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

*IPB has 7 websites! Apart from our MAIN SITE: <http://www.ipb.org>, see also:*

*Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ipb1910>*

*Twitter: <http://twitter.com/IntlPeaceBureau>*

*PROJECT: Global Day of Action on Military Spending : <http://www.demilitarize.org>*

*+ Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_100733129991763](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_100733129991763)*

*+ Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/globalday412>*

*PROJECT: 'Making Peace' Photo-exhibition (100 panels) -- <http://www.makingpeace.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 \$1630 billion in 2010); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development.*

**A- MILITARY SPENDING****UNITED STATES****Mark Thompson: How to Save a Trillion Dollars**

April, 2011 - Can the U.S. really afford more than 500 bases at home and around the world? Do the Air Force, Navy and Marines really need \$400 billion in new jet fighters when their fleets of F-15s, F-16s and F-18s will give them vast air superiority for years to come? Does the Navy need 50 attack submarines when America's main enemy hides in caves? Does the Army still need 80,000 troops in Europe 66 years after the defeat of Adolf Hitler? According to Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff "the single biggest threat to American national security is the debt." .....

Read more: <http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,2065108,00.html#ixzz1MtWiHFiy>

**INDIA****Control Arms Foundation of India – BBC: India is world's 'largest importer' of arms**

April, 2011 - India has overtaken China to become the world's largest importer of arms, a Sweden-based think tank says. A report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) says India accounted for 9% of all weapons imports between 2006 and 2010. India will continue to be to the leading arms importer in the coming future, the report adds. [Read More](#)

**UNITED STATES****Judith LeBlanc, Peace Blog - Why not cut the Pentagon budget?**

April 2011- Across the political spectrum, think tanks, military specialists and some in Congress are beginning to

agitate for cutting the Pentagon budget. The Congressional Progressive Caucus proposed the [People's Budget](#). It approaches the deficit from the angle of strengthening our communities at a time of great need. It finds the revenue needed through proposals for the super rich and corporations to pay their fair share of taxes. It frees up revenue by ending the wars and cutting the bloat out of the Pentagon budget. Read more: <http://peaceblog.wordpress.com/2011/04/28/why-not-cut-the-pentagon-budget/>

#### **UNITED STATES**

**Chris Hellman, TomDispatch: The real U.S. National security budget, the figure no one wants you to see**

1 March 2011 - "It's often said that military and security expenditures make up 20% of the federal budget. But you have to wonder about that figure when you consider what the U.S. national security budget adds up to. Let's face it: what American taxpayers really fork over for "national security" should make us all feel exceedingly insecure". Christopher Hellman of the National Priorities Project, an expert on military spending offers a startling figure that undoubtedly could have -- and should have -- been calculated long ago by others in the media and in government. Perhaps, though, Americans in Washington and out would prefer not to know where their money is really going". Read full article:

[http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175361/tomgram%3A\\_chris\\_hellman%2C\\_%241.2\\_trillion\\_for\\_national\\_security](http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175361/tomgram%3A_chris_hellman%2C_%241.2_trillion_for_national_security)

#### **UNITED STATES**

**Tom Curry : Will there be an Osama 'peace dividend'?**

April, 2011 - "With Osama bin Laden dead, can America go back to the days before terrorism and the big defence costs that came with it? Military spending after 9/11 amounted to \$291 billion or about 15 percent of total spending. Until now, cuts in defence spending haven't played a dominant role in the budget debate. But if U.S. troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan and if voters don't see the need for continued outlays at post-9/11 levels, it could transform the budget debate. Smaller military outlays might reduce the need for big cuts elsewhere in politically risky budget items like Medicare spending". Read full article:

<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/42879948/ns/politics/>

#### **UNITED STATES**

**Tim Fernholz: The Cost of Bin Laden: \$3 Trillion Over 15 Years - As we mark Osama bin Laden's death, what's striking is how much he cost our nation--and how little we've gained from our fight against him.**

May 2011 - By conservative estimates, bin Laden cost the United States at least \$3 trillion over the past 15 years, counting the disruptions he wrought on the domestic economy, the wars and heightened security triggered by the terrorist attacks he engineered, and the direct efforts to hunt him down. But that willingness may have given bin Laden exactly what he wanted. While the terrorist leader began his war against the United States believing it to be a "paper tiger" that would not fight, by 2004 he had already shifted his strategic aims, explicitly comparing the U.S. fight to the Afghan incursion that helped bankrupt the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Read full article: <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2011/05/the-cost-of-bin-laden-3-trillion-over-15-years/238517/>

