



## CONTENTS

1. DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT
  - A MILITARY SPENDING
  - B IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT
  - C GENERAL
2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
3. MISCELLANEOUS
4. RESOURCES

*The Calendar is available as a separate document*

## 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 \$1531 billion in 2009); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development.*

### A MILITARY SPENDING

#### GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING

#### **NEW DATE: 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011**

Because of the global economic crisis, governments are even beginning to talk about cutting military spending. But they won't make these cuts unless we pressure them to do so. During the **Global Day of Action on Military Spending** (GDAMS), people all over the world will join together in actions to focus public, political, and media attention on the costs of military spending and the need for new priorities.

We would like you/your organization to join us by (co-)sponsoring an event in your city (a whole range of actions is possible: from street theatre/demonstrations and erecting banners to seminars, signature collection and much more). **Please write to us if you are interested in participating.**

>> See special GDAMS website <http://www.demilitarize.org/>

#### **US spy spending revealed for first time, tops \$80 billion**

October — And meanwhile, summer school lunch programs around the US are cut because of lack of available funds.

>> See <http://www.sacbee.com/2010/06/28/2853547/school-districts-cut-summertime.html>

## **A Second Group of Experts Calls for Cutting Military Programs to Lower U.S. Debt**

*By Christopher Drew*

November, 17<sup>th</sup> — A bipartisan group of budget experts called for steep cuts in future military spending, just as leaders of a presidential debt-reduction commission proposed. Taken together, the reports are likely to intensify pressure to reduce Pentagon spending and cancel troubled weapons programs as part of a broad effort to reduce [federal budget](#) deficits. But the proposals, which would cut back on expensive planes like the F-35 fighter and the V-22 Osprey, represent only the start of what could be a long debate. And it is already clear that many of the suggestions will be hotly disputed in Congress.

>> See

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/18/business/economy/18military.html?\\_r=1&ref=christopher\\_drew](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/18/business/economy/18military.html?_r=1&ref=christopher_drew)

## **New Afghan War Plans Could Cost US Taxpayers an Extra \$125 Billion**

*From The CSMonitor*

At the NATO summit, President Obama's push to soften troop withdrawal deadlines could bring remaining war costs to \$413 billion, according to one independent analyst.

>> See <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2010/1119/New-Afghan-war-plans-could-cost-US-taxpayers-an-extra-125-billion>

## **Weapons makers, multinationals among top beneficiaries of EU regional funds**

*From euobserver.com*

December, 1<sup>st</sup> — The EU commission has tried to defend the rationale of its regional policy after a new database put together by investigative journalists revealed that corporations such as IBM and Coca-Cola are on the recipient list, together with weapons makers Honeywell, EADS and Dassault, big pharmaceutical companies and chain supermarkets.

>> See <http://euobserver.com/9/31387/?rk=3D1>

## **Chavez Announces \$4B Loan To Buy Russian Arms**

*By Nabi Abdullaev*

November, 30<sup>th</sup> — Venezuela has received a \$4 billion loan from Russia to buy Russian arms, said Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. Russia also has supplied 100,000 Kalashnikov AK-103 assault rifles to Venezuela. Construction of two plants producing AK-103 rifles and ammunition under Russian license will be completed in 2011.

>> See <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=5131181&c=AME&s=TOP>

## **Militarized States in Asia**

*By Joshua Kurlantzick*

November, 22<sup>nd</sup> — Asian countries are gearing up for the possibility of a real fight. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the amount spent on weapons purchases in Southeast Asia nearly doubled between 2005 and 2009, the most recent figures available. The weapons-buying spree will go on—these increases are expected to continue in 2010 and 2011, despite the global economic downturn.

