



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

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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

Financing for Development

The [Monterrey Consensus](#) which was adopted by Member States of the United Nations at the International Conference on Financing for Development in 2002 addresses development financing issues under six themes: domestic resource mobilization, mobilization of foreign resources, international trade, development assistance, external debt and systemic issues of global governance with the aim of achieving the internationally agreed development goals adopted during the previous decade, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Read more about financing for development, find resources and the background to the Monterrey Consensus at [UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service](#).

The State of the World's Children 2008: UNICEF report

The State of the World's Children 2008 assesses the state of child survival and primary health care for mothers, newborns and children today. These issues serve as sensitive barometers of a country's development and wellbeing and as evidence of its priorities and values. They also compare separately the percentage of central governmental spending on *Health, Education and Military for all countries in the period 1995-2005*. Download the paper in English, French, Spanish and Arabic at the [UNICEF webpage](#).

New Human Security working group launched in Norway

A new national cross-sectoral grouping was launched in Norway on April 14 at a meeting in Oslo organised by the Forum for Environment and Development. At this meeting IPB Council Member Alexander Harang presented his new report "*Security - for whom?*", which was specially commissioned by ForUM. This is a study that looks at the connections between the environment, natural resources, development, peace and conflict. The report is in Norwegian, and can be found on the [ForUM webpage](http://www.forumfor.no/english/): <http://www.forumfor.no/english/>

A summary is available in English. Speeches were also made by representatives of Norwegian Amnesty and the national section of Save the Children. IPB Secretary-

General Colin Archer was in Oslo at that time, too, and made a presentation to the meeting outlining the IPB's *Disarmament for Development* programme and how it fits with the work of the new coalition. He said IPB looks forward to a productive working relationship in the future with the Norwegian grouping and to the establishment of similar national coalitions - bringing together peace, development and environment groups - in many other countries.

Costs of war in Sri Lanka

International Alert has done a study on the human, economic and socio-political costs of the war between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Each cost is broken down into smaller parts, and looks at the detailed impact of the war. Paper is found at: <http://www.international-alert.org/pdfs/costwarxsum.pdf> .

Pentagon seeks authority to train and equip foreign militaries

Defense Secretary [Robert M. Gates](#) urged Congress on Tuesday to grant the Pentagon permanent authority to train and equip foreign militaries, a task previously administered by the State Department, and to raise the annual budget for the effort to \$750 million, a 250 percent increase. Mr. Gates said that rapidly building up the armed forces of friendly nations to combat terrorism within their borders was "a vital and enduring military requirement" – and one that should be managed by the Defense Department. www.nytimes.com.

Azerbaijan announces 53 percent rise in army spending

BAKU, April 15 (Reuters) - Ex-Soviet Azerbaijan, in an armed standoff with neighbour Armenia, is to increase military spending by 53 percent this year, state media quoted President Ilham Aliyev as saying on Tuesday. Azerbaijan fought a war in the 1990s with Armenia over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. The two countries have never signed a peace treaty and Azerbaijan has not ruled out using force to restore its control over Nagorno-Karabakh. Go to Reuters.com for the rest of the article.

Swiss initiative on private military and security companies

Switzerland is strengthening their commitment at the international level, to ensuring that private military and security companies operating in areas of conflict show greater respect for international law and human rights. The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have launched an initiative to confirm existing legal obligations of the actors and develop non-binding good practices. Read more on the webpage of the [Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs](#).

Weapons and their effects

Report and presentations from 'Towards a Uranium Weapons Treaty'

On www.bandepleteduranium.org you can find a brief report from International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons' recent workshop at the United Nations in Geneva, in addition to relevant resources and additional documents.

Hidden killers on the loose- Integrated Regional Information Networks

The full extent of the threat posed by landmines and other unexploded ordnance in the Democratic Republic of Congo is unknown but the deadly weapons are a daily concern for tens of thousands of displaced people in the east. "Mines and UXOs [unexploded ordnance] are strewn all over the countryside," Francesca Fontanini,

external relations officer for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in DRC, said. Read entire [IRIN article](#).

UK Court rules Government's termination of BAE investigation unlawful

The UK High Court ruled that the Director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) acted unlawfully when he stopped a corruption investigation into BAE Systems' arms deals with Saudi Arabia. The judgment was handed down by Lord Justice Moses and Mr Justice Sullivan in response to a judicial review brought by Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) and The Corner House. The rest of this article can be read at [caat.org.uk](#).

Weapons of Mass Destruction

US Leadership for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World: An appeal to the next President of the United States

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has launched an ambitious new project, and they need your help to make it a success. The Appeal reads in part, *"I call upon the next President of the United States to make a world free of nuclear weapons an urgent priority and to assure US leadership to realize this goal."* [Click here](#) to read the full statement, as well as [sign the appeal](#).

Restoring Canada's nuclear disarmament leadership

Canada must recover its leading role in working for the elimination of nuclear weapons, a role that has been cast into doubt under the Harper government. That was the dominant finding for the sponsors of a special seminar of 20 nuclear disarmament experts held February 3-4, 2008 in Ottawa. Seminar report and the rest of article can be found at the [Middle Powers Initiative](#).

London to Geneva peace walk

Footprints for Peace (Australia), with the active support of the French Network for Nuclear Phase-Out, will walk from London to Geneva (April 26 - July 18) via France for a nuclear-free world. You are warmly invited to participate in this international event- for some steps or for the whole journey. Details of the route, background, goals, inscription of walkers and other information can be [found here](#).

Israel, U.S. to share nuclear safety research

The United States has agreed to boost nuclear safety cooperation with Israel, an Israeli official said on Monday, despite the Jewish state's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. An agreement, signed about two weeks ago between the Israel Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), gives Israel additional access to research in nuclear safety, said Nili Lifshitz, an IAEC spokeswoman. Rest of article at [www.reuters.com](#).

Nuclear weapons abolition should be on agenda of G8: Gensuikyo statement

Regarding the forthcoming G8 Summit to be held in July in Toyako, Japan, the Japan Council against A and H Bombs (the IPB member organisation Gensuikyo) urged the government of Japan, the host of the summit and the only A-bombed country in the world, to take up the abolition of nuclear weapons as an agenda item of the summit. Gensuikyo representatives met with the Foreign Ministry and submitted its statement to the above effect on April 9. The full text of the statement [can be read here](#).

Bike for Peace: Norway to Italy

In 2008 Bike for Peace is planning a bicycle ride from Asker in Norway to Rome in Italy from 1st to 29th July. Along the route they arrange meetings with politicians, schools, institutions for disabled, leaders in different organisations, peace and bike organisations and the mass media.

The slogans are:

1. Global banning of nuclear weapons
2. Integration of disabled persons
3. Peace and democracy in Burma, Burundi, Colombia, Iraq and Somalia
4. Bike for environment and no to global warming

Go to bikeforpeace.no if you want to learn more on this event.

Resources

Anti-civilian thinking and practice and how to argue against it more effectively: HD Center, Geneva

This short guide, produced with the support of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), is intended to help anyone concerned with the protection of civilians to recognize anti-civilian ideologies and methods and to negotiate against them more effectively. Download the paper at [HD Center](http://hdcenter.org).

Disarmament Resolutions and Decisions of the Sixty-Second Session of the United Nations General Assembly: The 2007 United Nations Disarmament Yearbook

The new Disarmament Yearbook from the UN has a new layout, and is as well divided into two parts to make it more reader-friendly. Part one can now be found online at <http://disarmament.un.org/e-yearbook.html>

The Effectiveness of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response: New SIPRI Report

The SIPRI study examines the advantages, limitations and implications of involving foreign military assets—personnel, equipment and expertise—in the relief operations that follow major natural disasters. It presents the findings of a research project carried out by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) with the support of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Report, executive summary of this report and other resources can be found on the [SIPRI webpage](http://sipri.org).

Release of 2007 arms transfers data- SIPRI report

On 31 March the [SIPRI Arms Transfers Database](http://armstrade.sipri.org/) was updated to include the latest information up to the end of 2007. The comprehensive database itemizes all international transfers of major conventional weapons since 1950. It can generate estimates of the volume of global arms imports and exports, estimates of the volume of arms imports and exports by country, and information on the types and numbers of weapon systems transferred. The database can be accessed at <http://armstrade.sipri.org/>. For more information on the updated database, contact the [SIPRI Arms Transfers Project](http://armstrade.sipri.org/).

Peace Exhibitions make a difference

The Peace Museum in Bradford has available travelling exhibitions on five different peace-related topics to offer organisations for free loan (+ mailing cost or free for pick up from Bradford). The exhibitions have been very well received; audiences have found the content interesting and engaging and organisers have found them easy to install. If you want to know more about how to arrange an exhibition in

your area, email peacemuseum@bradford.gov.uk or visit <http://www.peacemuseum.org.uk/>.

Others

Food crisis responses impede domestic production

According to [BBC](#) there were riots in Haiti, the Philippines and Egypt last week due to the rising food-prices. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said that the US will contribute with \$200 million in emergency food aid, to fight this urgent crisis. People all over the world are affected by the rising fuel-prices and droughts, that are creating long lasting problems in entire countries for a long time to come. The US have, according to [Reuters](#), provided more than half of the global food aid in the last few years. However, the way of donating, that is, to buy American products and then ship the food to the designated country, is in the end a catalyst for food crisis in general. This is a policy followed by many international organisations, as well as other countries. [The Independent](#) argues that an underdeveloped country is, using this policy, not given the possibility to create a sustainable agriculture, since the market is being covered by foreign aid. More information on the two related topics can be found at alertnet.org and [The Independent](#).

The rise of the new energy world order

Oil at US\$110 a barrel. Gasoline at \$3.35 (or more) per gallon. Diesel fuel at \$4 per gallon. Independent truckers forced off the road. Home heating oil rising to unconscionable price levels. Jet fuel so expensive that three low-cost airlines stopped flying in the past few weeks. This is just a taste of the latest energy news, signalling a profound change in how all of us, in the US and around the world, are going to live - trends that, so far as anyone can predict, will only become more pronounced as energy supplies dwindle and the global struggle over their allocation intensifies. [Continue article](#) by Michael T Klare.

Preparatory conference for the foundation of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was a success

The Federal German government invited 170 participants from 60 countries for talks on the creation of an independent agency for renewable energy. It has been a success, and the interested countries will be invited for the founding conference in the autumn 2008. You can read the chairman's conclusions of the talks at http://www.wcre.de/en/images/stories/IRENA_Conclusions.pdf.

Opportunities

Job-opening as coordinator of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security

The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG), is a coalition of civil society organizations united in May 2000 to advocate for a United Nations Security Council resolution on women, peace and security. Following the unanimous adoption of SCR 1325 in October 2000, the group began the work of pressing for its full implementation. The NGO Working Group monitors the implementation of the resolution worldwide and believes that a peaceful future depends on the full participation of women in all decision making to prevent violent conflict and to protect the human and rights of women and girls. If interested in this job-offer, [click here](#).

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

Money for Women Peacemakers - IFOR/WPP releases annual May 24 package

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 has just published, 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 <http://www.ifor.org/WPP/may24package2008-web.pdf>

Two IPB sessions at NPT PrepComm, April 28 and May 1, Geneva

IPB will co-organise two important meetings during the NPT PrepComm:

1: *Nuclear weapons at what price? An economic, moral and political assessment*- During the meeting the panel will discuss the enormous financial, moral and political costs of nuclear weapons.

2: *Good Faith, International Law, and the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons:*

The Once and Future Contributions of the International Court of Justice- With a focus on the theme of good faith, the conference will examine the obligation to achieve the global abolition of nuclear weapons contained in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and rooted in humanitarian and other international law.

International Voices Unite in Worldwide Demonstration to Ban Cluster Bombs

Global Day of Action against cluster bombs: Exactly one month before a major international negotiation to ban cluster bombs, campaigners in over 50 countries worldwide are calling on governments to deliver a strong treaty with no exemptions, no loopholes and no delays. The Global Day of Action - a series of protests from Azerbaijan to Zambia - is urging governments to ensure the negotiations result in a treaty that will not only ban the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster bombs, but also include support for affected communities and clearance of contaminated land.

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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