



IPB News

WWW: Working for a World Without War

International Peace Bureau

March 17, 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. In 2010 we are organising various events to commemorate this important milestone in the history of the 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. From June 6 – July 31, 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. In addition, we have written to all our members to invite them to organise activities in their own areas, as part of the Centenary programme. Details will follow.

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. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

Special Feature: Germany

As part of IPB's forthcoming *Campaign Toolkit on Military Spending*, to be published later this year, we propose to focus on certain countries, to examine their policies and how campaigners are trying to influence them. In this newsletter we focus on Germany. Material compiled by Marie Volke.

1. Case Study: This focuses on military spending. We present Germany's historical and political background, the legal framework of German security policy, challengeable aspects of these policies, and also material on recent civil society campaigns on the government's development and environment policies. This case study is meant to assist campaigners to find issues and actors to target and get the necessary support via various campaigns, organisations and/or databases. There are also lists of resources and links to research institutes. Case Study (14pp) [HERE](#)

2. Arms Production and Export: An evaluation of German arms producing companies shows, that only 3 of them can be found under the 50 largest arms producing companies (Rheinmetall, ThyssenKrupp, Krauss-Maffei Wegmann). But German participation and shareholding within international and European companies (e.g. EADS) actually means Germany takes the 3rd position in arms exports, behind USA and Russia (about 10% of worldwide arms exports in 2004-2008 have come from Germany). According to the latest *Arms Export Report* published by the German government, the total value of approved licenses for German arms exports amounted to €8.7 billion in 2007 and had thus increased by roughly one billion Euro since 2006. This is largely due to the growing cooperation of the German arms industry with other European arms manufacturers.

3. Transparency: Bringing some light into this darkness of German arms transfers can however be difficult. Since 1997, the German government publishes an annual report on arms exports. But not only does it include only superficial information about the importing countries and the amount of

imported weapons, leaving out e.g. the companies in charge, the type of armament and the date, the government also postpones publication (last report was published 2007). The parliament has no influence on that. Furthermore, there is a difference being made between the 'Single export permission', when the recipient country will be announced, and the (non-transparent) 'Accumulative export permission', for transfers between NATO- and EU-States, where no details are given and it is nearly impossible to find out where the arms finally land. The percentage of these 'Accumulative export permissions' is rising dramatically. [MORE](#)

4. Cluster Munitions: Germany belongs to the group of more than 30 countries still manufacturing and exporting cluster munitions. The German Army approximately stockpiles 30 million cluster munitions. Since 1995 Action group Landmine.de (<http://www.landmine.de/en.titel/en.cluster/index.html>), supported by its member organisations, calls for a ban on all landmines and weapons with mine-like effects such as cluster bombs and cluster munitions. Campaigners in Germany are working on a new disinvestment campaign and have already translated the *Stop Explosive Investments* logo into German. Handicap International Germany and Actiongroup Landmine.de are currently corresponding on possible upcoming campaign activities in Germany. Contact: Eva Fischer, Handicap International efischer@handicap-international.de and Julia Dubsloff, al.de: j.dubsloff@landmine.de

5. Anti-Nuclear Campaign: Unsere zukunft - Atomwaffenfrei: Next stop New York 2010

The Campaign achieved rather a lot this year. The objective is to get the removal of US nukes from Büchel entered into the government's coalition treaty. The next opportunity will be the NPT Review Conference in New York in May. The theme is "Our Future – Nuke Free: Next Stop New York 2010" and many events are planned for spring 2010 (seminars, workshops, tour throughout Germany). The Campaign "Our Future – Nuke-Free!" started in August 2007 with the objective of having Germany announce at the NPT review conference "*Germany is nuke-free: We have ended nuclear participation to make a step towards a nuclear weapon-free world*". The campaign also plans to make its "Nuclear-free future award" in autumn 2010. Campaign homepage (German): <http://www.atomwaffenfrei.de/die-kampagne/aktuelles.html>

The German Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guido Westerwelle, spoke up for a new Decade of Disarmament at the Munich Security Conference in February. Nevertheless, the German Defence Minister zu Guttenberg and the NATO Secretary General Rasmussen still consider nuclear weapons as important deterrence-elements of security policy.

Military Spending

Biggest US nuclear weapons activities budget ever proposed

An important report entitled *Enhancing Nuclear Weapons Research and Production to Support Disarmament?* Was recently released. It was written by Dr. Robert Civiak, a physicist and a former budget examiner for the DoE nuclear weapons programme at the White House Office of Management and Budget. The report reveals the biggest budget request so far of over \$7 bn for nuclear weapons activities, and covers topics such as cuts in weapons dismantlement and disposition, and campaigns to expand nuclear weapons science and technology. <http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/reports/FY2011BUDGETRPT.pdf>

Religions for Peace campaign

IPB is delighted to report that our colleagues at *Religions for Peace* (member organisation) have included a specific call to 'Redirect 10% of military expenditure to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.' in their 'Arms Down! campaign. We encourage everyone to sign their petition which is found at their campaign website. *Religions for Peace* is the world's

largest multi-religious coalition advancing common action among religious communities for peace. The *Religions for Peace* Global Youth Network is advancing disarmament for shared security in a year-long campaign launched in November 2009. The 10% objective reflects the same position as IPB has taken in its **Call for Action on Military and Social Spending**. <http://religionsforpeace.org/initiatives/global-youth-network/campaign-for-shared-security/>

Anti-war actions spread in USA

This month, protest actions are springing up throughout the United States. While some are purely in defence of education, and others are mainly anti-war, some are drawing a connection by demanding that the US government both decrease military spending and increase investment in social sectors.

