarmament.

- Read Civil Society Statements delivered by [Joseph Gerson](#) (American Friends Service Committee on behalf of civil society) and [Nosizwe Lise Baqwa](#) (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons—ICAN).
- A general report and all the official statements can be found on [Reaching Critical Will](#) website
- Check out this [video](#) from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

[ICAN AUSTRALIA SHOWS THE WAY TO ABOLISH NUKES](#)

By Neena Bhandari, Eurasia Review

28 August 2013—Even as the nuclear-armed countries continue to amass new warheads and build modernised ballistic missiles, bombers and submarines to launch them, the campaign for nuclear abolition is growing from strength to strength. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons' (ICAN) Paper Cranes Project is urging governments to begin negotiations this year on a global treaty banning nuclear weapons. Moreover, ICAN is calling on universities to develop ethical investment policies that exclude nuclear weapons companies both from their direct investments and their investments through fund managers.

MISCELLANEOUS

[PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES: THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT TAKES AN OPERATIONAL DIMENSION](#)

By Federal Administration News

19 September 2013—Representatives of some 135 private security companies, governments and human rights defence organisations met in Geneva this month to take part in the launch conference of the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers Association (ICoCA). Set up jointly by Switzerland and industry associations in November 2010, this initiative aims to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law by such companies.

[CALCULATING THE COSTS OF THE CONTINUING CONFLICT IN SYRIA](#)

By Tilman Brück, SIPRI

September 2013—The international community, and Western powers in particular, appear to have pulled back from the brink of a military intervention in Syria in response to the alleged use of chemical weapons by the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. However, the threat of a direct intervention in the conflict in Syria, which has already claimed over 100 000 lives, remains real. Now, more than ever, we need to understand the real costs of war and the benefits of peace.

[KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE WEEK — October 5-12, 2013](#)

By Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

Join the International Week of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space!

[Read more](#) to find out the full list of events and resources.

RESOURCES

[DON'T BANK ON BOMB — New Edition](#)

By Susi Snyder, IKV Pax Christi

9 September 2013— October 10th, IKV Pax Christi will launch an updated version of *Don't Bank on the Bomb* report. This is the only global report identifying worldwide investments in nuclear weapons producers. In fact, it will show who is investing in nuclear weapons producers, how much they are investing, and where they are located.

[NUCLEAR ABOLITION RESOURCE FOR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES](#)

By Basel Peace Office

September 2013—The President of the Republic of Costa Rica, H.E. Mrs. Laura Chinchilla Miranda, launched a *Resource Guide on Nuclear Disarmament for Religious Leaders and Communities* at a High Level Consultation held in the United Nations in New York. The Resource Guide ([click here](#) for a preview copy) was developed by Alyn Ware and the Basel Peace Office for [Religions for Peace](#), a global coalition of representatives of the world's major religions.

[SIPRI UPDATE JULY-AUGUST 2013](#)

In the latest edition of SIPRI Newsletter: Protection of civilians, North Korean smuggling, Iran's new President and more. [Read it](#) on-line

[HOUSMANS PEACE DIARY 2014 WITH WORLD PEACE DIRECTORY](#)

2014 edition of world-renowned *Housmans Peace Diary* will look at the 100th anniversary of the First World War... but from a rather different perspective than that of the official commemorations. It includes a World Peace Directory listing 1500 national and international peace, environment and human rights organisations from around the world.

[MONUMENTAL BEAUTY: PEACE MONUMENTS + MUSEUMS AROUND THE WORLD](#)

Monumental Beauty is the first book to reveal the beauty, the variety, and the meanings of peace monuments and museums. Arranged chronologically, it shows a selection of 416 peace monuments and museums from 70 countries and from all eras as far back as the Greeks and Romans. The author, [Edward W. Lollis](#) is a retired [US Foreign Service Officer](#). He maintains an on-line database of "Peace Monuments Around the World" at <http://www.peacepartnersintl.net>.

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