



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.

Article 9

'Japanese rainbow' gathers tens of thousands to defend Article 9



"It is simply the major peace event this year" a peace researcher told me, while discussing the Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War which took place in Tokyo - with parallel meetings in several other Japanese cities - from May 4 to 6. Inspired by the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference, where the global civil society gathered a decade ago around the theme of a culture of peace, the Article 9 conference has managed to revive the same dynamic.

The overwhelming attendance mirrored the richness of the programme: besides heartening addresses by prominent activists and marvellous artistic performances, over thirty symposiums, panels and workshops tackled a large variety of peace related issues, including non-violence, disarmament, environment, nuclear threat, peace education, women's initiatives, military bases, depleted uranium weapons, countries without armies, role of media, economic globalization, etc. [Continue article by Frederic Durand](#). IPB was represented by former President Cora Weiss and many delegates from member organisations.

Military + social spending

The Pentagon: entrenched, embedded and here to stay

Here are words to sum up the Bush years: *"We don't know what we paid for."* That's a [quote](#) from Mary Ugone, the Defense Department's deputy inspector general for auditing, concerning massive Pentagon payments made during the occupation and war in Iraq for which there is no existing (or grossly inadequate) documentation. In fact, [according to the inspector general](#) for the Defense Department, "the Pentagon cannot account for almost \$15 billion worth of goods and services ranging from trucks, bottled

water and mattresses to rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns that were bought from contractors in the Iraq reconstruction effort. "An internal audit of \$8 billion that the Pentagon paid out to U.S. and Iraqi private contractors [found](#) that "nearly every transaction failed to comply with federal laws or regulations aimed at preventing fraud, in some cases lacking even basic invoices explaining how the money was spent." [Whole article at Tomdispatch.](#)

Pentagon Announces Iraq, Afghanistan Troop Deployments

The Pentagon has announced upcoming deployments of more than 42,000 troops, including 25,000 active duty Army soldiers who will be sent to Iraq, beginning in the fall to replace troops scheduled to come home by year's end. The deployments will maintain a level of 15 brigades in Iraq, or roughly 140,000 troops – the number military leaders expect will remain on the warfront at the end of July, once the currently planned withdrawals are finished. [AP News continued.](#)

A dismal calculus

Every time a conflict in some poor and chaotic place calms down to the point where peace has a chance, rich countries with an interest in reconstructing that country face a choice: do they merely provide economic aid, or should they also despatch troops—their own or other countries'—to nail down and enforce the peace? A new study offers an economist's answer to that dilemma by putting figures on the cost of war—and on the relative success rates of mainly financial assistance, and of armed peacekeeping, in consolidating peace and getting a country moving. The rest of the article is at the [economist.com](#). To read the new study under discussion, visit [CopenhagenConsensus.com](#).

Weapons and their effects

Cluster munitions treaty agreed in Dublin

In Dublin on May 30th no less than 110 states agreed a provisional text for a historic new Convention on Cluster Munitions, which is a treaty to ban the "*Use, Production and Transfer of Cluster Munitions*". The agreement was reached after worldwide civil society campaigning and several international conferences of governments and NGOs, which started in Oslo in February 2007 and finished after ten days of intense negotiation in Dublin under Irish government leadership. [Continue article at Amnesty.org](#). Much more on the same topic, plus background and future development at [Cluster Munitions Coalition](#) (CMC). Read the [CMC press release](#) from the last day, as well as [the agreement itself](#).

Regional Conference Linking Armed Violence and Development

May 8th and 9th saw countries of the Asia-Pacific Region gather in Bangkok, Thailand for a major meeting held under the auspices of the [Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development](#). Signed in June 2006, the Declaration attempts to promote an integrated approach to issues of armed violence and development. In an attempt to make the Declaration relevant to different regional experiences with these issues, there have been two

regional meetings (Guatemala and Nairobi) in support of the Geneva Declaration, which resulted in supplementary regional declarations on armed violence and development. [-> Read More](#)

Latest events in the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence

IANSA (International Action Network on Small Arms) will keep you updated about this weeks global action against gun violence. Visit iansa.org for general information as well as a global collection of news on the campaign.

