



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.

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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

RIO +20 Summit

IPB, INES and partners' activities at the Peoples Summit and the Rio+20 conference

In order to include a disarmament perspective into the Rio +20 process, IPB is participating in the [bread tank project](#), with the International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES), Foreign Policy in Focus (FPIF), the World Future Council (WFC) and Viva Rio.

This project aims at highlighting the irrelevance of allocating \$1.7 trillions on military spending in the face of more pressing human and ecological needs. It is composed of a full-scale "bread tank" that will be presented in different locations around Rio including at the Summit, an itinerant exhibition, and the Rio Appeal which urges governments to agree on a 10% reduction of military spending p.a. for the benefit of basic human needs.

The Rio Appeal has been launched on Avaaz Community: [please sign and share it widely!](#)
It's also available in different languages on the [Campaign website](#).

A- MILITARY SPENDING

SPAIN

Centre Delàs, [Report on Spanish military expenditure](#)

The Centre Delàs has released its annual report on Spanish military expenditure: "Military expenditure in Spain 2012: A chance to reduce the crisis", written by Pere Ortega. This report shows that the reduction of 6.33% in the Spanish military expenditure in 2012 National Budget is much smaller than other ministries with more social and "welfare" features. The report provides also an analysis of arms trade: Spain has doubled its arms exports and its destinations include countries affected by armed conflict.

AUSTRALIA

Dylan Welch, [Defense faces hard choices](#)

May 25, 2012 - In May, Australian military has faced \$5.5bn in cuts, the largest since the end of the Korean War. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) reports that, after a decade of huge growth in its budget, Defense would face a major downturn in resources. Mark Thomson, an expert from the ASPI, said that due to the economic crisis "every dollar spent on defense imposes a visible opportunity cost elsewhere".

SOUTH AFRICA

[Ceasefire Campaign calls for reconsideration of the Defense Review](#)

May 17, 2012 - On April 27, the Defense Review Committee published its draft report. According to the Ceasefire campaign, the presuppositions, the language and the proposals of the draft report are egregiously militarist. Therefore, it has made several recommendations to improve the document.

UNITED STATES

David Alexander, [Senate panel backs \\$631 billion in defense spending](#)

May 24, 2012 - The Senate Armed Services Committee approved a defense policy bill that would authorize a base Pentagon budget of \$525.8bn along with \$88.2 bn for overseas operations (including Afghanistan), and \$17.3bn for Energy Department nuclear weapons programs..

RELATED STORIES: [Majority of Americans willing to make defense cuts](#)

May 10, 2012 - A recent study by the University of Maryland shows that three quarters of Americans favor cutting defense as a way to reduce the deficits, including two thirds of Republicans as well as nine out of ten Democrats.

John T. Bennett, [Study: Government low-balls cost of nuclear fleet](#)

June 5, 2012 - The Stimson Center released a study that concludes that Washington will spend between \$352 billion to \$392 billion over the next decade to modernize its nuclear fleet. This study reveals that government officials have no clue how much the world's most lethal weapons really cost. Read the report [here](#).

UNITED KINGDOM

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), [What cuts? MoD ploughs £5bn into atomic weapons establishment](#)

May 15, 2012 - The Ministry of Defense has announced spending of £1bn a year for the next 5 years on Atomic Weapons Establishments, which develops and maintains the nuclear warheads for Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system.

MORE: CND, [£350m more poured into nuclear weapons "bottomless pit"](#)

May 22, 2012 - The Ministry of Defense has placed contracts for designing new submarines with BAE, Babcock and Rolls-Royce, totaling almost £350m.

B- IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

ICBL, [More vigilance needed on global landmine ban - Outcome of intersessional standing committee meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty](#)

May 25, 2012 - From May 21 to 25, nearly 100 states and dozens of international organizations attended the intersessional meetings and discussed progress on the global ban on antipersonnel landmines. According to the [International Campaign to Ban Landmines](#) the meeting was a "mixture of both encouraging and alarming news". On the one hand, Somalia became the 160th State party to the treaty, Poland announced it will ratify the treaty this year, and some countries reported significant achievements in clearing their lands. And on the other hand, the list of countries requesting extensions to clear their lands is growing faster than the list of those who have been declared mine-free.

TANZANIA

Elephants and other animals threatened by uranium mine

May 23, 2012 - The Uranium Network and Beyond Nuclear are organizing a campaign to discourage the government of Tanzania from licensing the Mkuju River Uranium mine, located in Selous Game Reserve, a World Heritage Site which hosts the largest elephant population in Africa. They also urge the UNESCO World Heritage Committee to decide, this June, to keep the boundaries of the site unchanged. Sign the [petition](#) and share it with your friends.

Sophie Le Gall - Pascale Pascariello - Linda Bendali, "The trash of arms dealers" (TV show in FRENCH, *Dans les poubelles des marchands d'armes*)

May 16, 2012 - In Europe, each year thousands of conventional weapons are tested on military areas that are located next to inhabited zones. The 3 journalists investigated in France and Sardinia, in order to highlight the effects of weapons testing on health.

UNITED STATES

Defenders of the black hills, "America's secret Chernobyl". Uranium mining and nuclear pollution in the Great Plains

[Defenders the Black Hills](#), an environmental organization, has released a fact sheet on past and planned uranium and coal mining in the Northern Great Plains region. This area is subjected to high radioactive pollution in the air and water due to hundreds of abandoned open pit uranium mines. It urges the Congress to adopt a bill to clean up the zone.

