



IPB News

WWW: Working for a World Without War

International Peace Bureau

September 30th 2009

IPB Annual Conference – Washington D.C., Nov 14-18, 2009

We are at a time of crisis and opportunity. This conference, co-organized with Peace Action, America's largest grassroots peace network, is an invitation to engage in a strategic process, to examine our campaigning priorities and options, to explore new ways to challenge the militarism we see around us, and to build international connections and partnerships. Theme: *Rolling back militarism: a task for the global movement*. The programme includes a central conference and a day-seminar on military spending, plus the annual IPB Council meeting and a planning session for the NPT Review next May. It will also be the occasion for the award of the IPB's annual Sean MacBride Peace Prize. The conference flyer, and a news update with accommodation suggestions, are available at the IPB website. Speakers include veteran campaigner Tom Hayden and peace educator Betty Reardon. Detailed programme to follow soon. Registration is NOW OPEN:

https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/161/l/eng/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=54100

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.

Mexico City Conference tackles IPB's issues

The 62nd Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference took place in Mexico City from September 9 to September 11, 2009. The conference was attended by 1,300 representatives of non-governmental organizations from 50 countries. The title of the conference was "**For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!**" >>> [READ MORE](#)

IPB organised a workshop entitled 'Warfare or Welfare?' concentrating on the core issue of military spending. Chaired by IPB President Tomas Magnusson, the speakers were (texts available) [Frida Berrigan](#) (New America Foundation), Fred Lubang (Nonviolence International), and [Allison Pytlak](#) (Religions for Peace) + [military spending fact sheet](#).

For press releases and other materials on the conference please go to:

[DPI/NGO Conference Calls on Governments, International Organizations to Create Effective Arms Trade Treaty, Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ngoconference/lang/en/pid/3301) and <http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ngoconference/lang/en/pid/3301>.

Clusters Campaign: Stop Explosive Investments!

The Cluster Munitions Coalition is launching a disinvestment campaign called "Stop Explosive Investments" on Thursday October 29. The goal of the campaign is to urge governments to ban investments in cluster munitions and to call on financial institutions and banks to disinvest from cluster munitions producers. The campaign helps to promote implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) that has been joined by 98 states, and it will also help direct public attention to the national legislation and broader campaigning efforts against cluster bombs. CMC calls on other organisations to participate in the disinvestment campaign by lobbying governments and parliaments, pressuring financial institutions and reaching out to the media. In addition, CMC will launch a new campaign website www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org on October 29. CMC's Action Alert is available [HERE](#).

Military Spending

CND say Brown must scrap Trident

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (IPB member organisation in UK) has expressed its disappointment with Prime Minister Gordon Brown as he failed to speak about scrapping the Trident programme at the Labour Party conference, which took place on September 29. Brown did not mention his proposal to cut Britain's Trident replacement subs from four to three, which he made at the UN. Previously, the Prime Minister of the UK announced planned cuts in the number of submarines in the Trident Replacement programme. The UK is due to spend tens of billions on this programme, which the majority of public disapproves of, and which is considered militarily useless. Kate Hudson, Chair of CND, stressed that the planned cuts should be followed by more reductions and the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. "Gordon Brown has outlined a wide-ranging programme to help the British people, all of which requires money. Scrapping Trident and its replacement would be a sure way to save in excess of £100 billion."

<http://www.cnduk.org/index.php/20090923769/press-releases/trident/cnd-welcomes-first-cut-in-trident-replacement-programme.html>

WRI's newsletter : Global Initiative on War Profiteers

The War Resisters' International has published its twentieth issue of *War Profiteers News*, in which it talks about the International Conference entitled '*Nonviolent Livelihood Struggle and Global Militarism: Links & Strategies*' that will take place in January 2010 in India. The newsletter discusses the Indian conglomerate Mahindra Group, which is involved in the development of the Indian defence industry; the popular initiative to ban Switzerland's arms exports; actions against the recent DSEi arms fair; and Israel's deal with India's army.

http://wri-irg.org/publications/war_profiteers

Nuclear Disarmament

Stockholm Conference - preparing for NPT Review - Nov 6-8, 2009

The Swedish Network for Nuclear Disarmament, in cooperation with ABF Stockholm, IPB, Pugwash Sweden and UNA Sweden, will hold an international Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in Stockholm. It offers an arena for civil society organizations, politicians and professionals to meet in preparation for the 2010 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Here is [the invitation](#) and [the programme](#) to the Conference. To register go to:

<http://nucleardisarmament.se/club/page/public/index/12049>

Call to support October 27 as International Nuclear Weapons-Free World Day

IPB member organisation the Global Security Institute is calling on disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control organisations to support the declaration of October 27th to be the International Day for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World and urges them to contact their UN representatives and permanent missions to do the same. The declaration was accepted during the 62nd NGO/DPI Conference, Mexico City (see above). GSI says that October is a better date than August, for several reasons - for example, parliaments are in session and it's an opportunity to lobby them. [Here is the letter](#) of appeal from Global Security Institute. (www.gsainstitute.org). The governmental contact database can be accessed at:

