



# IPB News

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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>

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

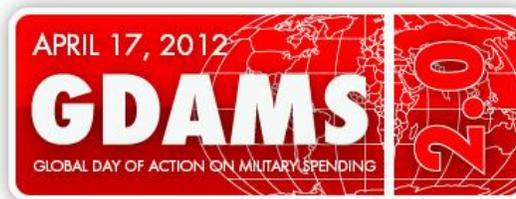
### 1. DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

*In 2005 IPB launched a major new programme, designed to reflect widespread public concern at the rapid rise in global military spending (totaling \$1740 billion in 2011); 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

SUMMARY REPORT



The International Peace Bureau (IPB) and the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) are delighted to report that GDAMS was a tremendous success worldwide: around 130 actions were organized in about 40 countries on and around April 17.

The range of actions was impressive:

In Geneva, IPB organized a high-level seminar at the United Nations on the Human Costs of Military Spending chaired by the director of UNIDIR. The panel of speakers was composed of the Director General of UNOG, the President of the CD, IPB secretary general and SIPRI researcher. Read the [remarks by Director General of UNOG](#) and the [UNODA report](#).

The second part of our GDAMS event was a street action in collaboration with [Group for Switzerland without an Army \(GSoA\)](#) during which passers-by had to choose their top-3 priorities out of 6 issues. Watch the video of the action [here](#).

Many other actions took place in Europe: in Istanbul activists organized a street press declaration, in Oslo passers by were asked to decide if they want to spend their money on military purposes or social needs, in London participants dressed up like Muammar Gaddafi, Saddam Hussein, Hosni Mubarak and Vince Cable to condemn arms trade.

In the USA, the largest military spender, more than 50 actions were organized, including marches on defense contractors with the slogan "Occupy the Military Industrial Complex" in Washington, Los Angeles, and Tucson, street theater in Montgomery, a large rally at City Hall in Philadelphia, and a big march with over 1,000 participants in Boston.

There was a major increase in participation from groups in the Global South. In Africa, where military spending is on the rise amidst growing dissident people's movement, events were held in Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Sierra Leone and the DRC. In South Asia, events were organised to focus on the growing arms race between India and Pakistan: in both countries there was a mix of rural and urban activism to mark GDAMS. In Bangladesh, activists met with a number of Members of Parliament to discuss disarmament both in the country and in the region. In Malaysia, local civil societies urged the Prime Minister to cut defense spending and to review the defense policy.

For more remarkable stories: check out [the event reports](#), including photos and videos, from our partners around the globe!

## **MILITARY SPENDING**

### **SIPRI, [World military spending levels out after 13 years of increases](#)**

April 17, 2012 - According to new SIPRI data covering 2011, world military expenditure was largely unchanged in real terms, totalling \$1.74 trillion. The top 5 spenders are: USA, China, Russia, UK, and France. Six large spenders made cuts in order to reduce their budget deficits, while two increased substantially. In certain cases regional increases are explained by particularly large increases by a single country.

See also by Simon Rogers, [Military Spending: how much does the military cost each country](#)

### **Oscar Arias, [The Costa Rica Consensus](#)**

April 2, 2012 - In an eloquent speech at the Newseum, former Costa Rican President and Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias describes concrete ways of moving beyond our over-militarized world. He addresses 3 themes: military spending; the Costa Rica Consensus on aid conditions; and the Arms Trade Treaty.

## **UNITED STATES**

### **Hans M. Kristensen, [B61 Nuclear bomb costs escalating](#)**

May 9, 2012 - According to US government sources, the expected cost of the B61 Life-Extension Program has increased by 50% to \$6 billion. This increase is due to the ambitious modifications that are planned in order to extend the life of the bomb.

## **UNITED STATES**

### **The Guardian, [Barack Obama: use former war budget to boost US economy](#)**

May 5, 2012 - In a recent address to the nation, Obama declared that the USA should focus on domestic concerns rather than foreign wars. According to him, ending wars would free up money which could then be used to reduce the country's debt and to boost healthcare, education and infrastructure.

## SWITZERLAND

**Arthur Grosjean, [The Swiss army wasted CHF 700 million in a failed project \(IN FRENCH\)](#)**

March 26, 2012 - The purchase of Gripen fighters by the Swiss government isn't the only topic of concern for Ueli Maurer, the head of the Swiss Federal Department of Defence. The military has spent CHF 700 million to acquire a new information processing and navigation system. According to the article, CHF 80 millions are needed to make this system work, which would be a wasted investment as this system would be out of date by 2025.

