



INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

Working for a world without war

IPB
News

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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>

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

+ Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_100733129991763

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

'Making Peace' Photo-exhibition <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 (totaling \$1630 billion in 2010); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development.

A- MILITARY SPENDING

House panel backs \$649 bn in US defense spending

By David Alexander and Susan Cornwell

June 14,2011 - U.S. lawmakers expressed growing skepticism about the war in Afghanistan on Tuesday as a House panel approved \$649 billion in defense spending for the 2012 fiscal year, including \$118 billion for wars abroad. They also urged President Obama to step up the pace of U.S. troop withdrawals from Afghanistan and endorsed tougher oversight of U.S. spending in Pakistan during debate on next year's defense spending in the House Appropriations Committee.

[The Military as a Jobs Program: There Are More Efficient Ways to Stimulate an Economy](#)

by: Ellen Brown, Truthout News Analysis, USA



22 June 2011 - Even if "national security" is considered our No. 1 priority, estimates are that the military budget could be cut in half or more and we would still have the most powerful military machine in the world. The reason massive military spending is considered the most "obvious" way to produce a fiscal stimulus is simply that it is the only form of direct government spending that gets a pass from the deficit hawks.

[DoD Cybersecurity Spending: Where's the Beef?](#)

14 June - The US military has announced plans to spend billions on technology to secure its networks. This article examines this shift in the US defense industry and defense spending regarding cybersecurity. In particular, it examines where the money being earmarked for cybersecurity is going and what kind of initiatives are being undertaken by the US military. Broader cyberwar issues will be pursued in a follow-up piece.

[Senate Panel Approves Panetta for Defense Secretary](#)

By Sara Sorcher

June 14, 2011. The Senate Armed Services Committee approved CIA chief Leon Panetta to be the next



Defense Secretary in a unanimous voice vote Tuesday. The widely expected move was immediately reported to the floor following the Committee's action. The confirmation is expected this month. The former White House Office of Management and Budget director and House Budget chairman faces the daunting task of managing three conflicts abroad while downsizing the Pentagon to cope with the nation's fiscal problems. Obama has announced plans to slash \$400 billion from security spending

over the next 12 years, with the military's budget expected to bear many of those cuts.

[What's it costing British taxpayers to bomb Libya?](#)

By Ian Katz - The Guardian

19 June, 2011 - Until now the UK government has shrouded the issue of how much taxpayers are spending on bombing Libya in the sort of secrecy and obfuscation you'd expect if you asked for the current location of all its Trident submarines. I called the Ministry of Defence, where a spokeswoman said the Treasury was "doing an assessment", but no "actual figures" were available yet.



[Take the Peace Action New Priorities Budget Preference Poll!](#)

By New Priorities Network, USA

June 2011 - According to 80 experts who prepared a [report](#) on the overloaded and deteriorating transportation infrastructure, the US is falling behind the rest of the world and needs \$262 billion a year spent on highways, rail networks and air transportation systems. Polling shows that people want a budget that "moves the money" from military spending, wars, tax cuts for the rich and subsidies to Big Business to fund human needs and rebuild our cities. Cast your vote for the GOP/Ryan budget, President Obama's budget or the "People's Budget."

B IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE, November 25 - December 10, 2011

Coordinated by Center for Women's Global Leadership

June 2011 - This year's campaign themes all link to the issue of small arms control and the use of guns to perpetrate and facilitate violence against women and girls:

1. Bringing together women, peace, and human rights movements to challenge militarism;
2. Proliferation of small arms and their role in domestic violence;
3. Sexual violence in and after conflict;
4. Political violence against women, including election violence;
5. Sexual and gender-based violence committed by state agents, esp. the police or military.

Nepal Clears Last Landmine

The Guardian

14 June 2011 - The UN has declared [Nepal](#) free of landmine fields after the last of the anti-personnel weapons planted by the army while fighting communist insurgents was finally destroyed. The army has cleared 170 of the 275 fields where it laid homemade bombs, but there is no record on the rebels' part. UN arms monitors have destroyed some 53,000 homemade bombs that were turned in by the rebels after they signed the peace deal. More than 13,000 people were killed in the insurgency, which began in 1996 and lasted 10 years. Since the Maoists joined the peace process, they have joined mainstream politics and confined their fighters to camps.

Guam mulls going its own way

By Mar-Vic Cagurangan

11 June, 2011 - The Marines who took Guam in a bloody 1944 battle reinstated the island as a "non-governing US territory", meaning its 180,000 population enjoys US citizenship but cannot vote in US presidential elections. Now, with plans to increase the US military presence in Guam by moving in 8,000 troops from Japan's Okinawa, fears the native Chamorro population will be swamped by outsiders has given new impetus to calls for self-determination.

