



IPB News

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INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

Working for a world without war

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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

UNITED STATES



Ten Years after 9/11: Rethinking the Costs of the 'War on Terror'

The tenth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy offers an opportunity to reflect on the human suffering caused by the terrorist attacks, but also on the costs and benefits of the wars the United States initiated against Iraq and Afghanistan after the attacks. The following articles and links demonstrate how the costs of war are far higher than originally calculated, and that they far outweigh the benefits achieved.

The New York Times (special issue), [The Reckoning: America and the World a Decade After 9/11](#)

The New York Times (graphics), [One 9/11 Tally: \\$3.3 Trillion](#)
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Hugh Gusterson, [The Costs of War](#)
Aljazeera (video), [Counting the Cost: The Cost of the 9/11 Decade](#)
Facebook Group, [War Costs](#)
Brave New Foundation (documentary), [Rethink Afghanistan](#)
The Huffington Post, Anthony Gregory, [The Priceless Price of the Post 9/11 Decade](#)

UNITED KINGDOM

Nick Hopkins, [Defence Cuts: more compulsory redundancies to come](#)

September 1, 2011- U.K. defence officials have admitted that the number of compulsory redundancies within the armed forces is likely to soar during the next round of cuts in early 2012, which will require thousands more people to leave service. Defence Secretary Liam Fox and the armed forces minister, Nick Harvey, insisted it was the only way to bring the chaotic budget at the Ministry of Defence under control.

UNITED STATES

Democracy Now! Daily News, [U.S. Wasting Billions While Tripling No-Bid Contracts After Decade of War in Iraq, Afghanistan](#)

September 2, 2011 - The bipartisan Commission on Wartime Contracting concludes that between \$31 billion and \$60 billion spent on projects in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last 10 years has been lost to waste and fraud, while a new report from the Center for Public Integrity finds that no-bid spending has ballooned from \$50 billion in 2003 to \$140 billion in 2011. Democracy Now! Daily News discusses the link between no-bid contracts and fraud, and the causes and implications of lack of competition and oversight in the awarding of contracts by the government.

UNITED STATES



Dana Priest and William M. Arkin, [The Vast and Expansive US Secret Army](#)

September 2, 2011 - The U.S. military's Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) has grown from a rarely used hostage rescue team into America's secret army, expanding from 1,800 troops prior to 9/11 to as many as 25,000. A new article, adapted from a chapter of the newly released "Top Secret America: The Rise of the New American Security State" chronicles JSOC's spectacular rise, much of which has not been publicly disclosed before. It sheds light on JSOC's activities and command structure and points to the alarming secrecy surrounding it.

PHILIPPINES

[Philippines to Boost Defences in South China Sea](#)

September 7, 2011- The Philippines says it will spend \$118 million to build up its air and sea defenses in the Spratly Islands, where Chinese vessels have repeatedly disrupted oil and gas exploration efforts. Manila claims an exclusive economic zone extending more than 350 kilometers off its shores under the U.N. Law of the Sea convention, while China claims all land and waters in the South China Sea based on historic maps and documents. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have claims in the area.

UNITED STATES

William D. Hartung: [Military Spending: A Poor Job Creator](#)

September 9, 2011- Plans for cutting the federal deficit have raised an important question: what impact would military spending reductions have on jobs? William Hartung shows that maintaining

military spending at the expense of other forms of federal expenditures would actually result in a net loss of jobs. This is because military spending is less effective at creating jobs than virtually any other form of government activity, such as tax cuts or spending on clean energy production and education.

UNITED STATES

Annie Sciacca, [Berkeley City Council urges against federal military spending](#)

September 19, 2011 – On September 20th, the Berkeley City Council will discuss a resolution that supports the New Priorities Campaign to Reduce Military Spending, an effort to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and reduce the military budget by raising pressure on Congress from local governments. Its aim is to provide encouragement to the campaign “in a time when there are so many people needing jobs and so much money being spent on wars”.

SWITZERLAND

New combat aircraft, increased military spending

September 17, 2011 - The majority center-right National Council requested the purchase of 22 new fighter planes at a cost of over 5 billion Swiss francs (over \$5.6 billion). This request is not subject to a referendum by the Swiss people, and the GSoA (Group for a Switzerland without Army) argues that this shows a blatant disregard for their democratic rights. The GSoA is currently exploring the most appropriate modalities for a new federal popular initiative to prevent the purchase of new fighter aircraft....[read more](#)

B IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

CANADA

Jacqueline Hansen, [Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor](#)

The Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor provides civil society monitoring on the humanitarian and developmental consequences of landmines, cluster munitions, and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Its Landmine Monitor and Cluster Munition Monitor reports, as well as detailed country-specific developments in these areas, are available for campaigners. A [letter](#) from the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor’s Program Manager provides information about this year’s Monitor publications and how and when you can access them.

UNITED KINGDOM

International Day of Action to Ban Depleted Uranium Weapons - [Call for Events](#)

September 15, 2011 – The International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons has issued a call for events on the International Day of Action to Ban Depleted Uranium (DU) Weapons taking place on November 6. It is thought that DU, and the DU oxide dust produced when DU munitions burn, have numerous disastrous consequences for human health. DU has been connected to a rise in cancer and birth defect rates in the Gulf War battlefields.