>> See <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/11/22/powerful-generals-fuel-new-asian-arms-race.html>

## **An emerging trend in East Asia: Military budget increases and their impact**

*By Zhu Feng*

The recent military budget increases in East Asia are motivated by various factors—flash point-driven, hedging strategy-driven, or governance-driven—but they do not necessarily trigger an arms race in the region. Domestic politics within Japan, South Korea, China, and the United States have had a complicated impact on regional security. Furthermore, the potential crisis points on the Korean peninsula and in the Taiwan Strait are also driving factors that test the stability of the region. Despite competing interests and challenges, the U.S.-led system seems to be enduring and a great-power rivalry stemming from the increases in military spending between the United States and China appears unlikely.

>> See <http://www.asianperspective.org/v33n4-abstract.html#b>

## **Opinion: Does Britain really need the military?**

*By Simon Jenkins*

November, 5<sup>th</sup> — Six months ago I proposed in the Guardian that if Britain was short of money it should cut defence. I did not mean reduce defence, or trim defence. I meant cut it altogether. We are desperately short of money and absolutely no one is threatening to attack us now or in the foreseeable, indeed conceivable, future. Besides, as we have seen this past week, other ways of ensuring security make more pressing claims on us. Our armed forces were made to fight in conventional wars and cannot meet the real threats to modern Britain. We just do not need an army, navy or air force. So why are we paying £45bn for them?

>> See <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/nov/05/does-britain-need-the-military-army-navy-raf?showallcomments=true#end-of-comments>

## **Army asked to cut costs in Switzerland**

*From swissinfo.ch*

November, 22<sup>nd</sup> — Defence minister Ueli Maurer has asked army chief André Blattmann to study various cost-cutting strategies to comply with government's recommendations on saving. The army may have to reduce the duration of military service or close some military training grounds to save money.

>> See [http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/swiss\\_news/Army\\_asked\\_to\\_cut\\_costs.html?cid=28849182](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/swiss_news/Army_asked_to_cut_costs.html?cid=28849182)

## **Kremlin says eyeing new naval bases abroad**

*By Alexei Anishchuk*

November, 25<sup>th</sup> — President Dmitry Medvedev said Russia was looking to open new naval bases abroad to increase the global reach of a military that shrunk abruptly when the Soviet Union collapsed.

>> See <http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE6AO3KH20101125>

## **Brazil unveils massive navy buildup plans**

*From UPI.com*

November, 22<sup>nd</sup> — Brazil's plans for a massive naval buildup, which would include nuclear-powered submarines, were greeted with concern that the country's huge defense outlay would trigger copycat actions in neighboring Latin American countries.

>> See [http://www.upi.com/Business\\_News/Security-Industry/2010/11/22/Brazil-unveils-massive-navy-buildup-plans/UPI-99391290465076/](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2010/11/22/Brazil-unveils-massive-navy-buildup-plans/UPI-99391290465076/)

## B IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

### **Nobel Laureates Urge Obama to Ban Landmines**

*From Human Rights Watch*

November, 30<sup>th</sup> — Fifteen Nobel Peace Prize recipients have sent a [letter](#) to President Barack Obama urging him to ban antipersonnel landmines. The letter was sent on November 30, 2010, as the Obama administration's formal review of US landmine policy entered its second year.

>> See <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/11/30/us-nobel-laureates-urge-obama-ban-landmines>

>> See <http://www.nobelwomensinitiative.org/news/disarmament/article/landmines-letter-to-obama>

### **EU Member States "downplaying" rules on arms exports**

*From Campagne tegen Wapenhandel*

A network of NGOs has published a list of questionable arms export practices by EU states, including corruption, arms sales to human rights abusers and exports that fuel conflict in the developing world.

>> See: <http://www.stoparmstrade.org/>

### **16 days of activism: IANSA women - an inspiring start**

*From IANSA*

November, December — The period between the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November) and International Human Rights Day (10 December) is a period of activism against gender violence. IANSA women have been instrumental in their countries by organizing activities and actions that focus on ending gun violence against women. This year the campaign addressed key issues central to the work of many IANSA women, including: Military spending by government cost-analysis compared to social programs.

