



# IPB News

April 2, 2012

INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

*Working for a World Without War*

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The **Calendar of Events** is available as a separate document.

Check out our website: <http://www.ipb.org>

Visit us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ipb1910>

Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/IntlPeaceBureau>

For more information on the Global Day of Action on Military Spending : <http://www.demilitarize.org>  
'Making Peace' Photo-exhibition <http://www.makingpeace.org>

### 1. DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

➤ In 2005 IPB launched a major new programme, designed to reflect widespread public concern at the rapid rise in global military spending (totaling \$1630 billion in 2010); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development.

## GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING APRIL 17, 2012



IPB is co-organizing with the Institute for Policy Studies the second **Global Day of Action on Military Spending on April 17, 2012**. On this day, people all over the world will join together to protest against military expenditures. Currently, we have more than **80 endorsers** planning over **80 events** in at least **35 countries**. A selection follows.

Watch GDAMS 2.0 promotional video [here](#).

## ACTIONS UPDATE

### **SWITZERLAND - International Peace Bureau (IPB)**

IPB is organizing two types of event on April 17th. The first one will be a high level seminar at the UN during which representatives from the UN, the civil society, governments and SIPRI will discuss the human cost of military spending. During the afternoon, interactive street activities will be held in Place Neuve in order to raise awareness on military spending and more precisely the link between disarmament and development. People will also have the opportunity to play the role of a politician and tell what their priorities are. There will be a great photo opportunity during these activities with our banner against military spending! The NGO *Groupe pour une Suisse sans armée* (GSoA) is co-organising this event with IPB and will illustrate the issue of military spending in Switzerland with some texts and graphics. More information on the street activities [here](#).

**Update on the Rio Appeal:** as of March 26th, we had almost 50 high-level signatories! If you know celebrities that might be interested in endorsing this appeal, please contact us.

### **UNITED STATES - Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)**

IPS is organizing a [Tax-Dodging War Profiteers Walk of Shame](#): a tour of Downtown D.C. making stops at the White House, Bank of America, the Treasury, General Electric, Tyco International, Navistar Defense and defense industry lobbying firm the National Group, to send the message that the Military-Industrial Complex is gaming the system, profiting off of our tax dollars and not paying any of their own.

### **CAMEROON - Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme Cameroun**

Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme Cameroun will organise a debate with parliamentarians in order to spread the idea that there is a need for new priorities in budget appropriations.

### **NORWAY - Norwegian Peace Council (NPC)**

NPC with partners from the Oslo Peace House are planning to organize a "peace village" where each organization will have a stand presenting its activities and ideas related to GDAMS. The aim of this event is to show disparities between military spending and budgets destined for other public needs such as health care, education or environmental protection. During the day some Norwegian "bank notes" will be distributed to passersby who will decide how they want to spend their money. The second part of the event will consist of a debate at the Peace House.

### **UNITED KINGDOM - Strategic Concept for Removal of Arms Proliferation (SCRAP)**

SCRAP will host a Webinar on the occasion of GDAMS on April 17th. The Webinar will address the issue of military spending and disarmament from a multidisciplinary standpoint centered around the concept of human security, for which speakers will give short presentations on the relationship between disarmament and development, human rights and democracy, and climate change.

### **AUSTRALIA, Australian Anti-Bases Campaign (AABC)**

The AABC and its network will launch a campaign against Australia's role in the escalation of US military presence and activities in the Asia-Pacific region. There will be a specific focus on Australia's intention to host US Marines in Darwin.

### **PHILIPPINES, Independent Organizer**

In Manilla, a public rally and a march outside the US embassy will be held to mark GDAMS.

### **INTERNATIONAL, Pax Christi International**

Pax Christi International endorses the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. It urges its member organizations to take actions on April 17 in order to spread the idea of an immediate reduction in military spending in order to meet basic human needs and ensure sustainability. Read the statement [here](#).

There is still some time left to organise an event on April 17th!  
If you want to take part in the Global Day of Action on Military Spending let us know!  
More events [here](#).

## **A. MILITARY SPENDING**

### **SIPRI, [Rise in international arms transfers is led by Asian demand](#)**

March 19, 2012 – The new release of data by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) presents the global arms trade. According to the report, the rising demand from Asian countries drove the volume of worldwide arm transfers between 2007 and 2011 to a level 24% higher than in 2002-2006. India was the world's largest recipient of arms, accounting for 10% of global arms imports. The four next largest recipients of arms in 2007–2011 were South Korea (6% of total arms transfers), Pakistan (5%), China (5%) and Singapore (4%).

### **FT reporters, [Asia defence spending to overtake Europe](#)**

The annual assessment of the military capabilities and defence economics realized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies ([the Military Balance 2012](#)) reveals that Asia's defence spending is set to exceed Europe's this year for the first time in modern history. Asian states spent \$262 billions on defence in 2011 while the European NATO members spend \$270 billions. China accounts for about 30% of Asian defence spending, which is a factor in the Pentagon strategy to increase its involvement in the Asian area.