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/govcontacts/govindex.html>

Gensuikyo's proposal to Japanese government on nuclear abolition

On September 17, 2009 Gensuikyo, an IPB member organisation, participated in a meeting with the representatives of the Foreign Ministry of Japan and made a proposal to the government on nuclear abolition. In the proposal, Gensuikyo addresses the government's responsibility to remind the world of the dangers of nuclear weapons and calls on it to put more efforts into the process of their elimination. It urges the government to address the issue of a total ban on nuclear weapons at the UN Security Council, to review the UN General Assembly resolution on "Renewed Determination of Complete Elimination of Nuclear Weapons" and to vote in favour of the ban on the use of nuclear weapons.>>>[Read full proposal here](#).

Weapons and their impact on development

Landmine Action's report: Explosive violence - the problem of explosive weapons

Landmine Action has published a report titled *Explosive violence - the problem of explosive weapons*. According to the organisation, thousands of civilians are killed or seriously injured as a result of explosive weapons such as air-dropped bombs, car and truck bombs or artillery shells. Many of the casualties are children. The report discusses the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and their consequences and calls for a joined effort against their use. It is available online at <http://www.landmineaction.org/resources/Explosive%20violence.pdf>

Arias and Calderon speak in favour of Arms Trade Treaty at the UN

During his speech at the UN on September 24, Costa Rican President Óscar Arias Sanchez called on world leaders to support the Arms Trade Treaty. He criticized the UN for 'turning a blind eye to the arms race' and pointed to the fact that conventional weapons are a serious threat to civilians. Arias is one of the creators of the Arms Trade Treaty. He persuaded a group of Nobel Peace Laureates to publish a draft International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers in 1997 which tried to prohibit arms transfers to countries that supported terrorism or were engaged in aggression against other nations. Mexican President Felipe Calderón has also spoken out in favour of the ATT and called on the Security Council members to take action. <http://www.iansa.org/>

Pyramid of shoes action

On September 26, Handicap International organised an action called The Pyramid of Shoes. The event took place in 32 French cities (Paris, Lyon, Nice and others) and was dedicated to victims of cluster munitions. 3000 volunteers and 1000 artists created pyramids of shoes as a token of solidarity with the victims. The organisation collected 50 000 signatures from the public to ban

manufacturing, use and sale of cluster munitions and to help the victims. The event took place one day after France became the 20th country to ratify the Cluster Bomb Ban. <http://www.handicap-international.fr/>

Latin American Parliament calls for suspension of uranium weapons

On September 10, the Human Rights, Justice and Prison Policy Commission of Parlatino, the Latin American Parliament, passed an official resolution which appeals for a moratorium on the use, production and acquisition of uranium weapons. The resolution was initiated by Alexander Mora Mora, a Costa Rican parliamentarian and the President of Parlatino's Human Rights Commission. It also asks members of Parlatino to work on an international uranium weapons treaty; not to send troops where uranium weapons are used; and to mark and map contaminated areas. The resolution is the result of the ICBUW's campaign against uranium weapons. <http://www.bandepleteduranium.org/en/a/289.html>

Other news

Student Scholarship / Essay Contest on NATO

Daily Alliance, a US nonpartisan grassroots peace organisation, has announced an essay contest for school students. The title of the essay is "The Role of NATO in the 21st Century". The essay should be between 2,500 and 3,000 words long. The first prize for the essay is the amount of \$1000. The essays should be submitted to bruce@daisyalliance.org by January 26th, 2010. For more information :

<http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=001wGhNVsuyyJVCVuXAK50fsDdHn3XHEUqrka7IcXhIEyYZSGaUqU60IW-1OKWvogMikj5YoRu-L2bbsdHluYaXWmGE0dQtyFnu62QaTWI-0o4%3D>
or <http://www.daisyalliance.org>

New media alliance to fight violence against women

A media alliance to fight violence against women has been created by ISIS International Chile, the news agency SEMlac and the feminist international radio RIF. The media alliance will offer workshops on violence, gender issues and media coverage. It will also spread information about peace and disarmament initiatives across the Americas. Visit www.isis.cl/

Resources

Landmine Monitor report 2009

This year's Landmine Monitor report will be released globally on November 12, 2009 at the UN Conference in Geneva and online. Campaigners are encouraged to organise activities related to the release of the report and to promote the upcoming Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty. More information is available at <http://lm.icbl.org/>

Disarmament: Basic Guide

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs has a new publication *Disarmament: Basic Guide* that is available in English and Spanish and can be accessed at: <http://www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/AdhocPublications/>

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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