>> See <http://www.iansa.org/women/16-days.htm>

### **Item on UK-USA Diego Garcia agreement re clusters - from Wikileaks**

*From BBC News*

December, 2<sup>nd</sup> — The UK kept quiet about a loophole allowing the US to continue storing banned cluster bombs on its territory, a leaked US diplomatic cable suggests. A senior Foreign Office official is quoted in the message, sent in May 2009 and published by the Wikileaks website. It suggested not formally agreeing an exception for "specific missions" until after the UK Parliament ratified the ban - thus avoiding debate among MPs.

>> See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/mobile/world-us-canada-11894759>

## 2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

### **NATO Strategic Concept: Is it really "Creating Conditions" for a Nuclear Weapons Free World?**

*From IKV Pax Christi, The Netherlands*

November, 20<sup>th</sup> — NATO has missed a golden opportunity to revise its nuclear sharing policy in this [Strategic Concept](#). The concept, issued on Friday, 19 November "reconfirms that, as long there are nuclear weapons in the world, NATO will remain a nuclear Alliance".

>> See <http://www.natowatch.org/node/431>

### **Report: Nuclear Weapon Drivers Drunk on the Job**

*By Ed O'Keefe*

A report released by the Energy Department's Office of Inspector General found 16 alcohol-related incidents between 2007 and 2009 involving personnel with the [National Nuclear Security Administration's](#) Office of Surface Transportation (OST). About 600 OST agents are responsible for safely transporting or shipping nuclear weapons and other materials across the country.

>> See [http://voices.washingtonpost.com/federal-eye/2010/11/report\\_nuclear\\_weapon\\_drivers.html](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/federal-eye/2010/11/report_nuclear_weapon_drivers.html)

>> See <http://www.ig.energy.gov/documents/INS-L-11-01.pdf>

## **3. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Anti-NATO demonstration in Lisbon during the NATO Summit 2010**

November, 20<sup>th</sup> — Anti-NATO protester took to the floor as they participated in what they called a flashmob for peace, outside the Rossio train station, in Lisbon, Portugal, on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>. The flash-mob protest against the war in Afghanistan was just one of many demonstrations surrounding the two-day NATO summit in the Portuguese capital. Dozens of demonstrators pretended to be dead on the streets of Lisbon, simulating what they say are the devastating effects of a NATO airstrike.

>> See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSmOwAreuP4>

>> See <http://www.no-to-nato.org/en/video-livestream-anti-nato-summit-2010-in-portugal/>

>> See [www.no-to-nato.org/en/press-2/](http://www.no-to-nato.org/en/press-2/)

### **IPB participates in peace meetings in S. Korea**

Just prior to the recent incidents, IPB Secretary-General Colin Archer spoke at a series of meetings in mid-Nov. in Seoul, at the invitation of the Korean NGOs PSPD and Peace Network. Subjects covered included nuclear disarmament in the region, military spending, inter-Korean relations etc. A special seminar was held in the S Korean Parliament, and private meetings held with MPs. Among the foreign guests were representatives of IPB members Peace Boat and Peace Depot from Japan. Also speaking was John Feffer of IPS, IPB's partner in the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. See next item.

### **Useful analysis of Korea conflict**

*By John Feffer*

North Korea, [according to news reports](#), shelled a South Korean island, and South Korea responded with 80 shells of its own. Prior to the attack, South Korea conducted a test firing near the North Korean coast, but denies that any shells passed over the disputed maritime border. However, the risk of mistakes – and misperceptions – in such a contested area is

very high...

>> See [http://www.fpif.org/articles/china\\_already\\_on\\_top](http://www.fpif.org/articles/china_already_on_top)

### **GPPAC Northeast Asia Statement for Peace on the Korean Peninsula**

*From the Northeast Asian network of Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)*

December, 2<sup>nd</sup> — The Northeast Asian network of Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) issued the statement regarding the situation of the Korean Peninsula. It is now open for endorsement. Key civil society organizations from Seoul, Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei and Vladivostok got united in calling for a peace through dialogue against the growing tension after the artillery exchange between North and South Korea last week. It calls on the governments concerned to refrain from any military activities and work to create and expand Demilitarized Zones.

