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*The Calendar of Events is available as a separate document*

*Note: IPB has 8 websites now! See list at <http://www.ipb.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 (totalling \$1531 billion in 2009); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development.*

### GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING

12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011 - initial report



IPB and the Institute for Policy Studies (co-organisers) are delighted to report that around 100 actions were organised in 35 countries on and around April 12. We believe this is an excellent result, given that this is the first ever Global Day of Action on this subject.

The **range of actions** was impressive:

*The Foundation for Peace in Barcelona produced this short, powerful video on military spending versus Millennium Development Goals. Activists leafleted subway stations in Medellin, Colombia. In Athens, protestors erected eye-catching displays and invited passers-by to indicate where they would spend government money. The Japanese NGO Peace Boat docked in the Philippines where atomic bomb survivors held events with local groups on the costs of war. The Australian anti-base movement produced this video of many citizens speaking with one voice. In front of the UN offices in Geneva, the International Peace Bureau was creatively thinking inside the box with this visual representation of global spending priorities. In London, the Campaign Against the Arms Trade did a die-in at the steps of the Treasury building. In the Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania, activists did a walk for peace through a community devastated by cuts in social spending. In Corvallis, Oregon, Veterans for Peace set up in front of the library, where hours have been cut back because of funding, and asked people to indicate their own budget priorities. The indie pop group Peachcake composed a song for the Global Day.*

**Reports:** Written texts, photos, videos are available on our website: <http://demilitarize.org/event-reports/> (organised by region). In some cases this includes media coverage. A summary report will be published very soon. A full report will be drafted over the coming weeks and will be made available on the website.

**Strategy:** In addition, IPB and IPS are planning to produce a strategy document which we hope will offer a

framework for follow-up actions on military spending. For this we would like to encourage all participating groups to send in their ideas.

**Actions** could be considered at 4 main levels: LOCAL – NATIONAL – REGIONAL - INTERNATIONAL. They can be analysed according to sectors: peace – social justice – women – youth -labor- environmental etc. We can also think about types of activity: petitions, lobbying, public education, dialogue work etc.

## **A MILITARY SPENDING – additional items**

### **Bring War Dollars Home by Closing Down Bases**

*By Christine Ahn and Sukjong Hong - Foreign Policy in Focus*

March 31 - On the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, U.S. government approved a military action in Libya. President Obama signed the Congress' budget that includes \$1.2 trillion dollars for military and security expenditure. However, a recent poll found that only 47 % of Americans approve this intervention, representing the lowest level of popular support in the last 40 years. Americans are weary of war. The recent world economic crisis has heavily hit the U.S., threatening job opportunities, health plans, and pensions. Nevertheless, a very strong grassroots movement has mobilized ordinary people all across the U.S. by launching the New Priorities Campaign: "Bring the troops and war dollars home". People ask the government to cut defense and military spending instead of cuts on benefits, employment and basic public services... Central to these efforts must include shutting the 1,000-plus U.S. military bases in over 46 countries.

>>See: [http://www.fpif.org/articles/bring\\_war\\_dollars\\_home\\_by\\_closing\\_down\\_bases](http://www.fpif.org/articles/bring_war_dollars_home_by_closing_down_bases)

### **Financing for development: Facing new challenges**

*From DESA News – Department for Economic and Social Affairs*

Once again, UN experts rack their brains to think up new ways of financing development ignoring the elephant in the room, namely the US \$ 1500+ military expense. However, civil society is now very much engaged in activities aimed at encouraging governments to transfer part of funds put it towards the armament to tackle other world priorities, like inequality and environmental crisis. An ideal opportunity for world awareness on military expenditure arises on April 12: the first-ever Global Day of Action on Military Spending, with over 100 endorsements and dozens of public events scheduled worldwide. Importantly, this issue was raised by the NGO Committee on Financing for Development during the UN meeting:

>>See: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ecosoc/springmeetings/2011/NGO1.pdf>

>>See: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/newsletter/2011/april/feature.shtml#fea1>

### **Budget Deal Would Give Pentagon Extra Funds In Exchange For Social Program Cuts**

*From Huffington Post*

April 4 - While media attention focuses on the cuts to government spending demanded by House Republicans and broadly accepted by Democrats, the Pentagon is poised to reap billions more in federal funds. The confines of the budget negotiations established by the two parties results in a system where every extra dollar going to military spending ends up being offset by a dollar reduction in spending on domestic social programs.....

