



Working for a world without war

IPB NEWS

November 27, 2012

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Joining the Dots – [IPB and AFRI hold successful weekend conference in Dublin](#)

On November 16-17 2012, the IPB held its first-ever annual Council meeting in Ireland, in conjunction with the [Afri 'Hedge School'](#) in Dublin. The **Sean MacBride Peace Prize ceremony**, as well as the panels on Activism, Disarmament and Peace Education Initiatives and Climate Change at the Hedge School attracted many participants and gave rise to fruitful discussions and exchanges of experiences. The Sean MacBride Peace Prize ceremony was held on the Friday evening at All Hallows College. We were honoured that **Michael D. Higgins, the President of Ireland**, agreed to award the Prize to the celebrated **Tunisian blogger, Lina Ben Mhenni** and world-famous **Egyptian feminist author, Nawal el-Saadawi**.

Successful media coverage : [IPB challenges Nobel decision 'Prize is unlawful and cannot be paid to the EU'](#)

November 12, 2012 - Media from all over the world picked up IPB's press release on the letter to the Nobel committee. It got published in 27 different countries and translated into 8 different languages. For the original press release in English click [here](#). The story is also to be found in [German](#), in [French](#), in [Spanish](#), in [Italian](#), in [Portuguese](#), in [Romanian](#), and in [Norwegian](#). It was successfully spread on Twitter and Facebook.

1. DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

A MILITARY SPENDING

Bindiya Thomas, [Asian, East European Nations Lead Global Defence Budget Hikes Amidst Spending Cuts By NATO states](#)

October 10, 2012 - While NATO nations make large cuts to their defense budgets for the next fiscal year, developing nations particularly in Asia and Europe have increased their budgets to reflect a healthier economy. However, despite the decrease in defense budgets for NATO nations this year, there is still a wide difference in budgets of the two realms. NATO nations, unlike Asian and European states, still spend significantly more in comparison to their counterparts.

Ray Acheson (Reaching Critical Will/WILPF), [UNGA debate - States speak out on military spending and militarism](#)

October 8, 2012 - Reaching Critical Will, with the assistance of WILPF's PeaceWomen programme, tracked references to disarmament at this year's UNGA debate. A number of countries expressed critical views on global military spending. [Ban Ki-moon](#) lamented that governments waste "vast and precious funds on deadly weapons—while reducing investments in people." Likewise, [Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff](#) noted, "The world clamors for food instead of weapons, for the billion men, women, and children who suffer from the cruelest punishment inflicted on humanity: hunger." [Cuba's Minister for Foreign Affairs Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla](#) questioned how global military spending of US\$1.74 can be justified in the face of poverty, while [President Teodoro Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea](#) argued it is time for humanity to stop "wasting resources on extermination plans".

Andrew Chuter, Tom Kington, Albrecht Müller, Pierre Tran, [Special Report: Worldwide Spending and Priorities](#)

Defense spending by Europe's four biggest military powers is set to steadily fall over the next few years as continuing financial strains force further austerity measures. Britain, France, Germany and Italy have all been in retreat on defense spending for some time. France, Europe's second biggest defense spender, is in a budgetary holding pattern as the government prepares a defense and security white paper for publication at the end of the year. With British government finances still likely to be in poor shape by 2015, defense here could take a further spending hit after combat troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. In Germany, the government's defense draft budget for 2013 envisages a nominal increase of around 1.4 billion euros [\$1.8 billions] on this year. In the medium term, the German defense budget is supposed to decline to around 32.5 billion euros [\$42.2 billion] by 2015.

FRANCE

[Le Mouvement de la Paix, Online petition against the military budget 2013](#)

Le Mouvement de la Paix appeals to civilians and organisations to sign the online petition against the French military budget 2013. The French defense budget 2013 of more than 39 milliards euros is as high as the one of 2012. According to Le Mouvement de la Paix a budget of this size is not coherent within a modern economy in a globalized world. Money should be invested in humanitarian needs instead. Le Mouvement de la Paix invites people to sign the petition [here](#), to [download](#) the form and collect signatures, and to spread the word to others.

UNITED STATES

Lawrence S. Wittner, [Peace Dividend Proclamation](#)

The Albany County Legislature, New York recently passed a Peace Dividend [Proclamation](#), which calls upon Congress to bring U.S. troops home from Afghanistan, cut the U.S. military budget, and use the savings to fund vital public programs at home. Within the past year or so, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a similar resolution, as did [the governments of numerous cities](#), including Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Hartford, and Portland. Even so, the idea of "moving the money" from war to peace had largely fallen off the political radar screen. The Albany County Peace Dividend Proclamation, as it was soon dubbed, has helped bring it back to public attention. Read more about the topic [here](#) or [here](#).

