



*Working for a world without war*

## IPB NEWSLETTER

October 5, 2012

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## [IPB Conference Nov 16-18, DUBLIN: brochure + programme - Join the Dots](#)

The Conference [brochure](#) and [registration](#) form are now available. The unusual combination of topics, speakers and activities means this will be an interesting and enjoyable weekend, so we strongly encourage you to join us!

For details of hotel accommodation (and also visas/invitation letters) please contact directly the Conference Organiser Lisa Patten at: [<admin@afri.ie>](mailto:admin@afri.ie)

Registration: we encourage you to go online and book using Paypal. However if this is problematic, we can accept payment on arrival.

## [Campaign Against Arms Trade \(CAAT\) wins international award](#)

CAAT was chosen as one of four recipients of the Right Livelihood Award, the 'Alternative Nobel Prize', in 2012. CAAT has long been a member of the IPB as well as the European Network Against Arms Trade. The winners include, Sima Samar from Afghanistan who was a speaker at IPB's annual conference in Copenhagen in 2008 and Gene Sharp who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize this year by IPB Board member Metta Spencer.

The award ceremony will take place in the Swedish Parliament on 7 December 2012.

# 1- DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

## A- MILITARY SPENDING

### UNITED STATES

#### **John Glaser, [Romney, 'Deficit Hawk', will explode military spending](#)**

October 5, 2012- Mitt Romney, who won the Presidential Debate, appeared ready to make deep cuts in U.S.' mind-boggling deficit. But the math doesn't add up. He promised tax cuts and reductions in government spending. But, he also promised to increase military spending by \$2 trillion dollars over 10 years.

#### **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), [New report looks at the cost of Violence Containment to the US - \\$2.16 trillion per year](#)**

September 20, 2012- The IEP released a report, which estimated that in 2010, 15% of the GDP of the U.S. economy (\$2.16 trillion) or U.S. \$15000 per taxpayer was spent on containing violence. By defining a new industry as the 'Violence Containment Industry', the IEP was able to aggregate all expenditure incurred related to the containment or consequences of violence. Such expenses could be on police, military, homeland security, private security industry, insurance etc. The research indicated that as a percentage of the U.S. GDP, this industry had expanded by 25% in the past ten years. As a result, it could account as the largest industry in the U.S. economy. Consequently, efforts should be undertaken to reduce violence related expenditure, because even a 5% reduction for 5 years would provide \$326 billion, which could be spent to create vital social services like energy and school infrastructure development.

**Melvin A. Goodmann, [The Burden of Pentagon Spending](#)**

October 3, 2012- In 2012, the defence budget exceeded \$600 billion, nearly equalling the combined defence spending of the rest of world. The Pentagon was allotted these amounts with little congressional monitoring or internal oversight. With more than 46 million Americans living in poverty, income inequality rising and unemployment levels remaining high, the U.S. should reduce its defence expenditure, so as to improve its economic situation. President Dwight Eisenhower had warned that US defence spending would become a "cross of iron" that would limit spending on domestic needs. It is time to act on that warning by making significant defence cuts and applying the savings to health care, education, infrastructure and the environment.

**CANADA**

**Garret Dwyer-Joyce: CTV News, [F-35 fighter jet: Is it the pinnacle of technology its creators claim?](#)**

September 27, 2012- The Canadian government announced its plan to buy 65 F-35s in 2010, which would cost \$9 billion. But when the cost to maintain, sustain to operate it over 25 years or so is accounted for, then the government will end up spending about \$40 billion. The National Democratic Party, which is in the opposition, is ready to campaign against the Conservative government's plan so as to pressurise it to cancel the programme.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**Nick Hopkins, [Britain's military drones spending tops £2b](#)**

September 30, 2012- A non-government agency called the Drone Wars UK, has urged a parliamentary probe into the British Ministry of Defence projects, as ethical issues are raised about military and civilian use of drones. Britain has spent more than £2 billion (\$3.11 billion) on buying and developing military drones during the past five years and is poised to commit an extra £2 billion for another new unmanned aircraft. Serious questions about the growing use of unmanned drones for military and civil use have arisen. Is the military use of unmanned drones lowering the political costs of military intervention? While manufacturers argue that drones can deliver their weapons with 'pinpoint precision', how accurate are these systems in reality? What are the privacy and civil liberties implications of using drones in civil airspace? How far should we allow the development of autonomous unmanned systems?

