



IPB News

WWW: Working for a World Without War

International Peace Bureau

October 16th, 2009

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

Theme: *Rolling back militarism: a task for the global movement*

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. 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. Speakers include veteran campaigner Tom Hayden and peace educator Betty Reardon. The conference flyer, and a news update with accommodation suggestions, are available at the IPB website. Detailed programme and other details at: <http://www.ipb.org> 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.

Military Spending

Advocacy Package on Military Spending compared to Development Aid

The Secretariat of Pax Christi International (IPB member) has prepared an excellent advocacy package entitled *Military Spending and Development Aid or the Story of 'the Elephant in the Room'*. The 70pp package is a part of the Disarmament for Development Campaign. The wealthiest countries in the world do not offer enough resources to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The document can be used for educational purposes and be downloaded at <http://www.paxchristi.net> under News Archive. It is available at Ref: 2009-0586-en-gl-SD.pdf

Big U.S. defence programmes killed by the Authorisation Bill

The U.S. Congress has decided to eliminate half a dozen weapons programmes. The Senate and the House agreed and passed the 2010 Defence Authorisation Bill on October 8, 2009. The list of eliminated programmes includes the F-22 stealth fighter and the multiple-kill vehicle. However, the money saved by eliminating some weapons programmes will be added back into the U.S. defence budget. The authorization bill matches the \$680.2 billion that President Barack Obama requested for defense. For more please go to:

Problems for Boeing

Despite McCain's and Obama's support for a stop in production of C-17 cargo plane, the Senate has recently voted to keep the programme due the threat of a big job loss. However, the current times are harsh for Boeing. It had cut back efforts to create new army systems and defence against missiles due to Pentagon's change of plans. It made the company expand its foreign military sales and expand new products such as spy planes. The military analysts doubt whether Boeing will be able to make up for the lost business.

More at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/09/business/09boeing.html>

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. The programme is available [HERE](#) and to register go to:

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

Ban Ki-Moon and Gorbachev speak in Geneva

On October 5, the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, opened the Geneva Lecture Series entitled "*Resetting the Nuclear Disarmament Agenda*" welcoming and praising the guest speaker, Mikhail Gorbachev. Ban Ki-moon said that Gorbachev helped to 'reaffirm the vision of a world without nuclear weapons'.

The last President of the Soviet Union reminded the world that there are still multiple obstacles to a nuclear-free world and that progress on the nuclear issue cannot be expected without progress also on conventional arms, weaponization of outer space and militarization in general. He stressed that 'the only way to totally eliminate the nuclear danger is to eliminate the nuclear weapons'. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/sgsm12521.doc.htm>

Obama at the UN: A step on the road to nuclear disarmament

Frida Berrigan in her article for Huffington Post, '*Obama at the UN: Another Step on the Long Road to Nuclear Disarmament*', writes that Obama's recent presence and speech at the UN Security Council about seeking the world without nuclear weapons is a small but important step in nuclear disarmament. To access the full article, please visit: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/frida-berrigan/obama-at-the-un-another-s_b_298654.html

World Peace March (October 2, 2009-January 2,2010)

The World March for Peace and Nonviolence started on October 2, 2009 at the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Wellington, New Zealand. The date marks the 140th anniversary of Gandhi's birthday and is celebrated as the International Day of Non-violence. Wellington was chosen as the starting point due to New Zealand's reputation as a peaceful country. The peace walkers are carrying the **Nuclear Abolition Flame**, which will travel with them around the world. The flame will be used to inspire people to support the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan for nuclear disarmament. After the end of the Peace March the Flame will be taken to New York for the NPT Review Conf. The march will pass through 90 countries in 90 days. Many of the countries it will visit deal with problems related to uncleared landmines and unexploded ordnance. The marchers will also visit 13 states that refused to sign 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions. Various activities such as conferences, festivals and forums will be organised in the countries visited by the Peace March. One such event promoted by the marchers is a global call

to protect the North and South Poles. It was launched on October 3 at the Antarctica Monument on Mount Victoria. The peace walkers called for both poles to be declared World Peace Parks to protect them from destruction by conflicts or environmental disasters. Another initiative undertaken by the Peace March was planting trees in the Manawa Karioi Ecological Restoration Project in Island Bay, Wellington. This event promoted collective responsibility to reduce carbon footprint to stop and reverse climate change. It was also a reminder of the need of global demobilization as world's military is one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions. IPB was represented at the event via our Vice-President Alyn Ware. More information at: <http://www.theworldmarch.org/>

