



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

25th January 2008 edition

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.

Military Spending

IPB book '*Whose Priorities?*' - campaign guide - promotion ideas

Some readers may have received by post in the pre-Christmas period a copy of our new book '*Whose Priorities?*' *A guide for campaigners on military and social spending*, together with the annual appeal. This publication contains some ideas on strategies for campaigning as well as 18 concrete examples of current campaigns around the world. We hope too that you have had a chance to look at it and think how it could be used in your own work. Please pass it on to colleagues and friends that might be interested. If you did not receive a copy, please send us a message and we will get it in the post to you. We are keen to get this material distributed more widely, in order to build up our international campaign. So please consider the following by clicking [here](#).

Whose Priorities? Now available in German

The new IPB publication *Whose Priorities? A guide on military and social spending*, has already been translated in full by our colleague Silvi Sterr. Danke schön! You can find both English and German editions on the website at www.ipb.org (front page, scroll down). The German edition is not yet available in hard copy edition. Translations in other languages are planned during the course of this coming year. We ask our German-reading friends to kindly pass this information on to their circles.

Don't buy Bush's war: CODEPINK campaign to stop funding war

CODEPINK's new campaign is a step further in the quest for an end to the Iraq war since traditional protests and lobbying have so far failed. They are now planning to get US citizens to sign a pledge that, when joined by 100 000 other signatories by April 5th, engages them to refuse paying their taxes until the US gets out of Iraq. More about the campaign at

www.dontbuybushswar.org.

Switzerland: controversy about a US\$ 540 million quote for upgrading 33 F/A-18 fighters.

To keep its F/A-18 fighters equipped with the latest technical innovations, the Swiss Ministry of Defence asked the US Congress for a quote to upgrade the fleet. The US proposal is US\$ 540 millions, an enormous bill that is subject once again to a controversy in Switzerland about its fighters. Since its acquisition in '93, the fleet already cost the Swiss Confederation a quarter of the initial US\$ 3 billions bill on other upgrades and flight simulators.

Producers of cluster munitions and nuclear weapons excluded from the Norwegian Pension Fund.

The Council on Ethics of the Norwegian Ministry of Finance accused three companies (Hanwha Corporation, Serco Group Plc and GenCorp Inc) of being involved in the production of Cluster Munitions and Nuclear Weapons, respectively. The Minister of Finance Kristin Halvorsen said that the Ministry cannot participate in the funding of these types of production as the normal use of these weapons results in the violation of fundamental humanitarian principles. As a consequence, she said the three companies would be excluded from the Pension Fund. Read full press release by clicking [here](#).

Weapons and their effects

Cluster Munitions - Media Update

Click [here](#) to access a very large collection of media articles covering cluster munitions issues since December 18th collected by the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC). Previous issues of this media update are available at <http://www.stopclusterbombs.org/>. An excellent detailed summary of the current situation regarding cluster munitions features in the new issue of Arms Control Today at http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2008_01-02/goose.asp. There are also comprehensive reports from the Oslo Process meetings at <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/disarmament/clustermunitions/>.

Cluster Munitions Ban Treaty: a step further toward the Wellington Conference

The draft of the Cluster Munitions Convention dated 21st January 2008 has been posted to the official Wellington Conference website. It is available together with explanatory notes at <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/clustermunitionswellington/>

Cluster Bombs: US plans cluster bomb task force - CMC response

The US announced at the UN its plan to create a cluster bomb task force to defuse cluster bombs left over from conflicts, in order to use cluster munitions in a way that would be in full accordance with international humanitarian law. However, this seems to be another sign that the US will continue to oppose a ban on these weapons, the aim of the Oslo Process. The Cluster Munitions Coalition unanimously criticises this proposal, and stresses the need for the US and all other countries to support a total ban

on these weapons in the view of their disastrous effects on civilian populations. Read BBC press article at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7192716.stm> and CMC Press Release [here](#).

Kodiak Island becomes key star wars test site

Despite local protests, the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation's (AADC) was created in 1992 and built a rocket launch facility designed, it said, exclusively for civil use. However, the US Air Force used it for atmospheric interceptors tests, and the US Army Space and Missile Defence Command arranged for the base to host twenty of the US Army Strategic Target System missile tests, each of them affecting the environment. AADC now has plans to enlarge the Kodiak launch complex so it would be able to host multiple launch customers simultaneously. Read full story from the global Network's site at <http://space4peace.blogspot.com> (scroll down to January 16th).