## **GREECE**

### **Paul Haydon, [Greece's austerity doesn't extend to its arms budget](#)**

March 21, 2012 – While the Greek are facing austerity measures that have reduced living standards by 30%, the government continues to spend the most on arms in the EU as percentage of GDP and remains one of the biggest weapons importers in the world. The supposed threat from Turkey and the role of armed forces in controlling illegal immigration are presented as explanations for such a high military budget. But Haydon argues that the main reason for these huge amounts of money spent on the military is the lucrative arms deals between Greece, France, and Germany.

## **FRANCE**

### **Le Mouvement de la Paix, [French presidential elections: the French and military spending \(IN FRENCH\)](#)**

Le [Mouvement de la Paix](#), member organisation of IPB, launched a campaign to urge the candidates to give their opinions on military spending and nuclear weapons. It co-realised a survey with IFOP to find out what the French population think about spending in the military sector. The main results are the following: 78% want the military spending issue to be more present in political debate, 37% consider military spending as the first area to be cut, 56% disagree with the fact that France exports arms and military technology, and 81% favor a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

**RELATED STORY:** On March 24th and 25th, le Mouvement de la Paix and [ICAN](#) organized two national days of actions on nuclear weapons abolition and military spending cuts. About 50 events were organized.

## **UNITED STATES**

### **David Axe, [Pentagon: Trillion-Dollar Jet on Brink of Budgetary Disaster](#)**

March 21, 2012 – The Government Accountability Office reveals recently that the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, “the most expensive conventional weapon ever”, could need additional years of work and billions of dollars more investment. It is bad news for this program that is already almost a decade late and hundreds of billions of dollars over its original budget.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### **Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), [How many cuts does it take to pay for Trident?](#)**

March 23, 2012 – In its campaign “Cut Trident”, the [CND](#), IPB member organisation, takes a stand against the Trident nuclear weapons system that will cost over £100bn, while the government is planning the biggest public sector cuts in British history. 3 initiatives were launched to raise awareness on this issue: [an interactive webpage](#) representing what cuts could be spared if Trident was axed, [London bus adverts](#) and a budget day protest on March 21<sup>st</sup> gathering together MPs and campaigners.

### **Al Jazeera, [Is an India-China arms race brewing?](#)**

March 5, 2012 - As China and India, Asia's two big rising powers, increase their defence capabilities, some observers wonder if they are beginning an arms race.

### **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), [Global study reveals who's financing nuclear arms makers](#)**

March 5, 2012 - ICAN published its report *Don't bank on the bomb: the global financing of nuclear weapons producers*. It identifies more than 300 banks, pension funds, insurance companies and asset managers in 30 countries with substantial investments in nuclear arms producers. It calls on financial institutions to stop investing in the manufacture, maintenance and modernization of nuclear armed countries.

See also by [Thalif Deen](#), [Abolitionists target funds behind nuclear arms industry](#)

## TANZANIA

### **Mark Tran, [BAE finally pays out £29.5m for educational projects in Tanzania](#)**

March 15, 2012 - The Serious Fraud Office, the Tanzanian government, and BAE Systems have signed a Memorandum of Understanding enabling the payment of £29.5 millions plus accrued interest to be paid by BAE Systems for educational projects in Tanzania. Textbooks will be purchased for all 16,000 primary schools in the country, benefiting 8.3 million children. The funds will also be used to provide teachers with teachers' guides, and to buy schools furniture. These materials will support the Government of Tanzania's priority to improve education quality in primary schools.

## CANADA

### **The Rideau Institute, [Budget 2012: pensions or planes?](#)**

Canada is one of the 15 top military spending nations in the world. With the 2012 federal budget only two weeks away, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, in coordination with the Rideau Institute and more than 30 other Canadian civil society organizations, published [A Budget for the Rest of Us](#), the 2012 Alternative Federal Budget. It proposes, among other actions, to reduce Department of National Defence spending with a goal of returning to pre-September 11, 2001 levels in order to free \$1.28 billion dollars for much-needed social programs in the next year alone.

## **B. IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT**

## SWEDEN

### **Svenska Freds, [Sweden secretly aiding Saudis in arms factory work](#)**

March 6, 2012 - A Swedish radio reports that Sweden has been helping Saudi Arabia to plan the construction of an arms factory to produce anti-tank missiles. The secret project started in 2007 under the name Simoom. This story comes out just a few weeks after it was disclosed that Sweden sold arms worth 2.9 billion to Saudi Arabia in 2011.

See also [Outrage over Sweden's secret Saudi arms plant](#)

**RELATED STORY: The Guardian, [Swedish defence minister resigns over Saudi weapons plant](#)**

March 29, 2012 - Sten Tolgfors, Sweden's defence Minister has resigned due to the media's pressure. He denies any wrongdoing, and states that the plans to help Saudi Arabia build an arm factory were part of a military agreement between both countries.