[MORE](#)

Jobs not war, says PANA

On February 24, 2010, the Irish Peace And Neutrality Alliance issued a statement in which it referred to Robert Gates' claim, made at the NATO conference that: '*The demilitarisation of Europe, where large swathes of the general public and political class are averse to military force, is an impediment to achieving a secure and lasting peace in the 21st century*'. In the statement, Roger Cole, PANA chair, said that in the face of the economic crisis, which led to massive cuts in wages and working conditions of people in Europe, the seven Irish soldiers should be withdrawn from the war in Afghanistan. Their presence costs Ireland €270,000a year. Cole also stressed that: 'the Irish people need jobs at home not war abroad'. <http://www.pana.ie/index.html>

Weapons and their impact on development

The secret life of weapons

Petrus de Knock in *The secret life of weapons* focuses on the wars on the African continent, which cost approximately \$18 billion per year and constitute 50 % of world conflicts. He points out that the problem is complicated as the conflicts are fueled by extensive imports of weapons, most of which end in the hands of military forces, guerrillas and pirates. He gives examples of how weapons, initially destined elsewhere, are transported to Africa. In 2008 a Ukrainian vessel, the *Faina*, was seized by Somali pirates. Although the ship was claimed to be destined for Kenya, its true destination may have been the Government of South Sudan. <http://www.geopolitical.co.za/page.php?61>

Nuclear Disarmament

Nuclear Weapons Convention update

The momentum for the Nuclear Weapons Convention seems to be building, as the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference is just a few weeks away. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is calling on all NGOs to keep up the pressure by lobbying governments in the lead-up to the NPT Conference and to hold an event on June 5 to promote negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention. [Global Action Agenda -- February-June 2010](#) and [Nuclear Weapons Convention briefing paper](#) contain information on lobbying.

Recent frustration expressed by Norway at the inability of the Conference of Disarmament to make progress on nuclear disarmament may be an indication that Oslo may start a process for nuclear disarmament as it did for cluster munitions. [Read the Norwegian speech here](#)

Several NGOs are also preparing a movie project. They are inviting people to make a short video to explain their reasons for a nuclear weapon free world and ideas on how to achieve it. The best movies will be shown at the NPT Conference. [Download the movie project flyer](#). ICAN is also calling on young people worldwide to make a banner "Time to Abolish Nuclear Weapons". See: [Download the banner project flyer](#) and [Become an ICAN partner organization](#).

Iran's announcement on uranium enrichment

On February 8, Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it will further enrich its uranium from 3,5 % to 19.75% for the Tehran Research Reactor. The decision came after western leaders rejected Iran's proposal of exporting uranium in batches, trading Iranian 3,5 % enriched fuel for foreign fuel, and setting up swaps on Iranian soil. President Ahmadinejad announced that Iran will enrich its uranium to a higher level and the head of the AEO said Iran is planning to build new uranium enrichment plants, starting on March 21. Outside observers raised concerns about Iran's decision to enrich its uranium, as it will bring the country closer to having 80-90% military-grade fissile material. Furthermore, a recent report released by IAEA shows that Iran's nuclear programme does have possible military dimensions. Following the announcement, western leaders called for imposing more sanctions <http://www.basicint.org/update/iran.htm>

Costa Rica bans production of depleted uranium weapons in free trade zones

Costa Rica has banned the manufacture of uranium weapons in their Free Trade Zones. Edine von Herold Duarte from National Liberation Party has contributed to this achievement to a large extent. She has been actively campaigning against uranium and nuclear weapons and has been recently voted onto the Global Council of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation & Disarmament (PNND). By banning the manufacture of uranium weapons, Costa Rica has set a global precedent. More at: <http://www.bandepleteduranium.org/en/a/319.html>

Other news

Bruce Kent receives Coventry International Peace Prize

The 2009 Coventry International Prize for Peace and Reconciliation was awarded to Bruce Kent, former IPB President, on 14 November in Coventry Cathedral, UK. The prize is awarded by the Cathedral in partnership with the Lord Mayor's office. A popular and tireless speaker, Bruce Kent has made a significant contribution over many decades to public education about international issues, especially on nuclear disarmament. His main concern has been to encourage people – especially the young - to exercise their democratic rights as global citizens to influence policy. IPB congratulates its former President on receiving this important recognition. <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=15183>

Resources

Confronting Nuclear War new book

A new book titled *Confronting Nuclear War: The Role of Education, Religion, and the Community* written by Bill Wickersham and Jared Gassen from the University of Missouri-Columbia is available as a hardcopy and a free online publication. It is available at <http://www.confrontingnuclearwar.com/>

A brief on the influence of petroleum on Chad

A new brief by Claudia Frank and Lena Guesnet ***We were promised development and all we got is misery***—*The Influence of Petroleum on Conflict Dynamics in Chad* examines the impact of oil revenues on the conflict and poverty in Chad. It is available at: <http://www.bicc.de/index.php/publications/briefs/brief-41>

CTBTO launches Newsroom for journalists

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) has launched a newsroom for journalists where they can find accurate and reliable information on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. <http://www.ctbto.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 relevant to this newsletter please email them to us.

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