Child mortality rates highest in war-torn countries

According to a report released by UNICEF on January 22nd, countries hit by war have the highest mortality rates in the world. The problem is most acute in Sierra Leone, Angola and Afghanistan, where the share of children that die before their 5th birthday lies between 260-270 for 1 000 births. The worldwide average child mortality rate in 2006 was 72 deaths per 1 000 births, much higher than the average in industrialized countries where the rate was six deaths per 1 000 births. Read CBC Press article at <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/01/22/unicef.html> and access the full UNICEF's State of the World's Children report 2008 at <http://www.unicef.org/sowc08/report/report.php>

Weapons of Mass Destruction

NPT PrepCom 2008 - information for NGOs

To receive all updates and to keep informed throughout the upcoming weeks about the preparation of the upcoming NPT PrepCom to be held in Geneva from 28 April to 8 May, be sure to register for Reaching Critical Will's general E-news service by sending an e-mail to the Project Associate at ray@reachingcriticalwill.org. Also visit their website for practical and substantive matters at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/2008index.html>

Kissinger et al. issued SECOND statement 'Toward a nuclear-free world' in Wall Street Journal.

The high profile group of former US Secretaries of State, Defence and National Security Advisors have renewed their remarkable call for a nuclear-free world in an opinion piece for the Wall Street Journal. The full text of the statement is available at <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120036422673589947.html>

Nuclear Famine research

The International Physicians for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (IPPNW) partnered with two respected climate scientists to document and publicise disturbing new research about the global effects on climate and health from even a small exchange of nuclear weapons. According to the findings, even a limited nuclear war would damage the earth's climate in profound and long-lasting ways, with disastrous effects such as crop failures, massive famine and epidemics of infectious diseases. Read New Scientist article at <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn12728-regional-nuclear-war-could-trigger-mass-starvation.html> and get more detailed information on the research at <http://www.ippnw.org/News/RelevantNews.html>

New US coalition to stop US-India nuclear deal

The Global Security Institute (member of the IPB Network), together with 22 other organizations, launched a coalition to stop the Bush administration's proposed nuclear trade agreement with India. Members of the Campaign are working to educate US Congress and public about the dangers of the deal, and are working with experts and organizations in two-dozen countries to inform about deliberations over the deal with the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its member states. More about the campaign at <http://www.responsiblenucleartrade.com/>

Pre-emptive nuclear strike a key option, NATO told

In a 150 page report for a NATO reform, five of the west's most senior military ex-officers and strategists said a pre-emptive nuclear strike option remains an indispensable instrument in an increasingly insecure and unforeseeable world. The report also calls for a new pact drawing together the US, NATO and the EU for the coordination of common transatlantic interests and security strategy. Read news item by The Guardian at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/nato/story/0,,2244782,00.html>

Resources

***Disarmament Forum* - The quarterly journal of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).**

Disarmament Forum offers clear, forward looking, and accessible analysis on disarmament issues to a worldwide readership comprising disarmament and arms control experts, government officials, diplomats, researchers, academics and students. Each issue focuses on a specific topic related to peace and security. To receive Disarmament Forum (available both in English and French), send full mailing address to alberty@unog.ch, or register online at http://www.unidir.org/html/en/disarmament_forum.php, where all issues are also available online.

SIPRI Update: Global Security and Arms Control

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) from now on publishes a monthly newsletter covering the latest developments in international security, arms control, non-proliferation and regional conflict, including recent activities and publications at SIPRI. The first January 2008 edition is now available online at <http://www.sipri.org/contents/update>

Informed Choice? Armed forces recruitment practice in the United Kingdom

A career in the armed forces brings opportunities and risks unfamiliar in civilian life. This exhaustive report by Davis Gee looks at the recruitment practice in the United Kingdom and assesses whether the information provided enables them to make an informed choice about enlistment. Executive summary and full report available at <http://www.informedchoice.org.uk/>

Others

Job opening at Project Ploughshares

Project Ploughshares, the Canadian ecumenical peace centre, is looking seeking a full time program associate to work on disarmament issues. Applicants should contact Nancy Regehr at nregehr@ploughshares.ca

Scientific statement on action on climate change and energy

As co-sponsor of the Global Issues Project, Science for Peace (an IPB member organization) issued a framework of action, which indicates globally valid directions towards sustainability as well as directions not to choose. It will be forwarded to all governments, policy makers, universities, colleges, school ministries and schools. Access the statement [here](#).

Tips for finding summer internships in international development, peace and conflict and related fields.

As this is a period when many students are seeking internship opportunities for this summer, you will find some key steps for identifying opportunities as well as links to relevant websites at <http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/profiles/blog/show?id=780588%3ABlogPost%3A40159>

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.

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

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