



IPB News

WWW: Working for a World Without War

International Peace Bureau

February 3rd, 2010

IPB Nobel centenary year - special events planned!

Many of our readers will know that this year IPB celebrates a very special year: it is 100 years since the organisation was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in promoting peace, and for coordinating the work of national peace societies. In 2010 we are organising various events to commemorate this important milestone in the history of the organised peace movement. These activities culminate in a major international conference '*A Climate for Peace*', plus the triennial IPB Assembly and other activities, in Oslo from 23-26 Sept. Before that, from June 6th - July 4th, IPB's photo-exhibit '*Making Peace*' will be shown along Lake Geneva in front of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. There will also be a 'Peace Run' (*Le Parcours de la paix*) on June 6th, and later in the year a high level seminar is planned, co-organised with the UN. In addition, we are writing to all our members to invite them to organise activities and events in their own areas, as part of the Centenary programme. More details will follow - watch this space! or contact IPB Secretariat directly.

IPB's Disarmament for Development programme

In 2005 IPB launched a major new programme, designed to reflect widespread public concern at the rapid rise in global military spending (totalling \$1464 billion in 2008); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development. Post 9-11, the failure of military solutions should be obvious to all. IPB advocates reductions in defence budgets and the adoption of a 'human security' approach. Activities organised in pursuit of these goals include: seminars, publications, website, e-newsletter, exhibitions and a media programme. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

Military Spending

Reports show enormous rise in defence spending

Two reports published on January 18 by the Project on Defense Alternatives, reveal that since 1998 the Pentagon has spent more than \$6.5 trillion. \$2 trillion of this amount was above the levels set in 1998. While half of the \$2 trillion was spent on recent wars and military operations, the rest was claimed by contract labour. In comparison to the Vietnam War, whose cost amounted to \$256,000 per person per year in today's dollars, the recent wars cost \$792,000 per deployed person per year. The report found that the reason for the high cost of current wars is that the U.S. relies on an expensive professional military, rather than a conscript one. The use of private contractors is five times higher than during the Vietnam War.

<http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2010/01/21>

Pentagon authorizes training to expand Afghan army

The Pentagon has approved a significant increase in the number of Afghan security forces it plans to train by next year. According to Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, who leads NATO's training

mission in Afghanistan, the Afghan army will increase from current 102,400 personnel to 171,600 by October 2011. The recruits will be trained by NATO for eight months. Also, the Afghan police forces will increase from 96,800 to 109,000 this year and to 134,000 next year. The proposed budget for training Afghan forces is at \$11.6 billion for the fiscal year 2011. The U.S. military projects that the number of Afghan army and police forces will be increased to 400,000 by 2013. In the meantime, the death toll among coalition troops in Afghanistan this January has now risen to twenty-three.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/15/world/asia/15afghan.html?scp=1&sq=More%20Afghans%20o%20get%20training&st=cse>

Opinion: Costly US military politics

Fran Dennis in the article *Military budget politics costly*, published in Lansing State Journal, argues that while many call for a tax reduction in spending for social services and schools, cuts in military spending would save much more money. In fiscal year 2008 U.S. military spending was \$607 billion, larger than the combined expenses of 15 countries. It is estimated that the war in Iraq will cost the U.S. \$3 trillion. Data compiled by the War Resisters League show that the federal budget for 2009 was \$2,659 billion, of which \$965 billion (36 percent) was for current military expenditures, exclusive of benefits for veterans and interests incurred by military spending. The military spending could be lowered by reducing contributions to Israel and Egypt and cutting down the number of nuclear weapons.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20100121/OPINION02/1210305/1087/OPINION02>

Military helps fund congressional trips

Interesting insight: The Wall Street Journal has revealed that military officials spent thousands of dollars on alcohol and food for the American lawmakers that they travelled with. According to the records obtained by the newspaper the funds spent by the military personnel equals \$4,300 per trip and constitutes only a small portion of what lawmakers spend on overseas trips. It shows how the military abuses its official escort role to boost their relationships with lawmakers who approve departmental budgets. The military personnel who accompany lawmakers are usually the same people who lobby Congress. Reported spending on overseas travel was \$13 million in 2008, a tenfold increase from 1995, according to an analysis by the Journal. More at: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704362004575000943067824382.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