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

**Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Cost of Trident to double as ministers set to announce replacement plans**

May 2011 - Ministers are set to give the go-ahead to the next stage of the replacement of Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system this week, yet figures released to an MP show that rather than the original estimate of £11-14bn, the bill for new submarines is expected to come in at around £26bn. More info: <http://www.cnduk.org/>

#### **GERMANY**

**Judy Dempsey: Germany Plans Deep Cuts to Its Armed Forces**

May 2011 - Defense Minister Thomas de Maizière on Wednesday unveiled plans to reduce troop numbers, cut bureaucracy and eliminate duplication inside a ministry known for its conservative and cumbersome structures. The army would be turned into a solely professional force. The number of troops would be reduced to around

185,000, from 250,000, of which 5,000 to 15,000 would be short-term volunteer recruits. Mr. de Maizière also intends to reduce the number of civilians working for the military by 19,000, to 55,000. In the Defense Ministry itself, civilian staff will be cut to 2,000, from 3,000. Read full article: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/19/world/europe/19iht-germany19.html>

## B IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

### **Cluster Munition Coalition Action Alert : 25 May, Global Day of Action**

On 25 May the CMC will hold a **Global Day of Action to Stop Explosive Investments**. This is an opportunity to call on governments to pass legislation to prohibit investments in cluster munition producers, to announce that they consider investments in cluster munition producers to be prohibited, and to urge banks and other financial institutions to disinvest from cluster munition producers. A comprehensive list of government policies from around the world can be found at [www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/legislation](http://www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/legislation)  
Campaign materials available at <http://www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/take-action/campaign-toolkit>:

### **Control Arms: Second Preparatory Committee for an Arms Trade Treaty**

28 February - 4 March 2011 - During the second Preparatory Committee held at the United Nations in New York City, many States' positions shifted constructively and the overall sentiment seemed to be for a robust, bulletproof Arms Trade Treaty. Events in the Middle East and North Africa have reminded governments that they cannot continue to operate like in the old days. They have a responsibility to ensure that any weapon, ammunition or equipment will not be used against innocent civilians. The Arms Trade Treaty under negotiation will ensure this by requiring governments to refuse transfers of conventional arms if there is a substantial risk of serious human rights violations, war crimes or terrorist acts. Control Arms Campaign: [Q & A on the latest Negotiations](http://www.controlarms.org/index.php), . [www.controlarms.org/index.php](http://www.controlarms.org/index.php).

### **Geneva, Switzerland**

#### **UNHCHR – N. Pillay: Libya's indiscriminate attacks on civilians in Misrata may be international crimes**

20 April 2011- The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay condemned the reported repeated use of cluster munitions and heavy weaponry by Libyan government forces in their attempt to regain control of the besieged city of Misrata, and said that such attacks on densely populated urban areas, resulting in substantial civilian casualties, could amount to international crimes. "I urge the Libyan authorities to face the reality that they are digging themselves and the Libyan population deeper and deeper into the quagmire. They must halt the siege of Misrata and allow aid and medical care to reach the victims of the conflict," Pillay said. Read the full statement at: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10954&LangID=E>

### **COSTA RICA**

#### **Costa Rica bans depleted uranium weapons, Landmark domestic legislation makes it the second country to pass a national ban**

April 27th 2011 - The Congress of Costa Rica passed a law prohibiting Uranium Weapons in its territories. This law will prohibit the use, commerce, transit, production, distribution and storage of uranium weapons in its territories. Efforts to obtain a ban began in Costa Rica at the beginning of 2009. Read more: <http://www.bandedpleteduranium.org/en/a/407.html>

#### **IANSA Women's Network: "They put their guns to our throats" - How and why to include women in international efforts to trace and uncover the illicit trade in SALW**

April 2011 - As States gather in New York for the very first UN Programme of Action Open Ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE), we see that women are yet again underrepresented in these discussions, in both civil society and country delegations. Why is it important, not only from an equality perspective but also from an efficiency perspective to take gender into account, when discussing the marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons? How can gender be taken into consideration in such technical discussions? The [Guidelines](http://www.iansa-women.org/) for "Mainstreaming gender for the effective implementation of the UN PoA" provides essential answers to these questions, some of which are outlined in this article. Read more: <http://www.iansa-women.org/>