>>See: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/04/04/defense-spending-budget-as-pa\\_n\\_844692.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/04/04/defense-spending-budget-as-pa_n_844692.html)

### **Ethiopia to increase defense budget amid rising tension with Eritrea**

*By Tesfa-Alem Tekle*

March 20 - Ethiopia will increase its military spending to safeguard itself from its enemies, Prime Minister Zenawi said Saturday, days after Addis Ababa threatened to take military action against neighboring Eritrea. Zenawi, who is also the commander-in-chief of the National Defense Forces, did not disclose how much the increase would be. He made the remarks at the Ethiopian Defense Command and Staff College. "While the nation is marching toward realizing renaissance we have noticed wide activities from enemies to disrupt this track", Zenawi said citing the activities of what he said were Eritrea-backed groups. "To defend our country from enemy attacks and to sustain the ongoing economic development we will be increasing our military expenditure" he said.

>>See: <http://www.sudantribune.com/Ethiopia-s-to-increase-defense,38344>

### **Controversial Weapons and the Law: why investors need to be informed**

*From Experts in Responsible Investments Solutions*

This webinar held on 26 January set out a compelling case for why investors should be informed about controversial weapons and the law in this area. Richard Moyes, Director of Policy & Research from Landmine Action, provided an excellent and visual introduction to the real impact of controversial weapons. Professor Grief gave an informative overview of international law on controversial weapons and its relevance for investors....To view the speaker presentations

>>See: <http://www.eiris.org/files/events/RichardMoyesPresentation.pdf>

>>See: <http://www.eiris.org/files/events/NickGriefPresentation.pdf>

>>See: <http://www.eiris.org/files/events/DavidCockburnPresentation.pdf>

>>See: <http://www.eiris.org/files/events/VictoriaWoodbridgePresentation.pdf>

Additional resources on controversial weapons: [www.landmineaction.org](http://www.landmineaction.org)

### **U.N. Chief Proposes Budget-Cutting Austerity Drive**

By *Thalif Deen*. April 5 – U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is on an austerity drive seeking deep cuts amounting to about 155 million \$ in the U.N.'s 2012-13 budget. The proposed cuts include reduction of official travel (in favor of an increase in video conferencing); curtailment or suspension of consultancies; cutting down on printed reports (in favour of electronic documents); and an overall reduction in overtime payments. ....The secretary-general has proposed a reduction of about 3% on the next U.N. budget. The 5.2 billion \$ budget is about 20% higher than the 2008-2009 one (4.2 billion \$). "We must be realistic about the current economic climate", he said to senior managers recently - "Even the wealthiest nations are tightening their belts and cutting budgets. The UN must be no less disciplined. We cannot go about business as usual."

>>See: <http://www.ipsterraviva.net/UN/news.asp?idnews=55136>

### **Peace Indexes (and US Peace Index)**

The **Global Peace Index** is a project of the Institute for Economics and Peace. It represents a ground-breaking milestone in the study of peace, ranking nations according to their degree of peacefulness, and identifying some of the drivers of peace....The GPI uses metrics that combine both internal and external factors. The Institute for Economics and Peace has released the first-ever **United States Peace Index**, ranking for the first time the 50 US states according to their peacefulness, and identifying hundreds of billions of dollars of potential economic benefits. The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) is an independent, not-for-profit international research institute dedicated to building a greater understanding of the key drivers and measures of peace, and to identifying the economic benefits that an increased peacefulness can deliver.

>>See: <http://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/U.S.-Peace-Index-2011-3.pdf>

>>See: <http://www.economicsandpeace.org/>

>>See: <http://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/U.S.-Peace-Index-Changes-in-U.S.-Peacefulness-1991-2011.pdf>

### **Libya: Is cost of military mission sustainable?**

By *Peter Jackson BBC News*

March 22 - As Britain flexes its military muscle at Col. Gaddafi alongside international partners, the human cost of this mission is the foremost concern. Seen the government intent of saving billions of pounds, and the lacks of a clear exit strategy from Libya, how financially sustainable will this mission be? Prof Malcolm Chalmers from the Royal United Services Institute said the cost of the military intervention in Libya will fluctuate depending on the direction the mission will take: "If the war goes on for a relatively limited time - weeks rather than months - then we're talking about relatively small sums - at least compared to Afghanistan, which costs £4bn a year".

