



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

9th April 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

IPB work on UN Committee on the Rights of the Child bears fruit

Last year IPB Secretariat spent many hours preparing papers for the Discussion Day organised by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The theme of the day was "Resources for the Rights of the Child". IPB made the argument that the best place to look for savings is the military budget. We also made a strong case for improved transparency and accountability regarding governmental budget decisions. These points were well received, and featured in the report of the day made by the CRC, which is now available. Full report [here](#).

\$200 Billion US nuclear weapons industry bailout?

What is the real purpose of the "complex transformation" plan? Basically there are talks in the US about modernizing the nuclear weapons complex with a vast amount of money, which is premature, unnecessary and provocative. Have a look at the summary contents of the hearing in the Department of Energy [here](#).

Pension fund to remove money from bomb firms

The National Irish Pensions Reserve Fund (NPRF), set up to finance the State's future pension requirements, is preparing to withdraw 27 million euro in investments from six international companies which are listed as being involved in the production of cluster munitions. [Entire article](#).

Insect warfare: Three billion dollar bugs

"The Complex: How the Military Invades Our Everyday Lives", is a new book-release from Nick Turse. With April-fools day just ended, one would think of this as nothing but a delayed joke. Unfortunately, it is not so. A Pentagon research outfit, which is called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), is annually donated 3 billion dollars by the US government "to prevent technological surprise for us and to create technological surprise for our adversaries." The DARPA has a long history in new and deadly weaponry, but the latest addition may be the most far-fetched one. DARPA is now growing insects in their laboratories, that are implanted with technology for different uses. Biological weapons and surveillance

equipment is just the beginning of the use for these cyborg-bugs, that the owners can control from a distance using a remote-control. To read more on this, go to [TomDispatch](#) for articles and more information.

US Congress hearing regarding air force contracts

The outsourcing of an Air Force contract to a European company was not taken mildly by American Boeing Aircraft; the second largest US defense contractor, as well as the company expected to get the multi million dollar deal. Boeing argues that the European outsourcing removes 44 000 American jobs. The aircraft producer also makes a national security case, since the US will "have to trust foreigners".

However, this might be nothing more than a repetition of the 2003 Boeing scandal, in which John McCain, currently running for the US presidency, was in the forefront of convicting Boeing for fraud. Republican Senator Jeff Sessions explains that his state will in fact get 5 000 jobs out of this agreement, and 25 000 more in other states. [Continue article](#).

US defense program does not keep up to standard

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) presents bad numbers in their annual report of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). Each year MDA receives between \$8 and 10 billion from the government, being "*the largest research and development program in the Department of Defense (DOD)*". But, the MDA has not met the expected standard of the GAO, because they are becoming less transparent, and the accounting is irregular in that money is deferred into a vague future and not on specific projects. This is an issue that GAO has tackled, and that is supposed to be addressed "soon". To see the GAO report, please [click here](#).

Weapons and their effects

Landmines ruin lives and leave hundreds dead in Pakistan, according to IPB-member SPADO

According to the Peshawar-based NGO, SPADO, (Sustainable Peace and Development Organisation), which is engaged in a campaign against anti-personnel landmines and cluster bombs, there have been at least 48 casualties in Pakistan during the last three months caused by mines. For 2007 the figure stands at 184 and for 2006, 488. Raza Shah Khan, executive director of SPADO, believes there are upwards of six million landmines in Pakistan, though no official figures are available. However, according to a 2007 report by the international Landmine Monitor, Pakistan and its eastern neighbour India were the world's largest producers of landmines; together stockpiling at least 11 million antipersonnel mines. [Continue reading](#).

Report on the Livingstone Conference on Cluster Munitions

Thirty-nine African countries gathered in Livingstone, Zambia on 31 March and 1 April 2008 for an all-Africa Oslo Process conference on Cluster Munitions to discuss the key elements of the future Cluster Munitions Convention and determine coordinated African positions. A strong political declaration was agreed by all present except Egypt and strong positions emerged on the controversial negotiating issues. The two African producer states, Egypt and South Africa, proved problematic with Egypt disassociating itself from the Wellington and Livingstone Declaration and South Africa calling for exemptions for certain cluster munitions. [Entire article](#).

Make History: Ban Cluster Bombs in Dublin

The Global Day of Action to Ban Cluster Bombs is intended to highlight 40 years of civilian deaths and injuries caused by cluster bombs. Citizens around the world will use this day to call on governments to take action now and make history.

The Global Day of Action takes place 1 month before the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions. At the Dublin Conference (19 - 30 May 2008) governments from across the world will meet to negotiate the most significant disarmament treaty in more than a decade: a treaty that will bring about a ban on cluster bombs, rapid clearance of contaminated land and an increase in the vital assistance to those affected by cluster bombs.

The article from Cluster Munition Coalition, more information and tips on how to help [is found here](#).

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines condemns attacks on Afghan deminers

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) [strongly condemns the cruel and deadly attacks on deminers in Afghanistan](#). The ICBL calls on the government of Afghanistan to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice and to ensure that deminers receive the protection they deserve.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

New report on the climatic effects of nuclear war

Steven Starr is the author of a new report called the "Catastrophic Climatic Consequences of Nuclear Conflict". This document contains information that was gathered with the use of NASA's climate model, a tool that is far more advanced than those that have been used earlier. The devastating effects of even a "small-scale nuclear war" would be horrendous for the entire planet, and would decrease the global temperature to the level of a new ice age in a matter of days. If you want to read the report on this important topic, [please click here](#).

67 248 Italians propose new law declaring Italy a nuclear weapon free zone

All credit for following positive news goes to Lisa Clark, coordinator of the Italian Campaign for a Nuclear Free Future. Lisa and hundreds of Italian friends from local authorities and social movements have done a remarkable job. Any ideas on how to support our Italian friends to move forward the Italian NWFZ are welcome! [Please click here to read more on how to get involved](#).

Mayors for Peace growing faster than expected

With an average of 2 to 3 new member cities a day it is clear that the 2020 Vision campaign continues to attract strong support. It doubled the expectation, as Mayors for Peace had hoped to attract at least one new member per day for the 2008 - 2010 period. For the entire text, more information and useful links, [please click here](#).

Resources

Call for applications for the 2008 Women PeaceMakers Program

The WPM program is designed for leaders from conflict-affected countries around the world who are transforming conflict and assuring gender-inclusion in post conflict recovery through human rights advocacy and peace building efforts they lead. These are women whose stories and best practices will be shared internationally; they are women who will have a respite from the frontline work

they do. Information, background and application can be found on website of the [Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Research](#).

New NGLS online publication *UN/Civil Society Engagement: Year in Review 2007*

The year 2007 was an important year for civil society interaction with the United Nations, and across the system a vast array of activities were undertaken, providing civil society with an opportunity to interact, share their insight and help shape policy across the UN.

NGLS [Year in review 2006 and 2007](#).

May 24 package 2008: Money for Women Peacemakers

Fundraising, drawing up budgets, keeping records of expenses, and writing donor reports may not be the most attractive tasks for women peacemakers to spend their energies on, but they are indispensable.

Related to the May 24 celebration in The Hague, IFOR's WPP will publish, in cooperation with the International Peace Bureau, its annual May 24 package.

This year's 24 May package hopes to inspire women peacemakers and other women's rights activist to discuss issues in depth, in their respective fields, such as the costs of war, the benefits of peace, funding and fundraising. The package contains, among other authors, contributions by Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Cindy Clark, Silvi Sterr, Shelley Anderson and Lisette Caubergs. The May 24 package can be downloaded from the website: <http://www.ifor.org/WPP/>

Others

Animations for Peace contest - Barcelona

IPB members in Catalunya, Fundació per la Pau, organises another contest of creativity, which is in its second year now. For 2008 the subject is "without arms, a safer world". For more insight on the background, the prizes or general information, please visit <http://www.fundacioperlapau.org/concurs/eng/> (also available in Catalan, Castellano and French).

Hundreds arrested in Iraq, war protests in US

On March 17th more than 200 protesters across the nation were arrested in response to their demonstrations against the Iraq war. The protests, rallying thousands across the nation, were organized by United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ), an organization comprised of the countries largest coalition of groups and individuals, who oppose the Iraq War and the US "government's policy of permanent warfare and empire-building." [Read entire article](#).

Wanted: Homes for small island people

A rapidly warming planet may soon create a new class of refugees -- those fleeing climate change in their homelands. Tuvalu is showing signs of such a dire prospect. The Pacific island nation of some 12,000 people has already appealed to the governments of Australia and New Zealand to open their doors for its citizens to find a new home, states a background note by the secretariat of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Continue this article at countercurrents.org.

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

'Books or Bombs?' IPB seminar - Alexandria, November 2007: First set of papers now available

The first set of papers of the seminar organised by IPB, together with the Institute of Peace Studies at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is now available. Please find below:

- A selection of the speeches and presentations made at the seminar (English only). CLICK [HERE](#) FOR CHART.
- List of participants FORTHCOMING together with the definitive seminar programme.
- A booklet published in English and Arabic editions summarising the proceedings is FORTHCOMING.
- A highly-recommended gallery of photographs, taken both at the seminar and also around the historic city of Alexandria, is available at: picasaweb.google.com/aurel.romania. For this our special thanks go to our photographer Aurel Duta (Romania).

We would be grateful if you could draw the attention of your colleagues to these materials. Both those who were able to participate in the event and those who could not. The seminar papers cover a wide range of topics and constitute a fascinating collection of material, which we hope will be of practical use in developing our worldwide work for peace and sustainable development. Once again I would like to thank all our colleagues at the IPS for their efficient and friendly collaboration, notably Amb. Aly Maher, Prof. Azza M. H El-Kholy and Ms. Shahinaz Elhennawi, as well as our principal funders, the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, and Risho Kosei-Kai (Japan).

Colin Archer, IPB Secretary General
25 March 2008

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.

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mailbox@ipb.org

Newsletter edited by Kenneth Mostad - kenneth@ipb.org

International Peace Bureau, 41 Rue de Zurich, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: + 41 22 731 6429 / Fax + 41 22 738 9419

www.ipb.org