**Simon Jenkins, [British soldiers are dying in Afghanistan to win the war of Whitehall](#)**

October 2, 2012- Afghanistan has become a war where its cause has been long forgotten. Military lobbyists in Britain, shelter behind the "bravery of our boys" to sustain defence spending. Why does Britain still spend so much money on defence, long after the cold war is over? If anyone were to emerge to pose a threat to the British state, which is highly unlikely, it would have enough time to rearm. It seems that much of the expenditure is incurred to prove their influence in the modern world. Nothing illustrates the thinness of the case for military spending so much as the airy language nowadays used to justify it. Since, public money is being spent for no productive purpose, it is being wasted.

**Caroline Wyatt, Defence Correspondent: BBC News, [Defence firms 'not open about anti-corruption measures'](#)**

October 4, 2012- Transparency International looked at firms from the 10 largest arms exporting nations including those from UK, US, Russia, Germany, France and China. The 129 firms it studied are worth

more than \$10tn (£6tn) and are responsible for over 90% of global arms sales. It concluded that, two-thirds of the world's biggest defence companies do not provide enough evidence about how they fight corruption. It was found that, one of the reasons the defence industry has been prone to corruption in the past is that so many defence contracts have been a secret, with little public pressure brought to bear.

**Richard Norton-Taylor, [BAE-EADS could be too big to prosecute, anti-corruption group warns](#)**

October 4, 2012- In the report published by Transparency International on the Defence Companies Anti-Corruption Index, the companies were graded from A to F, with A representing the most extensive evidence of firms' anti-corruption systems. The British defence giant- BAE Systems secured B ratings, whereas the European aerospace company-EADS was rated C. The report warned that the possible merger of BAE Systems and EADS, which was announced last month, could produce an arms company so big that it would become beyond the reach of the law. Therefore, if the merger went ahead, the company should set up an independent board to ensure it did not indulge in bribery and corruption.

**Nicholas Watt: The Guardian, [Labour to present plan to close defence budget gap](#)**

October 1, 2012- A newly elected Labour government would seek to close the multibillion-pound hole in Britain's defence budget by imposing an unprecedented 10-year programme that would be subject to annual independent oversight. The shadow Defence Secretary- Jim Murphy stated that any cost overruns would have to be funded out of the MoD budget, although in emergencies the Treasury could be asked to help. The new approach is designed to end the practice, known as "pushing to the right" which is the process in which costs that cannot be met from the MoD's annual budget are pushed forward even though extra funds are not available. As a rule, for any increases in spending, the government would have to identify savings elsewhere in the ten year programme in order to execute the deal.

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

**The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO), [Nevada Test Site Annual Environmental Monitoring Report Released](#)**

The NNSA/NSO has released the Nevada National Security Site Environmental Report 2011, which summarizes the results of air and groundwater monitoring, near the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). It reports on the estimated radiological dose to the public from releases of radioactive material from the NNSS and summarizes the overall environmental compliance and management performance of NNSA/NSO at the NNSS and its two support facilities, the North Las Vegas Facility and the Remote Sensing Laboratory–Nellis. The report concluded that, no airborne radioactivity from current site activities was detected off site in 2011. Groundwater monitoring results confirmed the public is not exposed to groundwater contaminated with man-made radionuclides from NNSS activities.

**Smalls Arms Survey, [New Research Note: Regional Organizations and the PoA](#)**

The UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (PoA) have called upon the regional organisations to provide solutions for countering small arms trafficking. Its recent publication, called the "*Regional Organizations and the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms (PoA)*" outlines the work of 52 regional organizations that undertake work relevant to the PoA, and examines 19 PoA

activities conducted by them. The publication has a dual purpose, actively supporting implementation while providing a useful reference for ongoing use.

## 2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

### UNITED STATES

#### **Friends Committee on National Legislation, [Congress terminates new nuclear bomb plant in New Mexico](#)**

September 25, 2012- Funding for a new nuclear bomb plant in Los Alamos National Laboratory has been effectively terminated in the Continuing Resolution passed by Congress. The facility had been deemed unnecessary and wasteful, and would have cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

### ISRAEL

#### **Amir Oren, [Israel rejects U.S.-backed Arab plan for conference on nuclear-free Mideast](#)**

September 20, 2012- Israel expressed its strong opposition to an Arab initiative supported by the Obama Administration to hold a conference in Helsinki that would debate the possibility of a nuclear-free Middle East. At the 56th General Convention of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Brig. Gen (Res) Shaul Horev, Director of the Israeli Nuclear Energy Committee had already expressed Israeli opposition to the idea because of the volatile and hostile situation in the area. He expressed that nuclear demilitarisation will be possible only after the establishment of peace and trust among the states of the area. He reiterated the Israeli fear of attacks from Iran and the possibility of Syria using chemical weapons against the rebels or transferring them to Hezbollah.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### **Richard Norton-Taylor and Nick Hopkins: [The Guardian, Plan for dismantling Britain's nuclear arsenal](#)**