>>See: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12806709>

### **Netherlands unveils severe military cuts, up to 12,000 jobs will go, or 1 in 6**

By *The Associated Press*

April 8 - The Dutch government will cut 12,000 military jobs, or more than one in six of all armed forces personnel, as part of spending cuts aimed at balancing the budget by 2015, officials said. Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the country was making "difficult choices, but still expects to be able to contribute to military and peacekeeping missions as a member of NATO and the U.N". In recent years, Dutch soldiers have served in Iraq, Afghanistan and on anti-piracy missions. Dutch F-16s are now serving with NATO forces above Libya...

>>See: <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/world/breakingnews/netherlands-to-detail-severe-military-cuts-at-least-10000-jobs-will-go-or-1-in-7-119464484.html>

### **Cameron 'to review defense cuts'**

*By Oliver Wright, Whitehall Editor*

April 8 - The UK Government is prepared to rethink planned reductions in military equipment and manpower which were announced as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. David Cameron has told the Treasury to give the Ministry of Defence a reprieve on its overspent 2011-12 budget - partly as a consequence of additional spending on operations in Libya. Ministers are adamant that there is no scope for a formal reopening of the defence review but Mr Cameron and his team are said to be looking at whether the SDSR's cuts went too far and left Britain inadequately equipped for today's international security situation.

>>See: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/cameron-to-review-defence-cuts-2265137.html>

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

### **Statement of the ICC condemning the attacks on Libya**

*From International Co-coordinating Committee No to War – No to NATO (ICC)*

March 28 - The ICC strongly condemns the attacks of USA, France, and Britain to Libya. According to the ICC, the attacks were clearly prepared before the United Nations Security Council authorized the no-fly zone, and do not contribute to a solution of the Libyan crisis, but only add further suffering. The ICC also strongly criticizes UN Security Council Resolution 1973, which authorizes military action against Libya, and opposes the violence used by the regime of Col. Gaddafi to suppress the Libyan peoples' demands for democracy. ...Far from bringing a solution to the civil war, UNSC Resolution 1973 merely adds a third military actor to the war, with far greater destructive capabilities.

>>See: <http://www.ikff.no/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/ICC-Delcaration-on-Libya.pdf>

### **Concern grows over possible use of depleted uranium in Libya**

*From International Coalition to Ban Depleted Uranium*

March 30 – The likelihood of DU use in Libya has increased following the deployment and use of A-10 and Harrier AV-8B aircraft. ICBUW calls for pressure on the US government to clarify the situation, and to ban DU ammunition. A-10s are known to have been active in Libya and are likely to have been used in other operations. At the Department of Defense briefing in March, Vice Admiral Gortney stated that only precision guided ammunition (i.e. bombs and missiles) was being fired.

>>See: <http://www.bandepleteduranium.org/en/a/397.html>

### **Libya: Government Use of Landmines Confirmed - Rebel forces pledge not to use mines**

*From Human Rights Watch*

March 30 –Gaddafi's forces have laid both antipersonnel and anti-vehicle mines during the current conflict with armed opposition groups, Human Rights Watch confirmed today. "Libya should immediately stop using antipersonnel mines, which most of the world banned years ago" said Peter Bouckaert, Emergencies Director, Human Rights Watch. "Gaddafi's forces should ensure that mines of every type that already have been laid are cleared as soon as possible to avoid civilian casualties"....

>>See: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/03/30/libya-government-use-landmines-confirmed>

### **Libya: lessons in controlling the arms trade**

*Pieter D. Wezeman – Stockholm International Peace Research institute*

March 11 - In the current military air strikes against Libyan forces, governments that once supported Colonel Gaddafi's regime are now attacking the forces they were marketing and delivering arms to only a few weeks before. As the violence escalates and the international community examines how to respond to internal conflict and human rights violations, arms supply should be analyzed as it implicates the international community as complicit in the violence it is now trying to end. This is not the first time the world's arms manufacturers - largely the United States and European countries – later need to face the consequences of selling weapons to regimes that turn those arms against their own people.

>>See:

<http://www.sipri.org/media/newsletter/essay/march11>

>>See: [http://www.upi.com/Business\\_News/Security-Industry/2011/04/05/Arms-sales-to-Libya-haunt-Europeans/UPI-67101302034708/#ixzz1lit8Aqrj](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2011/04/05/Arms-sales-to-Libya-haunt-Europeans/UPI-67101302034708/#ixzz1lit8Aqrj)

### **North and South Sudan Militarizing Abyei, Warns UN General**

March 30 – According to the UN mission in Sudan's chief commander, a build-up of military weapons in Abyei by forces from both north and south Sudan is raising fears of further violence in the disputed region. UNMIS had evidence that Khartoum and Juba were shipping weapons into Abyei, and warned of violence escalating rapidly if a political solution was not reached". "UNMIS made a presentation on the subject, and we drew the attention of the parties that we have evidence that both sides have militarized Abyei" Major General Moses Obi told reporters in Khartoum. ...Fighting and recriminations have flared in Abyei this month, with at least 70 people killed, and amid reports of both sides reinforcing their positions.