UK: MoD to cut down fighter jet orders

The British Ministry of Defence is planning to slash the number of American stealth aircraft planned for the RAF and the Royal Navy's new carriers. The defence chiefs have agreed that they cannot afford the 140 American Joint Strike Fighters that they have been planning to buy. One of the reasons is that JSF, also called F35, are twice as expensive as they were four years ago. The price soared from £37m each to £62m. Britain may not be able to afford to build two large aircraft carriers and planes to fly from them. As the JSF numbers may be cut from the planned 150 to 70, the aircraft carriers are under a real threat. The two proposed carriers, the *Queen Elizabeth* and the *Prince of Wales* exceed the estimated cost of £3.9 billion by £1 billion. The estimated annual defence budget equals £35 billion, excluding the cost of war in Afghanistan, which is approximately £4 billion per year.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jan/12/defence-aircraft-jet-fighters-budget>

UK Navy and Army chiefs disagree

In a statement made on January 18, 2010 Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope stressed the importance of maintaining a Royal Navy fleet in a full operational force, ready for what he called 'strategic shocks'. He called for a change in defence spending, saying that equipment is a priority and that

Britain must be prepared for future conflicts. Sir Stanhope seemed to be in disagreement with Army chief Gen Sir David Richards, who claimed that there is too much emphasis on cutting-edge military hardware and not enough on training troops.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8466961.stm

The campaign for a Peace Economy

Peace Action (IPB member organisation, USA) is organizing a campaign for Peace Economy, whose purpose is to educate U.S. citizens about how their taxes are spent and to put pressure on the Pentagon to cut spending on nuclear weapons and wars. More information at <http://www.peace-action.org/military%20budget/campaign.html>

Mapping the troop deployment to Afghanistan

A new tool has been launched by Bombspotting and Vredesactie, which makes it possible to map troop deployments in Afghanistan and political debate. In addition to the map, there is information on the number of military sources deployed. The website address is http://mcmilitary.org/en/afghanistan_deployment

Weapons and their impact on development

Report reveals that human cost of war has shrunk

A new study from the Canadian research team that produced the *Human Security Report* reveals that nationwide death rates fall during the course of most of today's armed conflicts. The study titled *The Shrinking Cost of War* was prepared at the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University. The funding for the study came from the UK, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland and it will be published in the *Human Security Report 2009*. According to the study, mortality caused by war and its results such as malnutrition, disease and injuries have decreased. The reasons for the shrinking human cost of war are changes in the nature of warfare, effective health interventions in poor countries during peace time and increase in effectiveness of humanitarian assistance to people in war zones. The study contrasts with contested claims of enormous death tolls in Iraq, Darfur and the DRC. www.humansecurityreport.info

Nuclear Disarmament

Global Zero World Summit

The Global Zero World Summit will take place at the Intercontinental Hotel in Paris between February 2-4, 2010 and will gather 200 political, religious, military and student leaders. The summit will discuss policy proposals for the elimination of all nuclear weapons and will also focus on launching a global grassroots campaign. UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon and former Secretary of State George Shultz will be among the attendees. <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/un-secretary-general-ban-ki-moon-and-former-secretary-of-state-george-shultz-headline-global-zero-world-summit-in-paris-february-2-4-2010-81566122.html>

Pakistan blocks 2010 agenda at Conference on Disarmament

On January 19th, at the opening of the 2010 session of the U.N. Conference on Disarmament, Pakistan blocked the adoption of the agenda. The reason behind Pakistan's actions is its worry that limiting the production of fissile material will put it at a disadvantage against nuclear powers such as India. Pakistan tested a nuclear weapon in 1998 and is trying to delay the talks. Generally, an adoption of the agenda is a formality, but this year it was interrupted by Pakistan's ambassador Zamir Akram, who called for the agenda to cover conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional level, in line with a UN General Assembly resolution sponsored by