UNITED KINGDOM

Drone Campaign Network

The Drone Campaign Network is a network of organizations, academics and individuals working together to share information and coordinate collective action in relation to military drones. It is now issuing a monthly email newsletter, for which you can sign up [here](#). In its first newsletter, it draws attention to new information showing that the number of drone attacks by the U.S. is higher than previously reported (291 in Pakistan since 2004, with 2’292 people reported killed). Similarly,

the UK reports that it has carried out 178 drone strikes in Afghanistan up to summer 2011. The UK Ministry of Defence admitted for the first time that civilians were killed in a drone strike in March 2011, though in fact it is highly doubtful that this is the only incident with civilians fatalities.

UNITED KINGDOM

Nick Hopkins, [Companies ejected from London arms fair for 'promoting cluster bombs'](#)
September 16, 2011 – Caroline Lucas, the Green party leader, discovered that Pakistani arms manufacturers were actively promoting cluster bombs at the London arms fair. Cluster bombs are banned in the UK. The companies were subsequently ejected from the fair, but several campaigners expressed concern and outrage at the apparent laxness in allowing companies to promote illegal military equipment.

BEIRUT, LEBANON

Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions - [IPB Report](#)

The Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions took place in Beirut from 13-16 September 2011. Representatives from more than 120 governments attended, and delegates spoke of the need to ensure cooperation and assistance by building strong partnerships and linking mine action to development. Several documents were adopted by the plenary, most notably the Beirut Declaration.

NEPAL

Bishnu Pathak, [Women and DDR - Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration](#)

This paper provides an overview of the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) practices existing in the world, with a focus on the role and status of women. It researches when and for what purposes the UN initiated DDR programs in post-conflict countries, and examines the scale and consequences of the various roles of ex-combatants, particularly women. It aims to compare and explore some of the best and worst practices of DDR and militarized masculinity before, during, and after violence.

2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

UNITED STATES

David Krieger, [US Plans Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Test on International Day of Peace](#)



August 31, 2011 - In 2001, the General Assembly gave the International Day of Peace a fixed date: September 21st. The General Assembly declared in its Resolution 55/282 that “the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence [...]” Nonetheless, the United States has announced that its next test of a Minuteman III, one of its nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles that continue to be kept on high-alert, will occur on September 21, 2011. To send a letter to President Obama opposing this test launch, [click here](#).

Richard Johnson, [Movement for Nuke Test Ban Gathers Momentum](#)

On August 29, the International Day against Nuclear Tests, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a terse call for member states that have not yet ratified the United Nations-backed Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) to urgently do so, noting that voluntary moratoriums on nuclear weapon tests were not enough. The CTBT bans all nuclear explosions, and a verification regime is being built to monitor compliance with the Treaty.

JAPAN

Violation of the Human Rights of the Children of Fukushima

August 17, 2011 – Several Japanese NGO’s submitted a document to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights decrying children’s exposure to radiation after the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant tragic accident, and calling for urgent measures to reduce this exposure. It calls attention to the high 20-millisieverts-per-year provisional standard of radiation exposure, which lacks official endorsement yet is being utilized in Fukushima. ...[read more](#)

Mayors for Peace: Now Supported by 5’000 cities

Mayors for Peace, a network campaigning for abolition of nuclear weapons, now encompasses more than 5’000 cities representing almost one billion people. This makes it by far the largest international, direct-membership association of local governments in the world. To help supporters make known its achievements on the International Day of Peace on September 21st, it has created a [Mayors and Citizens Action Kit](#).

3. MISCELLANEOUS

FRANCE



Jean Ridoux, [obituary](#)

The International Peace Bureau, its officers, staff and members, were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Jean Ridoux. Born in 1923, he was to greatly influence the French peace movement with his rigour and independent thinking. Founding in 1986 what was later to become the International Association of Educators for Peace and working tirelessly to promote peace and the importance of incorporating it in education, he will be greatly missed in the international peace, and peace education, community. He passed away on August 29, 2011.

Betty Reardon, Identifying Recent Publications of Significance to Contemporary Peace Education

Betty Reardon, who won the IPB's Sean MacBride Peace Prize in 2009, issued a request on behalf of the Global Campaign for Peace Education to [nominate](#) recent works in peace education that have considerably influenced one’s practice, including books and journal articles, for a survey of significant publications in peace education. The survey is to be the foundation for the eventual construction of a more comprehensive peace education bibliography.

4. RESOURCES

Elisabeth Gilgen and Lauren Tracy, [Contributing Evidence to Programming: Armed Violence Monitoring Systems \(AVMS\)](#)

The Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development has published a new Working Paper, “Contributing Evidence to Programming: Armed Violence Monitoring Systems”. The paper clarifies the concept of AVMS, which have become an important tool to better understand the scale and distribution of armed violence, and offers a deeper understanding of how they work. It clarifies the concept of AVMS, compares them across different regions, and identifies the link between AVMS and conflict prevention and reduction programming.

[United Nations Disarmament Yearbook 2010, Volume 35 \(Part II\)](#)

The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook 2010, Volume 35, Part II (Developments and Trends) is now available online. It provides a chronicle of multilateral events relating to disarmament and the regulation of armaments in the previous year. It focuses largely on the UN disarmament machinery, but also covers other activities relating to multilateral disarmament.

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