>> See <http://www.gppac.net/page.php?id=1#par2682>

### **Registration for World Social Forum Dakar 2011 is now open**

November, December — The World Social Forum is an open meeting place where social movements, networks, NGOs and other civil society organizations opposed to neo-liberalism and a world dominated by capital or by any form of imperialism come together to pursue their thinking, to debate ideas democratically, for formulate proposals, share their experiences freely and network for effective action.

There are two modes of registration: individual and of organizations. Organizations can send up to 5 delegates and register 3 activities, which will be confirmed after the payment of registration fees is made. Deadline for registering is on December 15th, and deadline for payment is on December 25th.

>> See <http://fsm2011.org/en/news/registration-to-the-wsf-dakar-2011>

>> Registration tools: <http://registration.fsm2011.org/accounts/login/>

### **Vacancy: Research Fellow for Network on Economic Analysis of Conflict**

November, 12th — The Department of International Economics at DIW Berlin is hiring a Postgraduate Research Fellow in Development Economics to participate in research activities of the Training and Mobility Network for the Economic Analysis of Conflict (TAMNEAC).

>> See

[http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/profiles/blog/show?id=780588:BlogPost:322412&xgs=1&xg\\_source=msg\\_share\\_post](http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/profiles/blog/show?id=780588:BlogPost:322412&xgs=1&xg_source=msg_share_post)

### **Finnish Committee of 100 elects new Chair**

November, 23<sup>rd</sup> — The Finnish peace organization Committee of One Hundred (IPB member) has chosen former member of Parliament Outi Ojala (Left Alliance) as its new chair for 2011. She has also been a member of European Parliament. Currently she is a member of the Helsinki City Council. Jan Koskimies continues as vice chair. Outi Ojala was as MP a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and was for many years a member of the Nordic Council. She has a long history in following international affairs and Finnish security politics. The Committee of 100 was established in 1963 as an anti-militarist, politically and religiously unaffiliated, peace organization.

## **4. RESOURCES**

## **Landmine Monitor 2010**

*International Campaign to Ban Landmines*

Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor provides research and monitoring for the ICBL and the CMC and is formally a program of the ICBL. It is the de facto monitoring regime for the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It monitors and reports on States Parties' implementation of, and compliance with, the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and more generally, it assesses the international community's response to the humanitarian problems caused by landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants of war. The Monitor represents the first time that NGOs have come together in a coordinated, systematic, and sustained way to monitor humanitarian law or disarmament treaties, and to regularly document progress and problems, thereby successfully putting into practice the concept of civil society-based verification.

>> See <http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/publications/display?url=lm/2010/es/Preface.html>

## **Meeting the Challenge: protecting civilians through the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

*From Human Rights Watch*

November, 22<sup>nd</sup> — This book is the culmination of a decade of research by Human Rights Watch. It details the humanitarian toll of cluster munitions, analyzes the international process that resulted in the treaty successfully banning them, and presents the steps that nations that have signed the convention should take to fulfill its promise. Meeting the Challenge draws on Human Rights Watch's field investigations to document the burdens cluster munitions impose on civilians and on its firsthand experience as an active participant in developing the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

>> See <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/11/22/meeting-challenge-0>

## **New peace blogs website – Fundació per la Pau**

*From Fundació per la Pau*

Fundació per la Pau collects the latest entries of blogs about culture of peace, conflict analysis, education for peace, disarmament and nonviolence.

>> See <http://www.fundacioperlapau.org/blocs/>

## **UNOY PIT Newsletter - Special Edition International Day of Peace**

*From UNOY Peacebuilders*

November — Special edition of the UNOY Peacebuilders' Peace It Together Newsletter! The newsletter highlights the various initiatives by member organisations that took place on the International Day of Peace 2010.

>> See

<http://www.unoy.org/downloads/newsletter/2010/Special%20Edition%20PIT%20Newsletter.pdf>