U.S won't pressure Israel for nuclear arsenal disclosure

The Washington Times reported on September 29, 2009 that the U.S is not seeking disclosure of Israel's nuclear arsenal, which is estimated at between 100 and 200 warheads, but the government has never officially acknowledged it. In May 2009, during his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Barack Obama confirmed that he is not planning to change the 40 year unofficial agreement that former President Nixon had with Golda Meir. According to the agreement the U.S won't challenge Israel on the issue as long as Israel doesn't test weapons. Paradoxically, Obama spoke at the UN in September about nuclear proliferation and disarmament as one of the key issues, which Netanyahu believes referred to North Korea and Iran rather than Israel. Arms Control Association chief Daryl Kimball played down the importance of Obama's decision, saying that the UN Security Council resolution applies also to Israel. http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20091002_7204.php

Weapons and their impact on development

Clusters Campaign: Stop Explosive Investments!

The Cluster Munitions Coalition is launching a disinvestment campaign called "Stop Explosive Investments" on **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 signed 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. CMC will launch a new campaign website www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org on October 29. CMC's Action Alert is available [HERE](#).

Arms exporters should account for abuses, say NGOs

A new NGO report '*Dying for Action*' published on October 7, argues that creating an international treaty regulating small arms is a necessity. The main contributors to the report, Amnesty International and Oxfam, say that exports of small arms to countries where there is a danger that they will be used in serious human rights violations, should be prevented. The NGOs also call for the governments exporting arms to such countries to be held accountable. According to the report, 2.1 million people have died as a result of armed violence since 2006. Brian Woods, from Amnesty International urges that the Arms Trade Treaty that will be soon discussed at the UN, should be used in a preventive way. More at <http://ipsterraviva.net/UN/currentNew.aspx?new=6630> and http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bn_dying_for_action.pdf

Opening Door for Health Claims related to Agent Orange

The Department of Veterans Affairs is planning to add Parkinson disease, ischemic heart disease and hairy-cell leukemia to the list of diseases to have been caused by Agent Orange used in

Vietnam. The change will be the result of proposed rules. The proposal should make it easier for Vietnam war veterans to claim that these diseases are linked to their service in Vietnam and to receive health care services. Agent Orange was the most commonly used herbicides in Vietnam to destroy crops and the toxic dioxin it contained is believed to cause some cancers.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/13/us/politics/13vets.html?_r=2&ref=global-home

Other news

World debates the Nobel Peace Prize for Obama

On October 9, 2009 the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2009 will be awarded to the U.S. President, Barack Obama for his "extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

http://nobelpeaceprize.org/en_GB/home/announce-2009/

The President himself expressed his surprise at the news but has decided to accept the award.

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/community/post/obamaforamerica/gGM45m>

The announcement has led to a lively debate among critics, bloggers and numerous organisations as to whether it is the right choice or if the prize comes too soon. Many peace and disarmament organisations have issued statements.

The **International Peace Bureau** questioned the award, as it "fails to respect the intentions expressed by Alfred Nobel in his will". While congratulating Obama on this highest of global awards -- notably for having restored hope to millions concerned about the state of the planet -- the organisation raised numerous questions about the choice. > [Full statement available HERE.](#)

The **U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Bombs** and **Handicap International** reacted to the award by calling on Obama to join the Landmines and Cluster Bomb Treaties. The US has not signed it yet and has not expressed plans to sign the Oslo Treaty on Cluster Munitions of Dec. 2008, signed by 100 countries. The two organisations urge Obama to express support for the treaties in the upcoming Second Mine Ban Treaty Review Conference (November 30 - December 4), a few days before the presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize. > [Full Press release HERE](#)

Avaaz, the fast-growing campaigning organisation, while congratulating the U.S. President, called on other organisations to flood Obama with messages of encouragement and to sign the Obama Peace Petition, which will put pressure on him to act on issues of disarmament, climate change and peace in the Middle East and Afghanistan. The petition is available at: http://www.avaaz.org/en/obama_peace_prize/?cl=347554558&v=4248

Fareed Zakaria, a renowned foreign affairs analyst, thinks that the award is 'to America for rejoining the world rather than recognition of President Obama per se'. The full interview with Zakaria can be read at:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/10/09/zakaria.obama.nobel/index.html?iref=mpstoryview>

30th Right Livelihood Awards - IPB Vice-President honoured

2009 Right Livelihood Awards have been granted to four recipients: David Suzuki, Rene Ngongo, Alyn Ware and Catherine Hamlin. The Right Livelihood Awards are presented annually in the Swedish Parliament and are often referred to as 'Alternative Nobel Prizes'. They were introduced in 1980 "to honour and support those offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today". One of the laureates, **Alyn Ware** from New Zealand, (IPB Vice-President) has been recognised "for his effective and creative advocacy and initiatives over two decades to further peace education and to rid the world of nuclear weapons". *"Alyn Ware is one*

of the world's most effective peace workers, who has led key initiatives for peace education and nuclear abolition in New Zealand and internationally over the past 25 years. He helped draft the Peace Studies Guidelines that became part of the New Zealand school curriculum, initiated successful programmes in schools and thousands of classrooms throughout the country, and has served as an adviser to the NZ government and the UN on disarmament education. He was active in the campaign that prohibited nuclear weapons in New Zealand, before serving as the World Court Project UN Coordinator which achieved a historic ruling from the World Court on the illegality of nuclear weapons".

IPB warmly congratulates Alyn Ware and the other laureates on receiving the awards. For the press release please visit: <http://www.rightlivelihood.org/>

Animations for Peace Award

Fundacio per la Pau, an IPB member organisation in Barcelona, is organising the third edition of the Animations for Peace Award. The award's goal is to promote the culture of peace through the art of animation. The subject this year is "Peace Paths: Nonviolence and Dialogue".

www.fundacioperlapau.org/concurs/eng

Peace Action activists attacked at White House

On October 5, a group of 23 peace activists from Peace Action (IPB member) gathered in front of the White House to call for an end to the US war in Afghanistan. The activists had sent a letter to President Obama in September asking for a meeting on October 5 to discuss the war in Afghanistan. Their request was refused and they were surrounded by the police and Secret Service who used force to drag them from the gates. The group included elderly people. Peace Action is calling on Obama to meet with them to talk about their opposition to the war and is awaiting an apology for the police brutality. <http://peaceblog.wordpress.com/>

Resources

Ploughshares Reports on armed violence

Project Ploughshares (IPB member organisation, Canada) have published their *Armed Conflicts Report* for 2009. It is available in a poster format and as a web-based report. The Preface writer is Dr. James Orbinski, MD, who, in 1999, accepted the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Doctors Without Borders for its pioneering approach to medical humanitarianism.

The organisation also released a report entitled '*Addressing Armed Violence in East Africa*' on September 30 in cooperation with World Vision Canada. Written by Executive Director John Siebert and Senior Program Associate Kenneth Epps, this report describes World Vision's work in parts of Kenya, Uganda and Sudan to combine peacebuilding with development programming.

<http://www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/Newsletter/Issue19Sept09.html>

United Nations Disarmament Yearbook

The Disarmament Affairs has published *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*. Part 1 was published in March 2009 and it contains disarmament resolutions and decisions of the previous General Assembly. Part 2 summarizes developments in the main disarmament and non-proliferation issues, reviews the activities of the General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament. The yearbook is available in print and in a pdf format.

<http://www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/Yearbook/2008/YB.shtml>

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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