## GREECE

**Helena Smith, [German "hypocrisy" over Greek military spending has critics up in arms](#)**

April 19, 2012 - While Greece struggles with debt crisis and austerity measures, its investment in weaponry hasn't diminished. Indeed, Greece is still making many weapons purchases from France and Germany, whereas the government has cut wages and pensions. Germany doesn't consider itself as responsible: "we never asked you (Greece) to spend so much of your GDP on defense" said Merkel.

**See also: [Germany to Greece: Cut safety nets for citizens but keep buying our weapons](#)**

**Choong En Han, [Show of military superpowers](#)**

April 21, 2012 - 850 companies from 45 countries participated in the latest Defence Services Asia expo. This exhibition aims at presenting the variety of weaponry from handguns to jetfighters. The DSA expo took place against a background of rising military spending in China and South-East Asia.

## IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

**Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), [Nuclear famine report: limited nuclear exchange in one of world's regions would trigger mass global starvation after slashing Chinese, US food production](#)**

April 25, 2012 - In their new report "Nuclear Famine", [International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War](#) (IPPNW) and [Physicians for Social Responsibility](#) (PSR) address the threats posed by a limited regional nuclear war and its long lasting consequences on Earth. According to the findings of the report, such a confrontation would cause significant climate change disruption around the globe, leading to a decline in agricultural production in the US and China that could trigger a famine jeopardizing the lives of a billion people.

**Related story: [ICAN calls for negotiations for a ban on nuclear weapons based on new alarming report on global starvation](#)**

According to ICAN, the Nuclear Famine report should be used during the up-coming nuclear conference in Oslo (see below) as a basis to establish a clear roadmap for a new humanitarian and legal standard.

**Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), [Conflicts worldwide uproot millions: six-fold increase in Middle East](#)**

In its new report, [The Global Overview 2011 - People Displaced by Conflict and Violence](#), the IDMC sheds light on the threats facing millions of people worldwide caught up in situations of internal displacement which follow conflicts. The report indicates that a total of 26.4 million people were internally displaced in the world at the end of 2011. 3.5 million were newly displaced during the year, and 830,000 people fled the impact of the Arab Spring uprisings, an almost six-fold increase from 2010 figures.

**International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW) and IKV Pax Christi, Toxic Remnants of War Project Launched**

ICBUW and IKV Pax Christi have launched a research project seeking to assess the health and environmental impact of toxic substances released during military activities. Developments in the project can be followed via an online research hub at [www.toxicremnantsofwar.info](http://www.toxicremnantsofwar.info) or via Twitter @detoxconflict.

>> For more information contact [research@toxicremnantsofwar.info](mailto:research@toxicremnantsofwar.info)

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Rob Edwards, [Radioactive waste' may be blighting 1,000 UK sites'](#)

May 2, 2012 - According to a new government report, up to 1,000 sites in England and Wales could be contaminated with radioactive waste from old military bases and factories. The results of this report are far higher than the previous official estimates which considered that there were just 15 sites in the UK polluted with radium.

## 2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

### NPT PrepCom - Vienna 2012 IPB Side Events Summary

During the recent NPT PrepCom, held in Vienna from April 30 to May 11, IPB co-organised 4 side-events:

#### - **The cost of nuclear weapons: a disarmament for development perspective**

Due to the economic crisis, some governments have announced cuts in public spending, which has increased interests in military budgets and in particular the costs of nuclear weapons. The panel addressed this issue from several perspectives and proposed possible actions for the civil society. The discussion was chaired by Tomas Magnusson, IPB Co-President.

#### - **The misuse of brainpower: the role of science in military-related research and technology development (with INES)**

Science research has contributed to the technological development of weaponry; and in fact the military research sector has become an important lobbyist for armaments budgets. Yet alternatives to weapons research are now available, for example 'civil clauses' and projects of conversion. The workshop explored both the challenges that we face and the opportunities opening up for developing different ways for scientists and engineers to put their skills at the service of society. The discussion was chaired by Ingeborg Breines, IPB Co-President.

#### - **A & H Bomb exhibition organised with Gensuikyo**

The exhibition shows the human consequences of the use of a nuclear bomb, and why the human race must ban nuclear weapons. This exhibition is part of the new campaign launched by Gensuikyo in order to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. Ingeborg Breines, IPB Co-President, made a speech during the opening ceremony.

#### **RELATED STORY: [Gensuikyo's statement on the occasion of NPT PrepCom: Time to resolve to totally ban nuclear weapons and start negotiations without delay](#)**

Gensuikyo calls on the international community to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons without delay and to build a new agreement for a shift to secure and safe sustainable energy resources.