SOUTH KOREA

Prof. Noam Chomsky's appeal to the world for the "courageous people of Jeju Island"

Noam Chomsky, professor emeritus at MIT, recently sent a message of support to the people of Gangjeong: "It is inspiring to see how the courageous people of Jeju Island are sustaining their struggle against powerful forces that are attempting to destroy their "Island of Peace" and convert it to a base for escalating the threat of war and violence, which is already severe. They deserve the strong support of all who are committed to a more peaceful and just world."

Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC), Global Day of Action to Stop Explosive Investments: 14 June 2012

On June 14, the [CMC](#) will hold a *Global Day of Action to Stop Explosive Investments*. The aims are to call on governments to pass legislation to prohibit investments in cluster munitions producers and to urge banks and other financial institutions to disinvest from cluster munitions producers.

2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

SIPRI, [8 countries with nuclear arms have 19,000 warheads](#)

June 4, 2012 - In its annual yearbook, SIPRI reveals that the 8 nuclear states, excluding North Korea, together possess a total of 19,000 nuclear weapons, which is a small decrease compared with the 20,530 counted in 2011. But at the same time, the P5 are deploying new nuclear weapon delivery systems or have announced programmes to do so.

Gensuikyo, [NPT activity report: petition presentation](#)

During the last NPT PrepCom, Gensuikyo, IPB member organization, presented to Ambassador Peter Woolcott, chairman of the conference, a petition of 1,547,979 signatures which included 929 heads of local governments, calling on a total ban on nuclear weapons. For Hiroshi Taka, representative director of Gensuikyo, it was an important opportunity to highlight the need for negotiations on a convention banning nuclear weapons.

UNITED STATES

William Hartung, [It's time to really drop the bombs](#)

May 24, 2012 - In a recent House of Representatives debate, Rep. Norm Dicks pointed out that the Pentagon cannot afford to buy new versions of all three legs of the nuclear triad. A report from a blue-ribbon commission calls for reducing the US arsenal of long-range nuclear warheads by 80%. These reductions should be seen as steps toward the goal of abolishing nuclear weapons. They make sense strategically, because nuclear weapons are irrelevant tools to ensure a country's safety, and would offer big budgetary benefits in times of economic crisis.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

Amy Goodman, [Veterans say no to NATO](#)

May 17, 2012 - While the President and the Pentagon were handing out posthumous medals, a number of veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan organised a march to McCormick Place in Chicago to hand their service medals back. Veterans demanded that NATO end the occupation of Afghanistan and relating economic and social injustices by freeing up money to fund domestic needs such as health, education, and so on.

More information about the March for Justice and Reconciliation on [Iraq Veterans Against the war website](#).

Ellen Nakashima, [Pentagon to Spread US military might to cyberspace](#)

May 31, 2012 - The Pentagon is increasing its efforts to dominate cyberspace. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is developing a project, Plan X, which aims to improve US cyber warfare capabilities, launch effective attacks, and withstand the likely retaliation. In other words it would provide the military with a new effective tool to wage war.

4. RESOURCES

Control Arms, New ATT basics and other resources

One month before the negotiating conference for an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Control Arms has released new resources to help supporters in their campaigning activities. Firstly a leaflet [Time to Act: ATT Basics](#) that aims at raising awareness among the population on what the ATT is and how to join the movement. Secondly, an [online shop](#) in which campaigners can purchase magnets, buttons and stickers. Thirdly, it encourages campaigners to use the [Control Arms Flickr account](#) either to illustrate their reports and create posters, or to submit their own pictures (to do so contact [Lorey](#)).

[UN Poster for 2012 International Day of Peace](#)

Each year, the United Nations celebrates on September 21 the International Day of Peace to recognize the efforts of those who are working to end conflicts and promote peace. Check out the new poster "Sustainable peace for a sustainable future".

Jim McCluskey, Peter Burt and Howard Gest, [Nuclear weapons: historical perspective and modern dangers](#)

For the edition of the Blackaby Papers, [Abolition 2000 UK](#) invites 3 authors to study the different aspects of nuclear weapons dangers, including both the early political problems and the present day ethical and safety problems.

Institute of Development Studies, [War and poverty](#)

In this paper, Patricia Justino aims at identifying potential channels of transmission linking civil war and poverty that may lead to the persistence of cycles of poverty and armed conflicts. She focuses on the notion of individual (and group) agency during civil wars, as well as constraints faced by populations affected by violence.

Small Arms Survey, [Armed violence: spotlight on lethal effects](#)

In its new research note, largely based on the [Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011 report](#), Small Arms Survey sheds light on the 58 countries most affected by armed violence between 2004 and 2009. While violence experienced in conflicts is regularly presented in the media, non-conflict violence is much less visible even though it is much more prevalent. Indeed, the research note reveals that 9 out of 10 violent deaths occur in non-conflict settings.

Medea Benjamin, Drone Warfare: killing by remote control

Drone Warfare is a comprehensive look at the growing menace of drone warfare. It provides an extensive analysis of who is producing the drones, where they are being used, who are "piloting" these unmanned planes, who are the victims and what are the legal and moral implications. It's also a call to action, with a look at what activists, lawyers and scientists are doing to rein in the drones, and ways to move forward.

[Building capacity: Caribbean coalition for development and reduction of armed violence training manual](#)

This new manual is a joint product of Project Ploughshares, the Caribbean Coalition for Development and the Reduction of Armed Violence and the Women's Institute for Alternative Development. It aims at increasing community safety and offering advice to organizations on how they can be more effective in stopping gun violence in their communities.

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