Kenya: Concern over increase in illegal arms after post-poll violence

Very little has been done to check the increase in illegal guns in parts of Kenya that were hardest hit by the post-election crisis, an official of a peace and development NGO said on 23 May. *"The small arms problem is bigger at this point than at any other time in our country's history, especially owing to the post-election violence, which created new markets for illegal arms more than ever before,"* Mutuku Nguli, chief executive of the Peace and Development Network (Peace-Net), said. *"The danger is these arms may not necessarily be in use currently but could be used for the wrong reasons in the near or distant future."* Continued at irinnews.org/.

Children: For tens of thousands, a short and brutal life

In May, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers launched its third global [report](#) on this persistent problem. It paints a grim picture, and concludes that despite growing awareness of the situation, there has been little real improvement on the ground. *"The international consensus that the armed forces is not a place for children has strengthened, and yet the situation for children caught up in hostilities around the world has changed very little,"* said Dr. Victoria Forbes Adam, director of the coalition. There are an estimated 250,000 child soldiers worldwide, although the exact number is hard to verify. Continue article at ipsnews.net.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

New commission to study Weapons of Mass Destruction announced

Soon after taking office, the next US president will get some advice about how to prevent a nuclear attack on the U.S., researched and written by top experts on weapons of mass destruction. Over the next six months, a congressionally mandated commission will look at the government's myriad programmes to counter nuclear, biological and chemical arms capable of killing great numbers of people, and make recommendations on how to coordinate them. The commission was created by a 2007 law in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Continue at ap.google.com.

Report: Iran's nuclear program feeding proliferation

Iran's disputed nuclear program has sent a wave of interest in atomic energy across the Middle East, a think tank has said, warning that it risked setting the scene for a regional nuclear arms race. At least 13 Middle Eastern countries either announced new plans to explore atomic energy or revived pre-existing nuclear programs between February 2006 and January 2007, the

London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, or IISS, said in a report. [Continue article at AP](#). Although producing nuclear weapons may or may not be one reason for this growing interest in nuclear technology, it is certainly not the only one. The current oil crisis as well the climate change are both major factors for the decision makers to take into account.

Government to celebrate 20 years of Rajiv Gandhi's Peace Plan

The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, which showed reluctance to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 1998 nuclear tests, is rolling out the red carpet for a host of renowned scholars and experts from the world to celebrate 20 years of Rajiv Gandhi's Peace Plan. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will inaugurate a two-day international conference on "*Towards a world free of nuclear weapons*" to be held at the Hotel Maurya Sheraton June 9. Continue reading at thaindian.com.

Plutonium production continues after Greenpeace intervention

Greenpeace has been hit with a fine of 75 000 Euros for "*distorting the delivery of plutonium*" at the factory in La Hague, France. The President of the Court of Appeals in Cherbourg, favoured the owner of the factory, Areva. [In addition, Greenpeace is now ordered not to come any closer than 300 meters during delivery by boat, 150 meters during delivery by land, as well as never to block the entrance of the factory]. Areva had demanded an even harder punishment, but this was overruled. After processing the plutonium in La Hague, the refined nuclear powder will be shipped to Sellafield in England for the production of combustible Mox. For the original article by Reuters (in French) visit rmc.fr.

US to give North Korea 500,000 tonnes of food aid

The United States has said it would provide 500,000 metric tonnes in food aid to North Korea in a sign of improving cooperation despite their standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear program. Aid groups say soaring global food prices and reluctance by donors have helped push North Korea close to famine. Experts estimate that a famine in the late 1990s in DPRK killed at least 1 million people. The aid will start in June and be provided over a 12-month period, a statement from the U.S. Agency for International Development said. Entire article at Reuters.com.

Resources

SIPRI yearbook launch 9 June in Stockholm

The [SIPRI Yearbook 2008](#) will be officially launched on 9 June. The SIPRI Yearbook is an annual compendium of data and analysis of developments in security, conflicts, military spending, non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. Highlights of the 39th edition include special studies on: the human security approach to direct and structural violence; integrating gender in post-conflict security sector reform; US ballistic missile defence programmes; nuclear forensic analysis; international public health diplomacy and the global surveillance of avian influenza.