#### - **Symposium and public meeting on the role of the IAEA (with IALANA, INES, IPPNW, ENRIC, Forum Wissenschaft und Umwelt)**

This well-attended meeting offered a platform for a range of experts to outline the history and functions of the Agency, and to develop a critique of its double role: that of promoting nuclear energy while also acting as a watchdog regarding diversion of nuclear materials for military purposes. Concrete reform

proposals were put forward which will be published in the near future. Contact: Lucas Wirl <l.wirl@gmx.net>

## **NORWAY**

### **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), [Norway announces nuclear weapons conference](#)**

April 20, 2012 - The Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre announced that a conference on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons will be held in Oslo next spring. Dr. Tilman Ruff, the chair of ICAN, welcomes this announcement: "it is high time that states start to consider the real catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons".

## **UNITED STATES**

### **Nick Fielding, [US draws up plans for nuclear drones](#)**

April 2, 2012 - Sandia National Laboratories and Northrop Grumman have drawn up plans for a new generation of nuclear-powered drones. These new weapons platforms have been designed to increase flying time from days to months, while making more power available for operating equipment.

## **UNITED STATES**

### **United Nations Human Rights, [USA: UN launches follow-up mission on nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands](#)**

April 20, 2012 - Calin Georgescu, United Nations Special Rapporteur, will visit the USA to assess the impact on human rights of the nuclear tests conducted in the Pacific, between 1946 and 1958. During his stay, the UN Special Rapporteur will meet the different stakeholders. His conclusions and recommendations will be presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2012.

### **Federico Mayor Zaragoza, [Humanity should not live under the nuclear threat](#)**

April 23, 2012 - The author (former Director-General of UNESCO) considers that Iran is presented by the western media as the major regional threat for two main reasons: its geostrategic position (threat to Israel) and its huge oil reserves. Mayor fears an inundation of media stories tending to justify an armed attack on Iran, as in the Iraqi case. The only effective solution is to open negotiations through the UN, which benefits from the backing of the entire world. A broad multilateral approach would prevent armed conflict and open the way to regulation/ abolition of nuclear weapons. But for that, a restructuring of the UN will be required.

## **3. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Nobel Women's Initiative, [Join the International Campaign to Stop Rape and Gender Violence in Conflict](#)**

As rape is increasingly used in conflicts as a weapon to humiliate people and tear apart communities, the [Nobel Women's Initiative](#) has decided to take a stand against gender violence. The newly-launched **International Campaign to Stop Rape and Gender Violence in Conflict** aims at bringing together organizations and individuals to demand action. The campaign calls on world leaders to take effective steps to prevent rape in conflict, protect civilians, and prosecute perpetrators. Click [here](#) to take the pledge!

### **Rebecca Kemble, [Walking to NATO protest in Chicago](#)**

May 3, 2012 - [Voices for Creative Nonviolence](#) is organising a 170-mile walk to Chicago in order to protest the NATO summit scheduled for May 20. The walk started from the state capitol in Madison, WI. Along the

way, participants will raise awareness among people about drone warfare, the suffering of the Afghan people and the need to shift our social and economic priorities away from war production.

#### **4. RESOURCES**

##### **Stéphane Hessel - Albert Jacquart and the Observatoire des armements, [Exigez un désarmement nucléaire total](#) (IN FRENCH)**

Stéphane Hessel and Albert Jacquart combine their voices to ask a total nuclear disarmament. Both authors consider this question as a matter for everyone and not only for politicians and experts. In addition the *Observatoire des armements* provides a "state of affairs" on nuclear weapons.

##### **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), [Disarmament Yearbook Vol.36 \(Part I\) - 2011 now available in print and electronic formats](#)**

The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook Part I contains an annual compilation of text and statistics of disarmament-related resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Part II of the Yearbook summarizes the main multilateral issues under consideration and is forthcoming in early autumn 2012.

##### **Small Arms Survey, Demilitarization: New regional approach to stockpile management (RASR) reports**

In support of the 5th [Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction](#) (RASR) workshop which aims at tackling the threat posed, in South East Europe, by stockpiles of conventional weapons and munitions, the Small Arms Survey has released two new publications: a special report on [Capabilities and Capacities: a survey of South-east Europe's demilitarization infrastructure](#) and an issue brief [Buy and burn: factoring demilitarization into ammunition procurement](#).

##### **SIPRI, [Transparency in military spending and arms acquisitions in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)**

In recent years, military spending and arms acquisitions have risen considerably in Latin America and the Caribbean. These developments have raised concern that such spending hinders regional stability and poverty-reduction efforts. The study surveys transparency in the region by assessing information published at the national level on defense policies and military budgets, and by measuring participation in regional and international transparency mechanisms.

##### **RELATED TOPIC: SIPRI, [Budgetary priorities in Latin America: military, health, and education spending, by Sam Perlo-Freeman](#)**

In this paper, Sam Perlo-Freeman analyses trends in military/ health/ education spending in Latin America to examine whether statistical evidence supports the idea that military spending increases have come at the expense of social spending.

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