



Working for a world without war

IPB NEWSLETTER

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1- DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

A- MILITARY SPENDING

UNITED STATES

Washington battle over budget sequester plan hots up

- **What's the sequester?** Automatic cuts that are imposed across the board to federal programs, from the Pentagon budget for buying guns, ships and planes to the National Weather Service's equipment for forecasting hurricanes, tornadoes and other severe weather. It's part of the drive to cut the deficit.
- **How deep are the cuts?** The reductions total \$1.2 trillion over 10 years. The first-year cuts are \$110 billion, split evenly from defense and domestic programs, from a budget of \$3.8 trillion.

→ See detailed explanations and comments:

[The nuts and bolts of the sequester](#)

John T. Bennett, [CATO Study: Defense Cuts Unlikely to Hurt U.S. Economy](#)

Opinion : Doug Wilson, CNN: [Who's to blame for defense spending cut threat?](#)

John Nolan , [Decision on 2013 base closings to be delayed](#)

August 6th, 2012 - The Obama administration, after initially asking Congress for permission to consider whether to close military installations as part of defense spending cuts in upcoming years, now says it isn't recommending any base closings in 2013. Congress hasn't granted authority for any new rounds of the base realignment and closure (BRAC) process.

Joe Cirincione, [The Midas Touch of Nuclear Weapons](#)

July 31st, 2012 - The United States is about to buy a nuclear bomb that costs 1.5 times its weight in solid gold. Nuclear weapons programs now cost so much they are actually more expensive than if they were made of gold. The defense budget is famous for waste. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the agency in charge of the United State's nuclear warheads, wants to pay \$10 billion to overhaul its B-61 nuclear bombs - at \$28 million per bomb. This is a bomb designed to fight a nuclear war in Europe, and still kept in our inventory.



AUSTRALIA

[Defence budget cuts won't harm troops: MP](#)

August 9th, 2012 - Defence Minister Stephen Smith has rejected claims that budget cuts to military spending are putting Australian troops serving overseas in danger. Former ADF chief Peter Leahy, who now heads Canberra University's national security institute, has reportedly said less money in the May budget for defence could leave Australia's military without the right capabilities and could endanger soldiers offshore.

CZECH REPUBLIC

[Czech diplomats warn of lower defence spending in CzechRep, NATO](#)

August 8th, 2012 - Czech outgoing ambassador to NATO Martin Povejsil and his successor Jiri Sedivy emphatically warned against continued decreasing military expenditures in the Czech Republic and other NATO countries.

B- IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

[BBC News Asia, US starts Agent Orange clean-up in Vietnam](#)

August 9th, 2012 - The US has begun a project to help clean up Agent Orange contamination at one area in Vietnam - the first such move since the war ended in 1975. Vietnam says several million people have been affected by Agent Orange, including 150,000 children born with severe birth defects.



[ICAN - Catastrophic humanitarian harm](#)

August 6th, 2012 - To commemorate Hiroshima Day this year, ICAN has just completed a new booklet that examines the catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons on our health, societies and the environment. The booklet aims to help reframe the nuclear weapons debate placing health, social and environment concerns at the centre of all discussions about nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

[Campaign Against Arms Trade, The arms trade is on our doorstep](#)

August 2nd, 2012 - During the Arab Spring, the weapons and components built on our doorsteps fuelled repression. UK teargas manufactured by Chemring was used in Cairo; armoured vehicles made in Tyneside were deployed in Bahrain; Primetake, a company based in Lincoln, travelled to the Middle East to push sales of crowd control ammunition. UK weapons sales to repressive regimes continue apace. With thousands of sites across the UK, the chances are there's an arms company on your doorstep too. That's why we're excited to reveal our new project to help you find out about the arms trade on your doorstep and to challenge it.