Launch of report on gender and mine action: "Gender and Landmines - From Concept to Practice"

The Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines is delighted to announce the launch of the report, "*Gender and Landmines - From Concept to Practice*", which studies the significance of gender in the impact and the effectiveness of mine-action. It gives the reader an overview, together with concrete examples, on how gender can be mainstreamed in mine-action. [The report](#).

Human Security Report Project: Africa is improving

A new comprehensive study has been published by the Human Security Report Project, where they state, contrary to popular belief, that there has been a great positive change for security in Africa since 1999. 40 percent less terrorist attacks, more than 50 percent less engagement in conflicts, and the combat toll has lessened by no less than 98 percent during the last 7 years. The most impressive part of the report is that these positive statistics also include intra-state conflicts between non-governmental groups, in addition to governmental suppression of minorities and rebels. To read the extensive report, visit humansecuritybrief.info/.

Peace and the Public Purse: Economic Policies for Post-war State building

This book examines the dilemma of how to build a politically and economically stable and sustainable state in the aftermath of a violent conflict, on both the national and international levels. Case studies of Afghanistan, Bosnia, Cambodia and others are drawn on for examples. Edited by James K. Boyce and Madalene O'Donnell. Purchase online at amazon.co.uk.

Nobel Voices for Disarmament: 1901-2001

[A compact disc narrative](#) featuring a collection of speeches, statements and thoughts on peace and disarmament by well-known leaders and experts such as John F. Kennedy, Kofi Annan and Joseph Rotblat has now been made available by the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, and is easily accessed online. The CD contains inspiring speeches from prominent personalities, including former President Sean MacBride.

Opportunities

Open Society Institute invites innovative thinkers to confront global challenges

The Open Society Institute has launched a fellowship programme to enable outstanding individuals from around the world to pursue projects that will inspire meaningful debate and shape public policy. The Open Society Fellowship will award \$2 million in 2008 to scholars, journalists, activists and others working on national security; citizenship, membership and marginalization; authoritarianism; and new strategies and tools for advocacy. "*The Open Society Fellows will be idea entrepreneurs,*" said George Soros, founder and chairman of OSI. "*The fellowship will generate new thinking to tackle some of the most pressing questions of our day.*" Continued at soros.org.

UN requests input to Secretary General Report on Disarmament and non-Proliferation Education

Biennial resolution 61/73 of December 2006 requested the Secretary-General "to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the 2002 UN Study on Disarmament and non-proliferation education ([attached](#)) and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education", and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session. [Read more on how to contribute to the UN report.](#)

Others

In Memoriam: Thomas Schönfeld, Vienna

The IPB Secretariat is sad to announce that Thomas Schönfeld, an outstanding disarmament advocate in Austria, has passed away at the age of 84. Thomas Schönfeld was a renowned chemist who worked in the USA and Austria as a professor and received many academic prizes for his scientific work. He also led the Vienna NGO Committee on Peace with great commitment and diligence for more than 20 years. In addition, he was a leading figure in the World Peace Council. Thomas was especially helpful to IPB during the planning for the centenary commemorations of Bertha von Suttner's 1905 Nobel Peace Prize, which were held in Vienna and elsewhere during 2005.

World Social Forum: Amazon 2009 website and consultation up and running

The consultation proposed by the World Social Forum International Council (IC) is available online at <http://www.fsm2009amazonia.org.br/wsf2009.php>. It aims to identify objectives of action that will allow participants to reinforce even more the dialogue and the construction of alliances between various organizations, movements and networks from the Pan-Amazon region and from the world.

Special debate on Human Security at UNGA

The UN General Assembly held a meeting regarding human security and how this sometimes is forgotten in the interests of state security. "*It is my personal view that we need a new culture of international relations -- with the precept of human security at its core,*" declared the General Assembly President Ambassador Kerim. He explained that "*As the global food crisis illustrates, a well-coordinated and integrated response by the international community is needed to address both the prevention stage as well as the full range of factors that affect people's well-being*". With the recent developments, earthquakes in China, the cyclone in Burma and a growing world-wide food-crisis, it could not be more timely to have this debate. To read the official press release on this conference, visit the un.org website. A [background paper](#) and further information is available on the [GA website](#).

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

IPB Publications

The IPB book "*Warfare or Welfare?*" is now also available in German as well as French and English. You can find this and other German texts on the [IPB Website](#).

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**