September 26, 2012- All 120 armed warheads on Britain's fleet of Trident submarines could be removed within a month in a staged dismantling of the country's nuclear weapons system. It would take just two years to remove Britain's entire stockpile of nuclear weapon from the Clyde, and four years to dismantle the entire stockpile of less than 225 warheads. This is the timetable set out in what the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) calls "a [practical guide to de-activating and dismantling](#) the Trident nuclear weapon system". The CND report spells out eight phases, from ending the operational deployment of submarines to dismantling all of the UK's nuclear warheads.

### IRELAND

#### **Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, [End Irish investments in nuclear weapons, says new report](#)**

September 21, 2012- The Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament published a new policy document on Irish financing of nuclear weapons, titled "[Ireland, Irish Finance and the Nuclear Weapons Industry.](#)" The report found that the National Pensions Reserve Fund has investments worth around €10 million in companies involved in the nuclear weapons industry. In addition, the Allied Irish Banks (AIB) was involved in giving a loan of €28 million to a major American company heavily involved in the maintenance of U.S. nuclear weapons. Given that Ireland has had a strong

record of working internationally to end nuclear weapons, the investment of state funds in connection with nuclear weapons has caused an alarm.

### **3. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **4. RESOURCES**

#### **[The 2011 UN Disarmament Yearbook Volume 36 - Part II is Now Available Online](#)**

The United Nations Office For Disarmament Affairs published this Basic Guide in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security pursuant to the purposes of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme (UNDIP). The mandate of the Programme is to inform, educate and generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action, and support for it, in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

#### **American Friends Service Committee, [Flyer on Costs of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Program & Spending Alternatives](#)**

American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) have produced a flyer/resource on the costs of the U.S. nuclear arsenal and how the money could be better spent. Quoting U.S. Congressman Edward Markey, the flyer stated that that if the U.S. cut \$100 billion of nuclear spending then it could employ 1,270,900 elementary school teachers for a year. To learn more about nuclear weapons spending, and what weapons programs can be cut to improve security and to ensure that everyone's human needs are met in the United States, go to <http://afsc.org/document/informational-handout-fund-our-communities-not-more-nuclear-weapons>

#### **Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, [Nuclear Famine](#)**

On the International Day of Peace (21<sup>st</sup> September 2012), the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation launched a video titled "Nuclear Famine" which detailed the catastrophic global consequences of even a limited regional nuclear war. For example, the video pointed out that if India and Pakistan engaged in a limited nuclear war, it could create immense firestorms that would quickly surround the planet with a dense stratospheric smoke layer which would block sunlight, consequently reduce growing seasons and cause the starvation of up to 1 billion people.

#### **International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES), ["Commit Universities to peace: Yes to civil clauses!"](#)**

The brochure aims at communicating information on the military exploitation of science, on the responsibility of science for society, and the demand for a peaceful orientation of universities. Articles were gathered to give an overview on the military research in Germany, Great Britain, and USA.

#### **Child Soldiers International: Louder than words, [An agenda for action to end state use of child soldiers](#)**

The report "Louder than words: An agenda for action to end state use of child soldiers" is published to mark the tenth anniversary year of the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the

Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. It examines the record of states in protecting children from use in hostilities by their own forces and by state-allied armed groups. It finds that, while governments' commitment to ending child soldier use is high, the gap between commitment and practice remains wide. Research for the report shows that child soldiers have been used in armed conflicts by 20 states since 2010, and that children are at risk of military use in many more.

**Global Campaign for Peace Education, [Newsletter \(#98 Sept-Oct 2012\)](#)**

The Global Campaign for Peace Education (GCPE) e-newsletter provides a monthly bulletin of news, events, action alerts and reports of peace education activities and developments from around the world. You can sign-up to receive the newsletter and review back issues online.

**ICBUW, [Precaution in Practice - challenging the acceptability of depleted uranium weapons](#)**

A report for policy-makers and campaigners that judges the acceptability of DU weapons by utilising the structure of common interpretations of the precautionary principle. In doing so it asks whether a precautionary approach should be applied to DU and whether its use could ever be compatible with precautionary values.

**CADU, [Managing Acceptability: UK policy on depleted uranium Using declassified material](#)**

The report provides a historical review of the methods that the UK government has used in seeking to maintain the public acceptability of DU munitions, having recognised very early on in their development that public opposition to the use of DU in conventional weapons would be significant.

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