>>See: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110330/wl\\_africa\\_afp/sudanunrestabyei\\_20110330170133](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110330/wl_africa_afp/sudanunrestabyei_20110330170133)

## **2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

### **A Hiroshima survivor's comment on Fukushima - Swiss paper Le Matin**

*From Peace Boat*

March 26 - Mr Shoso Hirai is a Hiroshima survivor currently traveling around the world on Peace Boat as Special Communicator for a World Without Nuclear Weapons. He feels betrayed by nuclear technology: "We have always been told that nuclear energy was clean and safe. Until Fukushima, I had nothing against nuclear energy. Today, in light of the risks of radiation, I believe we must give it up". There are over 200,000 Hibakusha in Japan today, among them some 2000 suffer from illnesses caused by radioactivity. Associations of Hibakusha fear that those who have been exposed to radiation in Fukushima may endure the same discriminations as the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, including in terms of employment as uneducated people feared they could be contaminated by working with them.

>>See: <http://www.lematin.ch/actu/monde/shoso-hirai-sens-trahi-nucleaire-398623>

Peace Boat just launched an emergency relief project and are calling for global support:

>>See: <http://www.peaceboat.org/english/index.php?page=view&nr=19&type=22&menu=62>

### **Vancouver Declaration Affirms the Incompatibility of Nuclear Weapons with International Humanitarian Law**

*By The Simons Foundation and the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA)*

March 23 - the Vancouver Declaration affirms that nuclear weapons are incompatible with international humanitarian law. The declaration observes that because of their uncontrollable blast, heat, and radiation effects, nuclear weapons are indeed weapons of mass destruction that cannot comply with fundamental rules forbidding the infliction of indiscriminate and disproportionate harm.

>>See: [http://www.lcnp.org/wcourt/Feb2011VancouverConference/declaration\\_mediarelease.pdf](http://www.lcnp.org/wcourt/Feb2011VancouverConference/declaration_mediarelease.pdf)

>>See: [http://www.lcnp.org/wcourt/Feb2011VancouverConference/vancouver\\_declaration.pdf](http://www.lcnp.org/wcourt/Feb2011VancouverConference/vancouver_declaration.pdf)

>>See: [http://www.lcnp.org/wcourt/Feb2011VancouverConference/signatories\\_32211.pdf](http://www.lcnp.org/wcourt/Feb2011VancouverConference/signatories_32211.pdf)

>>See: <http://www.thesimonsfoundation.ca/highlights/experts-declare-nuclear-weapons-contrary-international-humanitarian-law>

## **3. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Mine Awareness day -- Secretary-General's Message for 2011**

April 4 - The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is a timely reminder that clearing land of explosive remnants of war saves lives and protects livelihoods. Mine clearance prevents an indiscriminate weapon from causing harm and havoc long after conflicts have ended, while also creating jobs, transforming danger zones into productive land and setting societies on course for lasting security. Last year, hundreds of thousands of people received United Nations mine risk education that prevented tragedy for individuals, families and communities. UN development agencies are striving to connect mine action with broader development plans to promote agricultural production, strengthen infrastructure, improve water supply and provide better education and health services. These are all essential to reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

>>See: [http://www.un.org/en/events/mineawarenessday/sg\\_message.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/events/mineawarenessday/sg_message.shtml)

### **No to militarization of research and teaching - Yes to civil clause**

*Organizers: United Network International (UNI), International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES)*

An international seminar on "Experiences in the Fight Against Armament Research" will take place in Braunschweig, Germany on Friday May 27. The seminar aims at an international exchange of information and experiences as well as perspectives of the fight against armament research in key industrial countries.

Info: Braunschweig, Technische Universität, Pockelsstraße 11, Haus der Wissenschaft, [office@inesglobal.com](mailto:office@inesglobal.com) , Fax: +49 (0)30 2065 4858.

