



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

20th 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

Critique of excessive Iraq war costs gains momentum

Following the launch of the book by Nobel economist Joseph Stiglitz on the costs of the Iraq war, (See *IPB News* March 11), the debate has intensified. What is striking is how many commentators are following his lead in making the connection between the colossal price of the war and the current financial crisis affecting the US and the global economy. [Read article on the recent developments.](#)

Money for schools, not for war

Bruce Gagnon at the Global Network wrote that money for schools, not for war *"...is a message that should be appearing everywhere these days. Other similar slogans in our marches and vigils should be; Money for jobs not for war, Health care not warfare, Convert the military industrial complex, We can't eat Star Wars, Build mass transit not endless war, We can't live in a bomb, and so on. The peace movement is doing a pretty poor job of connecting the occupation of Iraq, now costing us \$12 billion a month, to the public's concern about a declining economy, jobs moving overseas, and cutbacks in social spending."* [Article.](#)

New resolution proposed to the US House of Representatives: Global Security Priorities Resolution

A rare event occurred on the 13th March, when a proposition for the McGovern-Lundgren bill was introduced: *"Recognizing the paramount need to address the threat of international terrorism and protect the global security of the United States by reducing the number and accessibility of nuclear weapons and preventing their proliferation, and directing a portion of the resulting savings towards child survival, hunger, and universal*

education, and calling on the President to take action to achieve these goals."

The [Global Security Priorities Resolution](#).

Weapons and their effects

Effects of Unexploded Ordnance

Carol Waters writes about the effects of UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) in Laos, and how the local population has become apathetic about it. She tries to go beyond the clichés, and show the realities for the people in the country. [Article](#). A [very good piece](#) on the same topic by Robert Fisk demonstrates the problems related to UXO in Egypt and Libya.

SPADO says Pakistan and India should ban use and production of the bombs and landmines as part of peace overtures

Peshawar: IPB member the Sustainable Peace and Development Organisation (SPADO) urged a worldwide ban on anti-personnel landmines and cluster bombs, which kill and maim thousands of non-combatants across the world. [Article](#).

Survivors Reflect 40 Years After My Lai massacre

My Lai, Vietnam (AP): Forty years after rampaging American soldiers slaughtered her family, Do Thi Tuyet returned to the place where her childhood was shattered.

"Everyone in my family was killed in the My Lai massacre – my mother, my father, my brother and three sisters," said Tuyet, who was 8 years old at the time. "They threw me into a ditch full of dead bodies. I was covered with blood and brains." [Original article](#).

Cluster Bomb Treaty News: 9 Weeks until the Dublin Diplomatic Conference

There are just 9 weeks left until the crucial negotiating conference in Dublin that takes place from 19 - 30 May 2008. We hope all campaigners will increase their campaigning and lobbying activities to make sure there is broad governmental participation at the conference and broad support for a strong and comprehensive treaty. A major objective for the CMC will be to encourage governments to endorse the Wellington Declaration if they have not done this already. [Article](#).

For any questions regarding the Dublin conference, go to the [Irish MFA's website](#).

Weapons of mass destruction

2008 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 2-9

Aspiring to a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world, the 2008 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs will be held from August 2 to 9, 2008, in the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We cordially invite people worldwide, who share our common goal to take part in and support the World Conference. [Read more](#).

BASIC Launches 'Getting to Zero' Blog

BASIC announces their new blog on [Getting to Zero](#), their project to promote progress towards a world without nuclear weapons. In the [blog](#), you will find brief, informal comments by BASIC's experts and guest bloggers.

Iraq: 5 years of war

What is the real death toll in Iraq?

The Americans learned one lesson from Vietnam: don't count the civilian dead. As a result, no one knows how many Iraqis have been killed in the five years since the invasion. Estimates put the toll at between 100,000 and one million, and now a bitter war of numbers is raging. [Jonathan Steele and Suzanne Goldenberg report](#).

Thousands join anti-war message: protest videos and photos

Thousands of people have joined demonstrations in USA and UK, to mark the fifth anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq. Demonstrators called for troops to be withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan and for Gaza's borders to be re-opened. [BBC News](#).