Pakistan and passed last year. He also said that the conference should negotiate a global regime on missiles. Reaching an agreement will not be easy as India rejected a discussion on conventional arms control. The CD has been unable to negotiate disarmament treaties since 1996. <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60I26U20100119>

Time to ban production of nuclear weapons material

The article **Time to Ban Production of Nuclear Weapons Material** published in Scientific American discusses the basic rules of a fissile material cutoff treaty suggested by three Princeton University scholars, affiliated with the International Panel on Fissile Materials. While there are treaties that limit the number of nuclear warheads of countries such as the U.S. and Russia, there are no agreements that stop countries from producing more nuclear material for weapons. The first suggestion of a treaty that would stop production of fissile materials for weapons was made in the 1950s but it did not progress due to the Cold War. In 1993 the U.N. General Assembly agreed on negotiations but it was followed by disagreements. President Obama's speech in Prague in April 2009 reopened the discussion. The cutoff treaty would end the production of nuclear weapons material and make irreversible the moratoria in the nuclear weapon states. It would also strengthen the collective action of non-weapon states against countries that have developed nuclear weapons. More at <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=time-to-ban-production-of-nuclear-weapons-material>

For Peace and Human Needs: Nuclear Disarmament Now! website launched

A new website was launched on January 22, 2010 by the NPT nuclear abolition campaign. The website is dedicated to rebuilding the grassroots movement for nuclear disarmament and abolition. It carries full details of the large international conference and rally/march that will precede the opening of the NPT Review Conference in New York (May 2010). It also has many current resources related to the grassroots movement dedicated to peace and abolition of nuclear weapons. Go to: <http://peaceandjusticenow.org/wordpress/>

More spending for more disarmament?

In **More spending for more disarmament?** Ray Acheson provides an interesting critique of the article published in the Wall Street Journal titled **How to Protect Our Nuclear Deterrent** (<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704152804574628344282735008.html>). She points out that Schultz, Perry, Kissinger, and Nunn (SPKN), ('the four horsemen') advocate more spending on nuclear weapons. Their argument is that large investments are necessary to undo the consequences of deep reductions in laboratories and engineering programs and to protect 'national security'. Acheson questions these arguments asking whose security and interests nuclear weapons protect in reality. She also mentions the absurdity of the statement made by the 'four horsemen' that to achieve a nuclear weapon free world more money needs to be spent on maintaining nuclear weapons. Go to <http://reachingcriticalwill.blogspot.com/>

Other news

Sweden's new NATO-linked army deployable worldwide

Starting this summer the conscript system in the Swedish army will end and will be replaced by contracted military service. The new defence system also means that 50,000 members of the forces will have to be available for deployment within a week anywhere in the world. The

decision to end the era of conscription was passed by the Swedish parliament by a small margin and caused controversy among the public.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stopnato/message/43737>

Mexico-Women: Total demilitarization of our communities, ways of life and hearts

On October 2 and 3, 2009, 160 women participated in the forum Women's Perspectives on Militarization, in San Cristóbal de Las Casas. They came from countries such as Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. The women exchanged ideas on the consequences of militarization such as sexual abuse, prostitution around military camps, rise in migration, diseases and many others. The exchange was followed by a lecture on militarization and what it really means. The women denounced a society based on relationships of violence and domination and made a proposal towards a transformation of reality. More at: http://www.sipaz.org/fini_eng.htm

Howard Zinn, historian who challenged status quo, dies at 87

Howard Zinn, the Boston University historian and political activist who was an early opponent of US involvement in Vietnam and a leading faculty critic of Boston University president John Silber, died of a heart attack today in Santa Monica, Calif, where he was traveling, his family said. He was 87. "His writings have changed the consciousness of a generation, and helped open new paths to understanding and its crucial meaning for our lives," Noam Chomsky, the left-wing activist and MIT professor, once wrote of Dr. Zinn. "When action has been called for, one could always be confident that he would be on the front lines, an example and trustworthy guide."

