



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

22nd February 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

Defence companies eye India's arms market

India is becoming a centre of attention for the arm-dealers around the world. Russia used to be their major supplier, but as the money is increasing, India is now looking elsewhere to buy weaponry. For this reason, more arms-dealers from around the world are coming to do shopping in India, in the hope of landing multi-billion dollar contracts. Read more [here](#).

Military research and development 85 times larger than renewable energy

Stuart Parkinson and Chris Langley outline Scientists for Global Responsibility's latest research whose revelations include statistics from across the industrialised world showing the massive imbalance between government research and development spending for military purposes and that for social and environmental purposes. The research-report can soon be found [here](#).

SIPRI Update: Global Security & Arms Control

Russian military expenditure increased by 41 per cent in real terms over the period 2003-2007, and in 2007 amounted to roughly the same dollar amount as German military expenditure, converted at market exchange rates. This increase reflects President Vladimir Putin's resolve to raise the status of the Russian armed forces and Russia's international standing. During the same period, the Russian state defence order increased by 81 per cent in real terms, injecting funds into the struggling Russian arms industry which has been strongly export dependent since the end of the cold war. The three-year federal budget for 2008-10, introduced by Putin for the last year of his presidency, included increases in military expenditure by 16, 11 and 12 per cent in nominal terms for these three years.

Further analysis of global trends and developments in military expenditure and arms production can be obtained from the [SIPRI Projects on Military Expenditure and Arms Production](#)

US payments to Pakistan face new scrutiny

An article in the Washington Post raises questions regarding the huge military spending in Afghanistan that are in no way accounted for. The bills have amounted to \$1 billion per year for six years now, and even the Bush administration admits there is a problem. Read the original article [here](#).

Record Military Budget : Deafening Silence on the Campaign Trail

William D. Hartung, February 21, 2008, New America Foundation

One issue that will not be discussed in the presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama is the burgeoning military budget of the USA. Earlier this month, the Bush administration announced a proposed military budget of \$611 billion, not counting the full cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This represents the highest level of spending since World War II, even though our most dangerous adversary is a dispersed terrorist network measured in the tens of thousands, not a nuclear-armed Soviet Union whose armed forces were measured in the millions. [Continued](#).

New paper in the series IPB Studies on Disarmament for Development

In this paper, we look at how the control of the armed forces does and should take place in democratic societies, with a special focus on the role of civilians and civil society. We define what we understand by the concepts of civilian and civil society, before looking at the different components of the process leading to an armed forces intervention, namely security and defence policy, budgeting, procurement and command. [Abstract continued here](#).

Armed forces, civil society and democratic control: concepts and challenges
by Samuel Flückiger, IPB Secretariat (intern) - 31pp, Feb. 2008 (see: <http://www.ipb.org/newsletters.html>, scroll down for list)

Weapons and their effects

Uranium weapon coalition action against banks

On November 6th 2007, the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons launched a campaign against banks that invest money in DU (depleted uranium) weaponry. The campaign is called "Too risky for business", and is still growing. You can now [go to their webpage](#), where responses from different banks have been posted. If you would like some more info regarding the "Too Risky for Business" campaign, you can click on [this link](#).

Control Arms Foundation calls for redrafting India's gun legislation

After a shoot-out at a school in Gurgaon, India, there is now a push for a new and more stringent version of the Indian Arms Act of 1959. The Control Arms Foundation of India and the India International Centre are both calling for redrafting India's gun legislation. The most important is to prevent children from possessing weapons. Ms Binalakshmi Nepram, Secretary General of Control Arms Foundation of India, said that; "*The Indian government should sincerely honour its commitment made to United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and to take the lead in participating constructively in the Group of Governmental Experts on the international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in order to bring an end to the rampant arms proliferation in our society.*" See these links for more details; [CAFI](#) and [rediff news](#).

Weapons of Mass Destruction

NAPF launches appeal to the next President of the United States

The IPB member group Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has started a new appeal for "*a nuclear weapons-free world*." The appeal is aimed at the next President of the USA, and it has already been signed by authorities such as the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Everyone is encouraged to [sign up](#) for the appeal.

Russia, China propose new treaty to ban arms in space

A new development on the diplomatic level offers an important change of mind in the arms-race. Russia and China have asked for an international agreement to stop a potential arms-race in space. This concern is indirectly aimed at the USA, who wants to build an anti-satellite system worldwide, as a protection against "*rogue states*". See more on this issue [here](#), and visit [Reaching Critical Will](#) and [Space Security](#) for more general information on the topic.

Others

Chechnya 2007: report on post-war work with children

IPB Secretariat has received an interesting report from Barbara Gladysch, Sean MacBride Prizewinner of 1999, about her work and travels in Chechnya in 2007. She analyses the most recent developments in Grozny: she is happy about the growing physical reconstruction of the city after its destruction, and specifically about a new playground for children to be opened soon. But she is sad about the lack of work being done on the justice and psychological aspects related to the crimes and cruelties of the past. The report is in German, and if you are interested, contact our secretariat.

CODEPINK Women for Peace, USA

Opening our hearts and shutting recruitment centres

The Berkeley City Council withstood tremendous pressure, and chose to oppose a Marine Recruiting Station in the middle of the city. The City Council expressed their gratitude to CODEPINK, who had the "*resolve and tenacity*" to hinder the acceptance of such a station in the area. CODEPINK now wants to spread their campaign, which you can learn more about in their [main article](#).

Pax Christi International job-vacancy as a desk officer for Middle East/Asia-Pacific

The location for the job is in Brussels, Belgium, and the deadline for applying is 29th February 2008. For more information, see www.paxchristi.net.

Protesters marked the 44th annual Munich Security Conference with rallies and speeches

On Friday 8th, and Saturday 9th of February, peace activists gathered in Munich's Marienplatz, a square in the town center, to protest against the 44th annual Munich Security Conference, which was attended by high-profile diplomats including NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

[Photos and statements](#).

Peace Depot was awarded the 2007 Special Prize

The IPB member [Peace Depot](#) was awarded the 2007 Special Peace Prize on November 27th, 2007. The Peace Depot had been nominated thanks to their efforts for peace and denuclearization in Northeast Asia. The award is an attempt to raise the attention around the only divided province in the world, Gangwon-do. The

South Korean Provincial Government gives the prize in an effort to re-evaluate the significance and role of the zone, and turn it into a symbol for peace. If you wish to read the speech of the President of Peace Depot, Hiro Umabayashi, [click here](#). If you want to learn more about the event and the divided zone, you [go here](#).

Simulation game on negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention

Darmstadt University of Technology is looking for participants to join this years project, that will happen during the NPT PrepCom in Geneva (April 28-May 9, 2008). They are looking for young people to join in, so if you are interested, or know someone that is, look [here](#).

In memoriam: Ingrid Jonas

Those who know some IPB history will be sad to learn that Ingrid Jonas has died at the age of 72. Ingrid Jonas ran the IPB office for several years in the 1960s, when the organisation was at a very low ebb and had just moved to the Rue de Zurich office from a much grander house in the Geneva Old Town.

[Continued here](#).

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. For disarmament events, go to the comprehensive Disarmament Calendars of UN and other intergovernmental, grassroots and civil society events in key cities compiled by the Geneva Forum at www.geneva-forum.org and by Reaching Critical Will at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/disarmcal08.html>

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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