[Click on the link](#) for a short video of one of many decentralized and very creative protests in Washington DC in recent days to oppose the occupation of Iraq. For further photos, video-clips and small stories on the events in the wake of the Iraq-protests, you can go to

<http://events.unitedforpeace.org/5yearstoomany/reports/4420> where you will find an event report with pictures, or

<http://www.unitedforpeace.org/article.php?id=3857> where there are small-stories, links and more information.

People with disabilities cross sectarian divisions to ensure inclusion in the new Iraq

IANSAs is happy to report that thirty organisations representing over 150,000 people with disabilities from across Iraq formed the Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organisations (IADO) on 28 February. The Alliance includes organisations that assist survivors of gun violence, and is supported by Mercy Corps. It will seek to raise awareness and change legislation and policies regarding persons with disabilities. [Article](#).

Pax Christi USA issues new policy paper in Iraq

"[Toward a Just and Peaceful Solution in Iraq](#)" is the new paper from Pax Christi USA released on the 5th anniversary of the war and occupation of Iraq.

New report on the health-effects of the bombardment of Fallujah

On the anniversary of the first Fallujah bombardment of March-April 2004, Civil society organizations MHRI and CCERF together with Fallujah doctors [have released a new report](#). It reminds the world about the use of internationally banned weapons by U.S. forces against innocent civilians in

Iraq. A detailed description of consequent health problems on both children and women is included in the report.

IPB - Italy in Iraq: Commemorations of Halabja massacre

The delegation of the Italian Office of the International Peace Bureau along with representatives of Italian mayors; members of Mayors for Peace, will go back to Iraq on the 16th-18th March anniversary. [More information here](#).

Meanwhile, IPB Vice-President Chiara Venturi attended a meeting in London to commemorate the tragic events in Halabja. Her report is [here](#).

Five Years Later: The Iraq War-Diverse resources

Five years ago, the Bush administration launched what may become the greatest foreign policy disaster in US history. "Foreign Policy In Focus" is marking the occasion with analysis and information to help citizens' movements and politicians end the war. [Article plus helpful links and information](#).

Others

Concert for peace held on Colombian-Venezuelan border

In the wake of the recent tensions between Andean states, tens of thousands of Colombians and Venezuelans attended a huge free concert last Sunday. The celebration was held on a bridge that links the two countries together, to symbolise an end to the latest diplomatic crisis, and further strengthen the relation between the two countries, Latin America as an entity, and the USA. The Colombian president Alvaro Uribe was told not to come by the manager of the famous Dominican singer Juan Luis Guerra, on the account that it "was not to be a political event". If you want to read more about this historic celebration, visit [wikinews](#).

Swedish Muslims for peace and justice

On March 16th, Sweden's peace-movement got a long awaited and welcomed addition in the family, when the country's first Muslim peace-movement became a reality. There were more than thirty persons present - mostly Muslim peace-friends, plus a few invited guests - who gathered in Kista for a constitutional meeting. The new organisation has been named "Swedish Muslims for Peace and Justice", and will, according to the newly established regulations, be "based on the values of Islam and Democracy, in agreement with the Koran and the prophet Muhammad's message, and we will work towards peace and justice." The goal is peace within and between countries. It is a great pleasure to welcome this new organisation, and we in the Christian Peace Movement are looking forward to working closely with them in the future. [Swedish website](#).

Resources

SIPRI Update: Global Security & Arms Control

SIPRI has released 8 updates with the latest developments in international security, arms control, non-proliferation and regional conflict, including recent activities and publications at SIPRI. [Web-page](#).

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

90th Birthday greetings to Göran von Bonsdorff!

One of the most distinguished peace activists of our time, Prof. Göran von Bonsdorff of Finland, celebrated his 90th birthday on Tuesday 18th March. Göran was the leader of Finnish Peace Union for many years, and has also served as Vice-President of IPB. He is a university professor of political science and has written numerous books and articles, always expressing an optimistic view on the ways to influence world affairs in a peaceful direction. [Continued](#).

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** of UN and other intergovernmental, grassroots and civil society events in key cities 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. To subscribe to or unsubscribe from this newsletter please email:

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