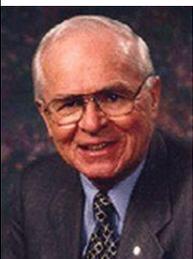


2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The anti-nuclear mountain is being scaled

By Douglas Roche, IPB Former Vice- President

June 22, 2011 - "A three-week global speaking tour has convinced me that the world is moving into a new stage in the long quest to eliminate nuclear weapons" says Mr Roche, recently nominated by the IPB for the Nobel Peace Prize. "Weakened government ideology in support of nuclear weapons is now colliding with chronic deficits and other economic realities that make them unaffordable. In the discussions surrounding my lectures to university students, think tanks and civil society groups, it became clear to me that the intellectual case for nuclear deterrence is crumbling.



US Mayors Call for End to Wars and Nuclear Weapons

by: James Russell, Truthout | Report

21 June 2011 - Peace activists won a major victory when the US Conference of Mayors voted to adopt two resolutions that call for a drawdown of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and the abolition of nuclear weapons. Both resolutions also demand the re-prioritization of defense spending, including the \$126 billion spent each year in Iraq and Afghanistan, toward the needs of municipalities.

[Global Zero – London Summit, June 22-23, 2011](#)

The Summit brings together more than 100 eminent Global Zero leaders and senior government officials for intensive policy discussions on bringing all nuclear weapons countries to the table to negotiate multilateral nuclear arms reductions for the first time in history, as outlined in the Global Zero Action Plan, and strategy to build public and political support for this agenda.



[International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms General Assembly issues an urgent call for a world without nuclear weapons and nuclear energy](#)

June 18 – IALANA not only stresses the legal obligation, to negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament; it also comes out strongly in favor of pulling out of nuclear energy production.

[US helps Vietnam to eradicate deadly Agent Orange](#)

BBC,

17 June, 2011 - Vietnam and the United States have taken the first step towards cleaning up Agent



Orange contamination. For years, Hanoi and Washington argued about questions of compensation for victims of the defoliant. But now the US recognises that dioxin, found in Agent Orange, is a highly toxic substance. A ceremony to launch the programme was held at the Danang airport where the defoliant was stored before being sprayed over forests hiding fighters from the Viet Cong, guerrillas backed by the Communist government of North Vietnam.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

[IPB Member makes marathon 30-hr speech on world peace](#)

On 4-5 June, 2011, IPB individual member Mr M. Madasamy gave what may be the world's longest speech (30 hours) in an attempt to claim a 'Guinness world record'. The topic of his marathon presentation was world peace, gun violence and military expenditure. His extraordinary effort, which took place in his home town of Peermade, Kerala (India) was reported in the local press. Mr. Madasamy is currently awaiting confirmation of his achievement from the Guinness Book of Records.

["Peace in Space Award" for Agneta Norberg](#)

IPB Board member Agneta Norberg was presented with the annual "Peace in Space Award" at the conference on Space Militarization in Andover, MA, US, for her many years of extraordinary work to build consciousness and activism in Sweden and the other Nordic nations about the arms race moving into space. Agneta has organized several tours through Sweden over recent years, which have been instrumental in helping to foster public understanding and debate about Sweden's growing role in the increasingly aggressive military policy of NATO. In addition, Agneta has been doing much to educate people about Sweden's entry into the space warfare technology development arena. Finally the award was given to Agneta "because she is a wonderful role model for young women in our organization".

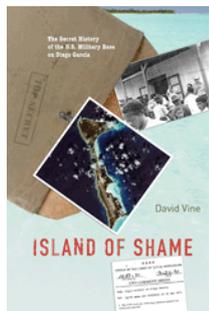
[Death of Brian Haw: Rebel with a cause](#)

20 June, 2011 - Brian Haw, whose death was announced yesterday, was a stubborn eccentric in the best English tradition. The one-man peace camp he pitched on Parliament Square 10 years ago soon became a place of pilgrimage for thousands and something of a tourist attraction in its own right. Mostly, though, it was what he had intended it to be: a mighty irritant, slap in front of the seat of national government, and a noisy, scruffy and colourful challenge to the war-waging tendencies of three prime ministers.

[Brian Haw: Veteran peace campaigner who occupied Parliament Square for a decade in protest at war](#)

4. RESOURCES

[Island of Shame: The Secret History of the U.S. Military Base on Diego Garcia](#)



By David Vine. *Island of Shame* is the first major book to reveal the shocking truth of how the United States conspired with Britain to forcibly expel Diego Garcia's indigenous people--the Chagossians--and deport them to slums in Mauritius and the Seychelles, where most live in dire poverty to this day. Drawing on interviews with Washington insiders, military strategists, and exiled islanders, as well as hundreds of declassified documents, David Vine exposes the secret history of Diego Garcia. He chronicles the Chagossians' dramatic, unfolding story as they struggle to survive in exile and fight to return to their homeland. Tracing U.S. foreign policy from the Cold War to the war on terror, Vine shows how the United States has forged a new and pervasive kind of empire that is quietly dominating the planet with hundreds of

overseas military bases.

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