UNITED KINGDOM

Scientists for Global Responsibility, [The decline of UK military R&D](#)

October 22, 2012 - Latest official statistics show that UK government spending on military research and development has fallen considerably over the last ten years. Scientists for Global Responsibility, SGR, has been calling for that. While in Russia and other former Soviet countries spending cuts of about 90% took place directly after the Cold War, in the West cuts were much more limited. The UK situation demonstrated this well. After a slow decline, the UK's military expenditures grew rapidly again after September 11, 2001. Nevertheless, starting in 2002, the budget for military research and development was cut considerably. This downward trend is likely to continue until at least 2015.

B IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

Control Arms, [UN Diplomats agree to conclude Arms Trade Treaty negotiations in 2013](#)

November 7, 2012 - At the UN First Committee, member states passed resolution L.11 on the Arms Trade Treaty to hold a major diplomatic conference in March 2013. The vote was an unprecedented 157 in favor, 18 abstentions and 0 votes against. For the first time, China voted in favor of an ATT resolution. Discussions, over the last four weeks at the United Nations on the next steps for negotiations on a future treaty aimed at regulating the trade in conventional weapons and ammunition, ended today with the agreement to hold new talks next year. Prior negotiations on the ATT, which took place during a Diplomatic Conference in July, ended in failure after several governments, including the United States, blocked the agreement by demanding extra time to agree on a draft text.

Human Rights Watch, [Nations Should Step-Up 'Humanitarian Disarmament' - Campaigns Summit Communiqué](#)

October 24, 2012 - Following a highly successful summit, Human Rights Watch and 30 other nongovernmental organizations issued a communiqué urging more protection for civilians from armed violence. They urge that governments should increase efforts to achieve strong disarmament initiatives driven by humanitarian concerns to strengthen international law. The communiqué was issued after 90 representatives from nongovernmental organizations and coalitions gathered in New York City for a Humanitarian Disarmament Campaigns Summit convened by Human Rights Watch on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. For the Communiqué of the Humanitarian Disarmament Campaigns Summit, click [here](#).

[ICBL celebrates its 20 years and calls for putting a final end to landmines](#)

October 19, 2012 - Activists use the 20th anniversary of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines to call on international community to put a final end to antipersonnel landmines. Events marking this anniversary will take place in over 20 countries this fall.



In October 1992, the ICBL was born to put an urgent stop to a humanitarian crisis, which was leaving more than 20,000 people killed or maimed by antipersonnel mines every year. ICBL's efforts were crucial to the development, negotiation, adoption and signing of the Mine Ban Treaty in 1997, the first treaty to ban a weapon in widespread use. Since then the campaign has continued working around the world to turn the words of the treaty into real change on the ground.

ICBUW, [UN vote backs precautionary approach to depleted uranium weapons](#)

November 6, 2012 - 138 states have supported a resolution calling for a precautionary approach to depleted uranium weapons at the United Nations First Committee. This is the fourth and most far reaching resolution to date on DU weapons. The resolution recalls the positions taken by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) after their fieldwork on DU affected sites in the Balkans, which called for a precautionary approach to DU. In UNEP's view, precaution should be backed by clean-up and decontamination, awareness raising measures to reduce the risk of civilian exposure and the long-term monitoring of contaminated sites.

2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

UNITED KINGDOM

Simon Hooper, [Announcement of an extra \\$565m for improved nuclear weapons capacity worries critics in an era of austerity](#)

November 6, 2012 - Since the late 1960s Britain's nuclear deterrent strategy has required that at least one of the Royal Navy's submarines be operational and fully armed at all times. Conceived in response to the perceived threat of a surprise Soviet assault on western Europe, Britain's deterrent remains a classic throwback to the nuclear brinkmanship of the Cold War. Yet, two decades after the Soviet Union's collapse, the UK government this week took a big step towards replacing its current submarine-launched Trident missile system with a like-for-like successor that would take to the seas by 2028. "Our nuclear deterrent is the ultimate safeguard of our national security. We have made a clear commitment to maintain that deterrent," said Philip Hammond, the British defence minister, announcing an additional \$565m in spending - on top of \$4.8bn already committed to the project - for design work on a next-generation replacement for the Vanguard fleet.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

[Counting the Cost - The economics of peace: Al Jazeera interviews](#)

Al Jazeera had a look at two countries in the process of making peace. Colombia, aside from the advances it has made with rebel group the FARC, has seen some remarkable growth in the last decade. In fact, Colombia is Latin America's third-largest economy, worth some \$378bn in 2012. As a nation blessed with mineral wealth, it could be even more prosperous if it was able to successfully conclude peace talks with the FARC rebels. In the Philippines there has been a peace agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), looking to end a decades-long conflict. The country's economy is worth \$225bn - smaller than local rivals, but almost triple what it was a decade ago. Unemployment rates have improved, but poverty remains the country's most critical problem. Watch the video on that topic [here](#).