## **YEMEN – BAHREIN**

### **Letta Tayler: EU should ban arms sales to Yemen and Bahrain**

May 11, 2011 - European leaders deplore the recent escalation of violence in Bahrain and Yemen, when security forces and pro-government assailants began brutal crackdowns on peaceful protesters seeking to oust their leaders. However, EU leaders have not done much to stop the flow of weapons that both governments have used against their citizens. Each year, EU states export millions of weapons to these repressive governments, with no regard for how these sales make them complicit in the murders of ordinary people demanding their rights. Read more: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/05/11/eu-should-ban-arms-sales-yemen-and-bahrain>

### **Small Arms Survey: Unplanned Explosions at Munitions Sites**

May 2011 - Unplanned explosions at munitions sites (UEMS) cause death, injury, and extensive damage to infrastructure, often resulting in long-term economic losses. A new Research Note from the Small Arms Survey, *Unplanned Explosions at Munitions Sites*, provides a concise overview of the problem, giving a breakdown of reported incidents by region and by causes, and offering some pointers on practical measures to reduce the likelihood of explosions. Download the report: [www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/H-Research\\_Notes/SAS-Research-Note-6.pdf](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/H-Research_Notes/SAS-Research-Note-6.pdf)

## **2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

### **JAPAN**

#### **Gensuikyo: Nuclear Power Plant, Nuclear Weapons and Humans' Future, a Month from East Japan Great Earthquake**

Massive support and assistance is being extended nationally and internationally to the sufferers of the huge earthquake and tsunami that hit eastern Japan on March 11, and of the subsequent damage caused by the nuclear power plant accident. As an organization that has worked for relieving the survivors of atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and ensuring the survival of human race, we are now carrying out nationwide activities to relieve the sufferers. [continue reading Article:](#)

### **JAPAN**

#### **Gensuikyo: Signature Campaign In Support Of The Appeal For Total Ban On Nuclear Weapons**

We are pleased to inform you that Gensuikyo launched a new signature campaign in support of the Appeal for Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons, which calls on all governments to enter negotiations for a convention banning nuclear weapons. We would like to express our gratitude to you and all the other friends overseas who have given support to the new signature campaign. [>continue reading New Signature Campaign for a Ban on Nuclear Weapons Starts](#)

### **CANADA**

#### **Nobel Peace Laureates to world leaders: No to nuclear power**

April 21, 2011 - On the eve of the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster - and six weeks after the devastating nuclear disaster in Japan - nine Nobel Peace Laureates are calling upon world leaders to invest in safer forms of renewable energy. The six women Peace Laureates of the Nobel Women's Initiative, + Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, and Jose Ramos Horta have sent an open letter to 31 heads of state whose countries are currently heavily invested in nuclear power production, or are considering investing in nuclear power. Read the whole letter: <http://www.nobelwomensinitiative.org/media-room/article/no-to-nuclear-power>

#### **ABOLITION 2000 - Progress and actions for the global abolition of nuclear weapons**

On 23 March 2011 a group of experts in international law and nuclear weapons policy released the *Vancouver Declaration on Law's Imperative for the Urgent Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World* as an outcome

document of the conference on *Law and Human Security: The Emerging Paradigm for Non-Use and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons* held in Vancouver from 10-11 February 2011 organised by the Simons Foundation and the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA). For more information see: - [Vancouver Declaration: Law's Imperative for the Urgent Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#)

### **International Campaign for Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, ICAN Geneva: Nuclear Abolition Day June 25**

April, 2011 - The ICAN encourages peace activists around the globe to take part in the Nuclear Abolition Day, an annual global day of action for a treaty to outlaw and eliminate all nuclear weapons. The leaders of the five nuclear weapons states will meet in Paris on 29 and 30 June to discuss nuclear security as a follow-up to the Review Conference. June 25 is our opportunity to send them, and all other governments, a loud and clear message: it is time to begin work on a treaty to outlaw and eliminate all nuclear weapons. Check ICAN website for more info on the campaign and events: [www.ican.org](http://www.ican.org)

### **JAPAN**

#### **Hiroshima, Nagasaki agree to deepen cooperation for nuclear-free world**

May 2011 - The newly elected Mayor of Hiroshima, Kazumi Matsui and Nagasaki Mayor, Tomihisa Taue, met on May 10<sup>th</sup> and agreed to continue their efforts to realize a world free from nuclear weapons. Read full article: <http://www.japantoday.com/category/politics/view/hiroshima-nagasaki-agree-to-deepen-cooperation-for-nuclear-free-world>