This September, take part in the month of action against the arms trade:

- **[Expose the arms trade](#)**
- **[Take creative action](#)**
- **[Do more digging](#)**

[Samantha Bolton, Control Arms: Battle for an Arms Trade Treaty continues as Governments opt to delay final deal](#)

July 27th, 2012 - New York : The fight to end the illegal and irresponsible arms trade goes on after delegates at the United Nations failed to reach consensus and agree an Arms Trade Treaty. The Control Arms coalition says the lack of agreement on a final text was disappointing but not the end of

the story. They say, in spite of today's lack of agreement, momentum is gathering for an international and legally-binding treaty to bring the arms trade under control. Governments now have a second chance to make the treaty a reality by taking the text forward to the General Assembly, in the fall. A group of over 90 states gave a joint statement, read out by Mexico, saying they "are determined to secure an Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible. One that will bring about a safer world for the sake of all humanity". Throughout the month there was majority support for the Arms Trade Treaty to cover all conventional arms including ammunition, and to be based around tough rules on international human rights and humanitarian law. In the final hours of negotiations consensus was procedurally blocked by the United States, Russia, DPRK, Cuba and Venezuela who all asked for more time.

2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Annual commemorations of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - August 6th and 9th, 2012

On August 6 and 9 our thoughts turn once again to the tragic destruction of the two Japanese cities in 1945, and in particular to the victims of this first, and hopefully last, use of nuclear weapons in warfare. As the years go by, there are fewer and fewer of the hibakusha left alive to witness to the horror they experienced at a young age.

[IPB message on the occasion of the commemorations](#)

[UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's statement](#)

[Kazumi Matsui, Mayor Hiroshima's statement](#)

[Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki's statement](#)

Rebecca Johnson, [Preventing another Hiroshima](#)



August 6th, 2012 - Sixty-seven years ago today, the first uranium bomb was exploded above Hiroshima with the force of 15 thousand tons of TNT. Tens of thousands were killed by the blast and fireball that engulfed the city, and a similar number died of radiation sickness and injuries in the days and months that followed; in total 140,000 dead by 1945's end. Three days later, Nagasaki was shattered by a plutonium bomb. As we remember the devastation wrought by two relatively small nuclear bombs in August 1945, we cannot afford to be complacent. A treaty banning nuclear weapons is urgent, necessary and achievable, and negotiations on such a treaty should begin now.

[Former Hiroshima Mayor Tadatashi Akiba Named New Chairman of the Middle Powers Initiative](#)

August 3rd, 2012 - The former Mayor of Hiroshima, Tadatashi Akiba, has been appointed Chairman of the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI), David Krieger, Chairman of MPI's Executive Committee, announced today. He hailed Akiba, one of the world's foremost campaigners for the abolition of nuclear weapons, as "an internationally respected leader for his stewardship of Mayors for Peace." Krieger also announced that MPI will be re-structured and open a new head office in Basel, Switzerland to enable MPI to work more closely with European governments.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

José Henríquez, New Secretary General of Pax Christi International

August 1st, 2012. Brussels - The Executive Committee of Pax Christi International is pleased to announce the appointment of José Henríquez, from El Salvador, as the next Secretary General of Pax Christi International. José has been actively engaged with the international peace movement since he coordinated the first Pax Christi Latin America and Caribbean Consultation in 2007. He brings to Pax Christi International a deep personal commitment to peace and social justice.

4. RESOURCES

Small Arms Survey and the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development - Reducing Armed Violence, Enabling Development

This new Research Note examines the negative relation between armed violence and development by providing an overview of the impacts of armed violence, and reflects on the links between armed violence and development. It highlights the statistical evidence on the linkages between lethal violence and specific Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This Research Note relies mostly on the key findings of the 2008 and 2011 Global Burden of Armed Violence (GBAV) reports, as well as on the World Bank's World Development Report 2011.

International Peace Bureau

41, Rue de Zurich 1201 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-731-6429 • Fax : +41-22-738-9419
mailbox@ipb.org • www.ipb.org

*This Newsletter was edited by Camille Bonnet.
For queries and suggestions, please contact secgen@ipb.org*