Making Peace exhibition to be shown in Utrecht and Stockholm



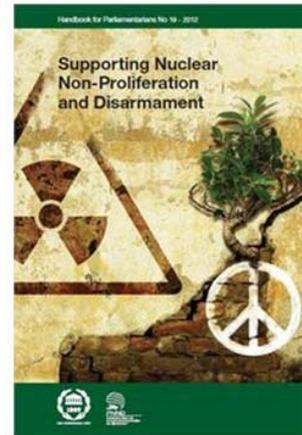
[The Making Peace photographic exhibition](#) - originally produced in 2010 to mark the IPB's Nobel centenary, will be shown both in Utrecht (May - August) and at the Nobel Museum (June - November) in 2013. The exhibition explains what 5 essential elements are necessary to create a sustainable peace. Curated and managed by Ashley Woods and [REALexpo.org](#), it is hoped that Making Peace will be shown in many other cities around the world over the coming decade. A

dedicated educational syllabus is also being developed that will be freely available for teachers to download from the Making Peace website. If you or your organisation would like to see Making Peace presented in your town or city send an email to: help@makingpeace.org. Watch a video about Making Peace in Geneva [here](#).

4. RESOURCES

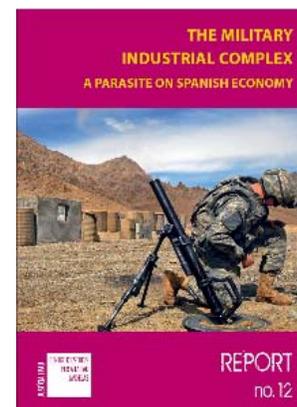
PNND and IPU launched Parliamentary Handbook: United Nations Day - October 24

Nearly 800 parliamentarians from 150 gathered in Quebec City for the 127th Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly from October 21-26th 2012. PNND and IPU used the occasion to launch a Parliamentary Handbook on Supporting Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament. The Handbook has been prepared to assist parliaments to extend the rule of law more deeply into the domain of disarmament. It contains background on a wide range of non-proliferation and disarmament issues, along with examples of exemplary parliamentary practices and recommendations for further action by parliaments. The launch also included the screening of a video message from parliamentarians from around the world, a plenary event, and a workshop on new and innovative tools to promote nuclear disarmament.



Delàs Centre, Report: The military industrial complex: Parasite on the Spanish economy

The Delàs Centre, IPB member organization, presents its 12th report. The report examines the most relevant companies that supply weapons to the Ministry of Defence and it reveals the existence of a military industrial oligopoly which accounts for over 75% of the total military turnover. The military-industrial complex consists of the framework or revolving door between the military, army commanders, political and financial groups that benefit from defence contracts. The report by Pere Ortega and Camino Simarro shows how the military industry has increased the national debt and has created what the authors have named an arms bubble. Buy the report [here](#).



John Dear S.J. (National Catholic Reporter), 'Nuclear Savage': A documentary on U.S. hydrogen bombs

October 30, 2012 - "[Nuclear Savage: The Islands of Secret Project 4.1.](#)" is a powerful documentary about the U.S. hydrogen bomb explosions in the islands in the South Pacific, the U.S. government's campaign to keep the indigenous people on those contaminated islands and the secret program monitoring the effects of radiation on them. Former Greenpeace activist Adam Horowitz uses recently declassified government film footage and recent interviews with survivors to tell this nightmarish nuclear tale.

IALANA, International Newsletter No 3

October 2012 - IPB member organization IALANA has issued their third international newsletter. Covered are several topics such as nuclear insecurity and tests, the Nobel Peace Prize, disarmament and sustainable development. Also, it reports from conferences and meetings, such as the 2012 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, and an informal meeting of the General Assembly to mark the Observance of the International Day Against Nuclear Tests. New brochures and reports such as "The Role of the IAEA today", "Commit Universities to peace: Yes to civil clauses!", and "Living Under Drones" are introduced. Find the newsletter [here](#).

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