### **New Asia Pacific Leadership Group to work for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament**

May 27, 2011 - The launch of a new Asia Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (APLN) was announced on May 27, 2011. It comprises 30 former senior political, diplomatic and military leaders from thirteen countries around the region (including nuclear weapons possessing states China, India and Pakistan) and will inform and energize public opinion, and especially high-level policymakers, to take seriously the very real threats posed by nuclear weapons, and do everything possible to achieve a world in which they are contained, diminished and ultimately eliminated. For more detailed biographies of all members, see the APLN website: [www.a-pln.org](http://www.a-pln.org)

### **GENEVA**

#### **Dysfunctional Disarmament by Ban Ki-moon**

18 May 2011 – As the United Nations Conference on Disarmament begins a seven-week session in Geneva, its future is on the line. Whereas countries and civil-society initiatives are on the move, the Conference has stagnated. Its credibility – indeed, its very legitimacy – is at risk. Read full article: [http://www.todayszaman.com/news-244381-dysfunctional-disarmament-by-ban-ki-moon\\*.html](http://www.todayszaman.com/news-244381-dysfunctional-disarmament-by-ban-ki-moon*.html)

## **3. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **School for a Culture of Peace: Education for Peace Programme**

April, 2011 - The School for a Culture of Peace (Barcelona) has developed a new Education for Peace (EP) Programme to promote and develop EP values and attitudes among people both inside and outside the university community. A positive outlook on conflict is regained so that strategies and skills are created to enable people to face conflict by non-violent means. Training workshops for young people, educators, council personnel, etc. are provided to this end. The EP Programme staff members also work on community mediation initiatives and participate in the production of educational materials for various organisations. More info at: [http://escolapau.uab.cat/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=61&lang=en](http://escolapau.uab.cat/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=61&lang=en)

### **Women Peacemakers Program: Joining forces: engaging men as allies in gender-sensitive peace building**

April, 2011- Between March 30th and April 5th the New Tactics in Human Rights group, in collaboration with IFOR's WPP hosted an online dialogue entitled *"Joining Forces: Engaging men as allies in gender-sensitive peace building"*. The dialogue provided an excellent opportunity for participants from all over the world to discuss the concept and practicalities of engaging men as gender-sensitive male allies in the peacemaking process. In thinking about overcoming violence and building peaceful communities, working with men and concepts of masculinities can help to challenge destructive, violent mindsets and institutions. Read more: [http://www.ifor.org/WPP/wppmaterials\\_newsletters.html](http://www.ifor.org/WPP/wppmaterials_newsletters.html)

## **COLOMBIA**

### **Voice from the Field: The battle next door: an insider's experience with Colombian military discourse**

"The crazy part ... is not [that] there was combat (we live in a war zone); it's the news stories that came out the day after. These news stories paint[ed] a picture of the peace community and civil society as [being] targeted by the guerilla[s] with the military as their selfless saviors. The military would have everyone believe that had it not been for their presence, the guerilla[s] would have attacked the peace community. In reality, it was the military encampment that drew the guerrilla attack that put us all at risk". <http://www.cipamericas.org/archives/3889>

### **Training on Human Rights for Youth**

April 2011 – The International Peace Bureau has agreed to collaborate in a new online human rights training course created by a partnership of four European organizations ([RESPECT Refugees Europe](#), [Student-Youth Council](#), [Informagiovani](#), [Global Youth Union Foundation](#)). The aim is to provide a training on human rights for members and volunteers from youth European organizations, to help them improve their knowledge and awareness on this issue and related fields (gender issues, social integration, democratic citizenship, refugees, immigrants, etc.). More info at: <http://humanrightsforyouth.org/>

## **JAMAICA**

### **International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC)**

19 May 2011 - The International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) formally opened on Wednesday in Kingston, Jamaica, as theologians, faith leaders and the prime minister of Jamaica welcomed some 1,000 participants from more than 100 countries. Read more: [www.overcomingviolence.org](http://www.overcomingviolence.org)

## **4. RESOURCES**

### **GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

#### **Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue: Peacemaking in Asia and the Pacific: Women's participation, perspectives and priorities**

May 2011 - The new publication of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue explores the reasons for women's under-representation in peace processes, in terms of both participation in peace processes and gender content in agreements. It puts forward the experiences of women from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Timor Leste, India, Solomon Islands and Nepal, highlighting the benefits and obstacles to their participation in such processes, and contains practical recommendations on how to make international norms a reality in peacemaking as well as how to strengthen women's participation in, and contribution to, peace processes and agreements. The report can be downloaded from <http://www.hdcentre.org/publications/peacemaking-asia-and-pacificwomens-participation-perspectives-priorities>

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