[Howard Zinn, historian who challenged status quo, dies at 87](http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/60/145.html), <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/60/145.html>,

Helping IANSA members in Haiti

The International Action Network on Small Arms is collecting money that will be sent to IANSA colleagues in Haiti via Western Union. Anyone who would like to contribute is asked to email or phone Sarah Masters, Women's Network Coordinator. www.iansa.org

Resources

Oxford Encyclopedia of Peace

Oxford University Press has recently published the monumental *Oxford International Encyclopedia of Peace*, edited by Prof. Nigel Young. It features a foreword by the Dalai Lama and charts the interdisciplinary field of Peace Studies, offering a comprehensive survey of the full range of historical, political, theoretical and philosophical issues relating to peace and conflict. All major figures are covered, as well as major events, organizations, theories, and much more. Each entry is signed by a leading scholar in the field, contains a bibliography for further reading, and is cross-referenced with other useful points of interest within the Encyclopedia. In addition to A-to-Z entries, the Encyclopedia also includes a peace chronology, key documents and appendices. Essential !

<http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Reference/?view=usa&ci=9780195334685>

French movement offers anti-nuclear candleholder - campaign item

Following the success of the "Abolition of nuclear weapons" candles in France, we offer them at an excellent price. The Mouvement de la Paix has created this magnificent object as a visual representation of the campaign, allowing everyone to become an actor in the "Abolition Flame"

relays, and to provide financial support for the international campaign. Its selling price is left to the discretion of each organization. This candle holder is currently available in both French and English. **REMEMBER: It is possible to print in any language with orders over 1000.** The candle holder is light (8 grams), made of 100% recyclable materials, easy to assemble, and conforms to safety guidelines. It can be used with tea lights (not included) and as a cup holder. Don't hesitate if you have any questions. Contact: christophe.cunniet@mvtpaix.org. ATTENTION: special designs require one month (text other than English / French). **Make your order before February 20.**

The Global Arms Trade

The Global Arms Trade is a timely, comprehensive and in-depth study of this topic, a phenomenon which has continued to flourish despite the end of the Cold War and the War on Terror. It provides a clear description and analysis of the demand for, and supply of, modern weapons systems, and assesses key issues of concern. This book will be especially useful to scholars, policy analysts, those in the arms industry, defence professionals, students of international relations and security studies, media professionals, government officials, and those generally interested in the arms trade. <http://www.routledge.co.uk/books/The-Global-Arms-Trade-isbn9781857434972>

Civilian Peacekeeping. A Barely Tapped Resource

A new working paper *Civilian Peacekeeping. A Barely Tapped Resource* has been published by the Institute for Peace Work and Nonviolent Conflict Transformation together with Nonviolent Peaceforce. This Working Paper includes five contributions on the subject of Civilian Peacekeeping. The articles have been written independently of each other and for different audiences. These audiences had in common that they were mainstream policymakers and scientists, not people from the peace and nonviolence movements. All the authors have for some time been, or still are, involved with Nonviolent Peaceforce, and therefore chose the majority of their examples from the experiences of the work of NP. The paper can be downloaded for free from the websites of IFGK (http://www.ifgk.de/oben/publikationen_all8.htm) and soon also of Nonviolent Peaceforce (www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org).

Calendar

Click [here](#) for IPB's international events calendar. For disarmament events, go to the comprehensive Disarmament Calendars of UN and other inter-governmental, grassroots and civil society events in key cities compiled by the [Geneva Forum](#) and by [Reaching Critical Will](#).

If you have reports of activities that are relevant to this newsletter please email them to the Secretariat.

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Editor: This newsletter was edited by Marzena Krygier marzena.krygier@ipb.org

International Peace Bureau, 41 Rue de Zurich, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland