



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

18th January 2008 edition

A very Happy New Year to all our readers!

NEW IPB BOOK: *WHOSE PRIORITIES?*

A guide for campaigners on military and social spending by Colin Archer, IPB Secretary-General

This book is a follow-up to IPB's earlier volume *Warfare or Welfare? Disarmament for Development in the 21st Century*. While that work attempted to describe the nature of the problems facing us, the new publication sketches out some approaches to campaigning in opposition to militarism, and offers summary accounts of 18 projects undertaken by civil society groups around the world. Click [here](#) for the flyer.

Full text available on website. Published 2007, 76pp, A4 format, illustrated. ISBN: 92-95006-04-6

Price: 20 CHF + postage. Discounts offered for IPB members and bulk orders. Order hard copies from the IPB Secretariat. For methods of payment, go to www.ipb.org.

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 (now totalling \$1204 billion); 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 short film. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

Weapons and their effects

18 000 weapons and 2.7 millions of ammunitions destroyed in Colombia

As part of the peace process, 18 000 weapons and 2.7 million pieces of ammunition were melted into 25 tons of metal in the city of Sogamoso on 15th December. The metal will be transformed into sculptures in memory of victims of paramilitary activities. The guns were handed in through the demobilization process of the paramilitary group United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC). Most of these guns had been used in the conflicts of El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala before being sold to Colombian guerrillas. Read Spanish news article by clicking [here](#) (from IANSA Update)

UNDP report on effects of armed violence in Guatemala

In this report, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) say that armed violence costs Guatemala more than US\$ 2.4 billion a year. The statistical report discusses the rising expenditure of public security and health care alongside losses to the tourism industry and the decrease in productivity by people of an active age. A useful piece of work linking disarmament and development. (from IANSA Update) To read more go to <http://www.iansa.org/regions/camerica/camerica.htm>

Israel upholds use of cluster bombs

No legal action will be taken by Israeli military prosecutors over Israel's use of cluster bombs during the summer 06 war on Lebanon, although the United Nations and human rights groups heavily criticised this practice. According to an internal army investigation, the dropping of around 4 million cluster bomblets during the 34 days war was a concrete military necessity and did not violate international humanitarian law. Read full Associated Press article at <http://wtopnews.com/index.php?nid=105&sid=1316136>

Cluster munitions: action alert - Wellington Conference is only 6 weeks away

The next step of the Oslo Process that should lead to an international ban treaty on the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions is the Wellington Conference from February 18th to 22nd. Although there are 94 States that explicitly endorsed the Oslo Declaration or indicated their support for the Oslo Process, only 30 governments have formally registered so far for the conference. The Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) therefore launched an action alert to call for campaigners and activists to keep up the pressure on their governments to urge them to finalize their plans for the Wellington conference as soon as possible. Read the alert action plan and get engaged by clicking [here](#). CMC website at <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/>

Landmine awareness training course: still some places left

Mine awareness International (MAI) is holding a two days landmine awareness training course on 26-27 January in Aldershot (UK) for NGOs, aid and development agencies and charity staff who work in areas of the world which are contaminated by Explosive Remnants of War. As there are still some places free, anyone who would benefit from the course is invited to contact directly MAI founder Pete Donaldson at pete@mineawareness.org. Payment for the placement is at the discretion of the participant, and any small donation to assist in covering costs would be appreciated. You can find the course syllabus at <http://mineawareness.com/2daycourse.htm>

Gun violence in four conflict zones

Whereas IANSA members have called for gun free elections on January 18th in Pakistan where at least 47 persons have been killed since the assassination of Ms Bhutto, an Electoral Violence Response Initiative has been launched in Kenya to counter the post December 30th presidential elections as more than 600 people have been killed and more than 100 000 driven from their homes since. Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan government

announced its withdrawal from a ceasefire agreement with the Tamil Tigers as armed groups have been deliberately targeting civilians in the North-East and Southern Sri Lanka. In RDCs Kivu province, violent conflicts between government troops and Nkunda's loyalists as well as other rebel groups have taken place during recent months, resulting in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people and threatening the fragile recovery from the civil war. A peace conference is finally taking place involving delegates from various armed groups as well as representatives from the civil society, businesses and ethnic groups. Read more on all these conflicts in IANSA Update January 4th edition at <http://www.iansa.org/updates/index.htm>

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Iran Update: new year marks lowering of US heat on Teheran

Since the publication by the US National Intelligence Council of a report stating that Iran had halted its nuclear weapons programme since 2003, there has been a dramatic turn around in the mood music towards Iran in Washington. Read more on this report, Bush's reactions, development in Iranian nuclear technology and changes in the US attitude towards Iran in the new Iran Update by the British American Security Information Council (BASIC) at <http://www.basicint.org/update/iran080108.htm>

Biological Weapons Update: publishing passed over from BASIC to ISS

The excellent Biological Weapons Update by the British American Security Information Council (BASIC) will from now on be published by the South African based policy think tank Institute for Security Studies (ISS). This is due to BASIC's focus on the work on nuclear weapons with their new project called *getting to zero*. You will find the latest issue of the update with lots of interesting news at <http://www.basicint.org/update/BWU080103.htm>

Others

Former IPB Vice-President appointed to the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament

Dr Kate Dewes, veteran peace and disarmament campaigner for more than 30 years and Coordinator of the Peace Foundation Disarmament & Security Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand, has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

Job Vacancy at the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

EPLO, a platform of European peacebuilding NGOs, networks and think tanks, dedicated to the promotion of effective and sustainable peacebuilding policies within the European Union, is looking for a new Director for the next coming five years. Candidates should have strong leadership and management experience, coupled with excellent networking skills, a thorough understanding of the EU with knowledge/expertise in peacebuilding. A full job description with application procedure is to be found at the following address <http://www.eplo.org/index.php?id=63>

New newsletter: Global Article 9 Campaign to Abolish War

The Global Article 9 Campaign (based in Japan) urges the civil society to adopt the “no war, no military” message and push for this concept to be included in their own countries’ constitutions. In order to inform supporters about the Article 9 debate and the upcoming Article 9 Conference in May (see our IPB events Calendar), a new newsletter has been launched. To be added on the mailing list, e-mail to article-9@peaceboat.gr.jp. The website of the campaign is <http://www.article-9.org/>

Newsletters

IPB receives many e-newsletters, both from our members and non-member organisations. Click [here](#) for a list with hyperlinks.

Calendar

Click [here](#) for IPB’s international events calendar.

There is a comprehensive Disarmament Calendar of UN and other events in key cities by the Geneva Forum at www.geneva-forum.org.

Message to IPB members: if you have reports of activities that are relevant to this newsletter please email them to the Secretariat.

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from this newsletter please email:

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