**ICBL, [Lend your leg on April 4, 2012 for a mine free world](#)**

On April 4, the UN Day for Mine Action and Mine Awareness, people all over the world will be asked to roll up their trouser legs showing solidarity with survivors of landmines and other explosive remnants of war, calling on the international community to eradicate these weapons for good. As from March 6th, Lend your leg actions are taking place in 70 countries. **WATCH the promotional video [here](#).**

## **SWITZERLAND**

**Urs Geiser, [Cluster bomb ban wins parliament's approval](#)**

March 6, 2012 - The Swiss parliament voted in favor of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Switzerland will have to destroy its stockpile of cluster bombs within eight years.

**AFP, [Switzerland's defence sales up 36 percent in 2011](#)**

Feb. 28, 2012 - Switzerland has never sold as many weapons around the world as in 2011. 68 countries have paid a total of CHF 872.7 million for war materials. It represents an increase of 36% compare to last year. The main customer is the United Arab Emirates.

**RELATED STORY: Joana Racine (IPB), [Swiss Arms Exports](#)**

IPB has published a fact sheet on Swiss Arms Export which presents the legal framework concerning the export of weapons, highlights the contentious destination countries, lists the Swiss weapons manufacturers, and describes the role of arms exports in the Swiss economy. For more information contact [IPB](#).

## **KOREA**

**[US Veterans going to Jeju Island](#)**

March 8, 2012 - Three leaders of the US national group [Veterans for Peace](#), IPB member organization, will arrive on Jeju Island, South Korea. A Navy base on Jeju Island is part of the Pentagon strategy to increase its military presence in the Asia Pacific region as a way to contain China. According to B. Gagnon, [Global Network](#) coordinator, sending international peace workers to Jeju Island signals to everyone that the global peace movement clearly understands the strategic nature of this local struggle.

## **2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

**[The CD hears International Women's Day statement from WILPF](#)**

March 8, 2012 - Beatrice Fihn, project manager of Reaching Critical Will of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) delivered a statement on the occasion of International Women's Day. In her statement she regrets the lack of progress in the CD and highlights the linkages between human rights and disarmament.

**[Seoul Nuclear Security Summit Communique](#)**

The [2012 Nuclear Security Summit](#) which was held in Seoul in March 2012 aimed at discussing international cooperative measures to protect nuclear materials and facilities from terrorist groups. The Seoul Nuclear Security Summit Communique sums up the areas that need to be addressed in the coming years. However it should be noted that the one topic the Summit did not seriously engage with is ridding the whole world of nuclear weapons ! **RELATED STORY: Al Jazeera, [World leaders vow to confront nuclear threat](#)**

### 3. MISCELLANEOUS

#### **[Global Policy Forum interviews Cora Weiss](#)**

IPB UN Representative and former president Cora Weiss was interviewed recently about the anti-nuclear and anti-war movements. She also highlights the historical importance of the UNSC Resolution 1325 and reflects on the role of women today.

#### **Volunteer opportunities at Pax Christi International**

Pax Christi International is looking for enthusiastic and dedicated individuals to fulfil volunteer positions at the International Secretariat of Pax Christi International in Brussels, Belgium. More information [here](#).

#### **UN Secretary General appoints Angela Kane of Germany as High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

Ms. Kane has over 35 years of experience at the United Nations, including in areas relating to politics and disarmament areas. She also played a leading role in the UN's World Disarmament Campaign which aimed at bringing Member States together to advance the disarmament agenda through meetings, round tables, publications and other outreach efforts.

### 4. RESOURCES

#### **Michael T. Klare, [The Race for What's Left - The global scramble for the world's last resources](#)**

In the latest in a series of important studies of resource conflicts, Prof. Klare describes the increasingly desperate hunt for raw materials. He highlights the competition to plunder the world's last untapped resources - the Arctic, northern Siberia, the deep oceans, inner Africa, and long-neglected areas like Afghanistan and Mongolia. The only way out according to Klare is to start a "race to adapt", in other words to alter our consumption patterns altogether. Michael T. Klare is the author of fourteen books including *Resource Wars* and *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet*.

#### **Bruno Barrillot, [L'héritage empoisonné](#) (IN FRENCH)**

From February 1960 to January 1996, France realized 210 nuclear tests in the Sahara and Polynesia. In his new book, Bruno Barrillot evaluates their impacts on health, the environment, and the population. This book aims at supporting the struggle of the victims to receive compensation from the French government.

#### **Small Arms Survey, [In Transit: Gangs and criminal networks in Guyana](#)**

In its new working paper, [Small Arms Survey](#) examines the nature of Guyanese gangs and criminal networks and sheds light on some of their activities. The report gives a brief history of gang violence in Guyana and reviews the theoretical approaches that seek to explain gang violence in the Caribbean. The report also explores how corruption and insufficient capacity in the country's security sector sustain gang activity, and assesses the Guyanese government's policy response to the issues of domestic gang violence as well as international donor-driven initiatives.

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