### **"Mercenaries still pose a serious threat to human rights," warns UN expert body**

*From the United Nations Office of The High Commissioner for Human Rights*

April 8 - The United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries discussed recent events in Cote d'Ivoire and Libya and warned that mercenaries are still very active in Africa where they often have been recruited to attack civilians. "The issue of mercenaries is still alive" - said the Group's Chair-Rapporteur, José Luis Gómez del Prado. In this regard, the Working Group reiterated its call on States to ratify the International Convention against the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries of 4 December 1989.

>>See: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/NewsSearch.aspx?SID= Mercenaries>

## **4. RESOURCES**

### **Concerns re bio-weapons**

*From NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security*

More than three decades after the BWC's entry into force, other concerns are rising up. Fewer states have ratified the treaty than either the CWC or the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In addition, the threat of biological weapons is generally thought to be growing. According to the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission's 2006 report, Weapons of Terror: "Concerns about possible future weapons are even greater than the concerns about today's biological weapons". While experts are sharply divided on the likelihood of non-state actors successfully acquiring and using biological weapons, fast-moving advances in the biological sciences represent further concern. The upcoming Review Conference offers the opportunity for more commitment to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention.

>>See: <http://disarm.igc.org/images/PDF/dt.2011.1.pdf>

### **What NATO countries say about the future of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe**

A large majority of the 28 NATO countries supports the withdrawal of American tactical nuclear weapons from Europe, or will not block a consensus decision on this issue. Only three NATO-countries (France, Hungary and Lithuania) say they oppose withdrawal. This is the outcome of interviews held by peace organization IKV-Pax Christi with all of the 28 NATO-delegations and several NATO-staffers. The results of the interviews are published in the report "Withdrawal Issues: What NATO countries say about the future of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe".

>>See: <http://www.nonukes.nl/documentation/withdrawal-issues:-what-nato-countries-say-about-the-future-of-tactical-nuclear-weapons-in-europe>

### **Disarmament Year Book, Volume 35, Part I – 2010**

*By United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*

March 31 – Part I of the 2010 Yearbook compiles the resolutions and decisions of the previous General Assembly, their voting patterns in the GA and the 1st Committee, lead sponsors, sponsors and co-sponsors, references to 1st Committee report and dates of adoption; contains a quick view of votes by cluster for an easy handle on resolution numbers, titles and votes in the Assembly and in the 1st Committee. Part II summarizes main multilateral issues under consideration and is forthcoming in early autumn, 2011.

### **Afghanistan: Militarism, Mutilation, and Minerals**

*By Iara Lee, Culture of Resistance*

"When I was in Afghanistan, I had the honor of interviewing renowned activist, former parliamentarian, and feminist Malalai Joya. Her work and courage to speak out the Afghan government's corruption and US occupation of her country have been an inspiration to many throughout the world. I was greatly dismayed, but not surprised when the U.S. State Department denied Joya a VISA to enter the United States for a speaking tour. Fortunately, after a campaign of public pressure, the U.S. government has relented, and Joya is now in

the U.S. to share her story. Thanks to all who campaigned on her behalf! In conjunction with Joya's travels in the U.S., I am pleased to announce our short film: "*Militarism, Mutilation and Minerals: Understanding the Occupation of Afghanistan*"."

>>See: <http://www.culturesofresistance.org/malalai-joya>

#### **Foundation for a Culture of Peace Bulletin**

The Foundation Culture of Peace is initiating this electronic bulletin "From Force to Words".

Its title is a profound message, the essential transition that we must achieve at the dawning of this century and millennium, which will represent the definitive emancipation of mankind. ....It is finally within our power, working together daily, to achieve the transition from a secular culture of violence and war to a culture of dialogue, conciliation and peace.

>>See: <http://www.fund-culturadepaz.org/>

>>See: <http://fund-culturadepaz.org/boletin.html>

#### **New Exhibition from the 1000 PeaceWomen Across the Globe available**

*From Peace Women Across the Globe*

The organization participates in activities related to the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on «Women, Peace and Security». Our exhibition «*No Women – No Peace*» calls attention to the (non-) implementation of this important resolution. Women are especially concerned about war and violence. History clearly demonstrates that real peace and security are only possible when women are involved in peace processes, bringing their experiences and needs to the table. The exhibition is now available to all women's and peace organizations worldwide! «No Women – No Peace» is presented in three parts: **1.Posters** on the history and contents of Resolution 1325; **2.DVD with video statements** ; **3.1000 postcards**.

>>See: [http://www.1000peacewomen.org/eng/projekte\\_10yearsUNSCR1325.php](http://www.1000peacewomen.org/eng/projekte_10yearsUNSCR1325.php)

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