



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

11th March 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 + Social spending

The true cost of the war in Iraq

In 2005, a Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel prize-winning economist, began the painstaking process of calculating the true cost of the Iraq war. In his new book, *"The Three Trillion Dollar War"*, he reveals how short-sighted budget decisions, cover-ups and a war fought in bad faith will affect us all for decades to come. A summary and interview was given in [the Guardian](#) on February 28th.

More on Iraqi US budget:

War is Hell, But What the Hell Does it Cost?

One Week at War in Iraq and Afghanistan for \$3.5 Billion

War is hell: Deadly, dangerous, and expensive. But just how expensive is it? In this article, William D. Hartung, Director of the Arms and Security Initiative at the New America Foundation, looks closer at the uses and misuses of the current administration's military budget. [Continued](#).

UN budget: USA wants to play, but not pay

The 2009 budget proposal for UN operations has an estimated \$348 million shortfall. This is not a new affair, and the US government has already accumulated a total debt to the UN of approximately \$1.5 billion. [Continued](#).

China says it plans to increase military spending by nearly 18% this year, to 417.8bn yuan (\$59bn; £30bn)

The figure was revealed ahead of China's annual parliamentary session, which begins on Wednesday 4 March. Just before the announcement, the US released a report criticising China's military spending, and voicing concern over advances in space and cyberspace. [BBC News](#)

Weapons and their effects

'In-Security-The Nuclear Dilemma', a new exhibition in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum

IPB was well represented at the opening of the photographic exhibition *'In-Security: the Nuclear Dilemma'*, which opened at the Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (MICR) in Geneva on Wednesday Feb. 27. [More](#).

Wellington conference shows promise for an international treaty to ban cluster munitions

What started as the Oslo conference on cluster munitions (Oslo process) in February 2007, where 46 states agreed to ban cluster munitions, has now grown substantially during the recent Wellington conference. [Continued](#).

Agent Orange victims to make appeal to US supreme court

The Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange and dioxin rejected Monday a decision issued by the New York-based US Appeals Court on February 22, and confirmed their plan to file their case with the US Supreme Court. Earlier, the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/dioxin had petitioned to file a case against manufacturers of the poisonous chemical Agent Orange, that was sprayed by the US in huge quantities during the Vietnam war. [Thanhniem news](#).

Arms collection and destruction under way, Republic of Congo

Armed forces in the Republic of Congo have begun to collect and destroy all weapons abandoned on battlegrounds in the country's civil war that began in 1997, as well as munitions that had expired but were still in armouries. The move follows President Denis Sassou Nguesso's declaration that 2008 would be "a year without illegal weapons in Congo". [Read more on the IRIN web-page](#).

Weapons of Mass Destruction

PM Gordon Brown and President Gorbachev discuss nuclear plus other issues

On January 28, 2008, President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Global Security Institute President Jonathan Granoff were hosted to breakfast and a private meeting with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Gordon Brown, at No. 10 Downing Street. The meeting was divided into two distinct parts. [Global Security Institute webpage](#)

US needs nuclear weapons for rest of century: General

The commander of US strategic forces said on Tuesday the United States will need nuclear weapons as a deterrent for the rest of the 21st century and should move now to field more modern weapons. The programme is controversial in part because it runs counter to the US obligation under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to work toward bringing its stockpile to zero. [Article](#).

Shultz and other experts back nuclear disarmament

Former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz today led a chorus of high-level experts supporting the eventual global elimination of nuclear weapons, adding momentum to a renewed international focus on the long-deferred goal of disarmament. [Global Security Newswire](#).

Job Openings: Exciting new global advocacy campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons

In the coming months, a major new global campaign will be launched to pursue one of the most important political objectives of our time - the elimination of nuclear weapons. World leaders from across the political spectrum have come together to work for a binding treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons, supported by a sweeping global advocacy campaign and a major documentary feature by the producers of *An Inconvenient Truth*. [More](#).

Resources

The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook

The Office of Disarmament Affairs is pleased to announce that "The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook" Volume 32 (Part I): *2007 Disarmament Resolutions and Decisions of the Sixty-Second Session of the United Nations General Assembly* is now available as [PDF and an online database](#).

ODA OCCASIONAL PAPERS No. 13

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs is pleased to announce the availability in print of the "ODA OCCASIONAL PAPERS No. 13" December 2007. Occasional Paper No. 13 is the third in a series of publications produced by the ODA. [PDF version](#).

Non Proliferation Treaty

PrepComm for the 2010 Review Conference

IPB will be active in several meetings at the second PrepComm for the 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to be held at the UN in Geneva from April 28 - May 9, 2008.

Book your accreditation, travel and accommodation now !

For full details see:

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/nptindex1.html>

<http://www.un.org/NPT2010/SecondSession/>

Others

Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

In June 2006, the [Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development](#) was signed by about 50 governments. This Declaration is another possibility for the [Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict](#) (GPPAC) to strengthen cooperation with governments in order to work together towards a shift from reaction to conflict prevention. [Full article](#).

International Women's Day disarmament seminar plus report

From 5-6 March 2008, over 120 women from more than 40 countries gathered in Geneva to discuss 'Women, War, Weapons and Conflict Prevention'. We discussed the next phase of activity in putting Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security to work so that it does more than add a few sentences to speeches, more than add a few women to UN departments and peacekeeping operations. [Full article](#).

Ubuntu statement on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Human life and dignity require the recognition and satisfaction of Human Rights to PEACE, to DEVELOPMENT (to food, to water...) and to the ENVIRONMENT, and they require that NOW! We encourage you to visit our web page and, if you agree the

proposed statement, also to support it through our usual process:
www.ubuntu.upc.edu.

Newsletters

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

New on IPB website

Warfare or Welfare? disponible en français

Edition francophone du livre publié par le B.I.P: "De l'insécurité des armes à la sécurité humaine" (traduction Ben Cramer, Paris) est maintenant disponible. Cliquez [ici](#) pour le texte complet.

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)

Calendar

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

For disarmament events, go to the comprehensive Disarmament Calendars covering UN/intergovernmental and grassroots/civil society events, visit Geneva Forum at www.geneva-forum.org and 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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