



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

June 20th 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 (totalling \$1339 billion in 2007); 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.

IPB Secretary General visits partners in the UK, France and Norway

Over the past few weeks Secretary General Colin Archer has travelled to meet various partners in the peace and disarmament movement. Some of the highlights included a two-day conference in Oslo, Norway with the European Network Against Arms Trade. The event was organized by our IPB Council member Alexander Harang. The bulk of the meeting was focused on country reports on arms trade but there was also a special focus on the famous Norwegian Pension Fund and the ethical criteria used to determine its investments - including weapons. He was also able to give a short presentation of the disarmament for development campaign. Mr. Archer also visited a variety of museums to gain ideas and contacts in preparation for our upcoming exhibitions and media work. For full highlights from Leeds, Bradford, Paris and Oslo, please click [here](#)

The militarization of American energy and security

This is a wonderful article entitled "Garrisoning the Global Gas Station, Challenging the Militarization of U.S. Energy Policy" by Michael Klare (author of Blood and Oil, 2004). He examines how the U.S has gotten itself into the predicament of a militarised energy dependency, and gives a short informative history of the U.S love affair with oil starting back in 1945 with Roosevelt and Saudi Arabia. Klare also addresses the issue of 'blowback' from past U.S foreign policy decisions, and looks at future prospects for developing true energy security without military dependence.

The following link contains the complete article: [Klare article](#)

Annan announces that Africa faces \$40 billion aid shortfall

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan recently announced that the promise made by the G-8 to double aid to Africa by 2010 is far from being fulfilled. The current rate of increase will still fall short of meeting this goal by some \$40 billion. Yet the report, written by the panel set up to monitor progress towards the Africa Commission's goals, failed to name which

industrialized countries were not coming up with the money, the BBC's Africa analyst Martin Plaut says. Mr. Annan also called on Africa to keep its promise to improve governance on the continent, particularly in Zimbabwe and Sudan. He highlighted how important good governance will be in light of the global food crisis, which threatens to destabilize Africa's most vulnerable nations. Click [here](#) for full article

Military + social spending

International Peace Bureau deplures rise in global military spending

As world leaders scramble to find money to stabilize oil and food prices, mitigate climate change and address mass poverty, new figures show once again that military spending remains an 'untouchable' resource.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) announced on 9 June, at the launch of its annual SIPRI Yearbook, that the figure for global military spending in 2007 reached a new high of **\$1,339 billion**, a rise of 6% over the previous 12 months. Of this amount, the USA spent \$547 billion (not counting the specific costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan), which is its highest total in real terms since 1945 and represents over 40% of the global total. The next largest spenders were the UK (\$59.7bn), China (\$58.3bn) and France (\$53.6bn). For details of the SIPRI Yearbook, go to: www.sipri.org, and for IPB's full statement please click [here](#).

Swedish pension fund AP7 sells all holdings in companies making cluster bombs

The Swedish pension fund AP7 Sunday said it will sell all its holdings in companies making cluster bombs and nuclear weapons, including Airbus parent EADS and U.S.-based Lockheed Martin Corp. and General Dynamics Corp. He said the value of the holdings was not big but the decision should be seen as an appeal to other fund managers to reconsider their investments in such companies. Sweden was among the 111 countries that adopted a draft treaty banning cluster bombs on Friday in Ireland. Full article at [Sweden co. holdings](#)

A mission to redirect money used for defense

Recently in the US, a Catholic organization embarked on a cross-country tour urging that military spending be reduced and that the money saved go to health care and education. The group has been making frequent stops to give presentations to other groups and raise general awareness for the cause. See the rest at query.nytimes.com.

Weapons and their effects

More than 100 countries adopt treaty banning cluster bombs

On 30 May, a major victory for humanity was achieved with the adoption of a new Cluster Munitions Convention, at the Dublin Diplomatic [Conference on Cluster Munitions](#). "After ten days of intense negotiation under Irish leadership, 110 countries negotiating at the conference and hundreds of campaigners and survivors within the Cluster Munitions Coalition welcomed the treaty." (Cluster Munitions Coalition) The comprehensive treaty bans

the use, production, trade and stockpiling of cluster bombs. To keep pressure on governments and to ensure that the treaty enters into force, campaigners launched the People's Treaty. [Sign it now!](#) Nobel Laureate Jody Williams was in Dublin throughout the treaty negotiations. She was joined by Nobel Laureates Mairead Corrigan Maguire and Betty Williams for a public event. Read Williams' updates from Dublin [here](#) and watch videos from the historic negotiations [here](#). The People's Treaty on Cluster Munitions is available for individual signatures at www.minesactioncanada.org/peoples_treaty This People's Treaty supports the international treaty developed in Dublin at the end of May, and indicates popular support for ratification of the international treaty by the Canadian government. The G78 Board encourages members to add their signature in support.

'Special Weapons' have a fallout on babies

Babies born in Fallujah are showing illnesses and deformities on a scale never seen before, doctors and residents say. The new cases, and the number of deaths among children, have risen after "special weaponry" was used in the two massive bombing campaigns in Fallujah in 2004. After denying it at first, the Pentagon admitted in November 2005 that white phosphorous, a restricted incendiary weapon, was used a year earlier in Fallujah. In addition, depleted uranium (DU) munitions, which contain low-level radioactive waste, were used heavily in Fallujah. Full article at <http://www.commondreams.org>

Study backs nuclear test veterans' claims

Nuclear-test veterans say the Government must finally "*stop sitting on its hands*" now international experts have upheld Massey University research exposing the extent of the genetic damage they suffered. Associate Professor Al Rowland's world-first study - which showed naval veterans who were exposed to nuclear tests in the Pacific 50 years ago had 300 per cent more genetic mutations than normal - has just been published in the prestigious journal *Cytogenetic and Genome Research*. Continue [article from The Dominion Post](#).

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Beyond Deterrence; A speech by Jonathan Granoff

Those active on nuclear issues may wish to read an important speech: *Beyond Deterrence*, by IPB representative Jonathan Granoff, (President, The Global Security Institute, USA), at the international conference on 'Towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons', held in New Delhi, India on June 9-10, 2008. In this presentation Mr. Granoff urges the Indian government to convene at the earliest possible time a Nuclear Weapons Convention Preparatory Conference to examine the conditions to obtain a nuclear weapons convention and forge a path to its achievement.

Click here for [full text](#).

Australia establishes a new disarmament and non-proliferation commission

On 9 June, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced the establishment of the International Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Commission, which he hopes will coordinate international talks ahead of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010. He has appointed former foreign affairs minister Gareth Evans to be head of the commission. A Japanese official will reportedly co-chair the body. Full article at <http://afp.google.com>

Other news

In defense policy, France turns to U.S. and Europe

In its first new national defense policy in 14 years, France has decided that its security lies within Europe and NATO, establishing a significant shift from the country's longstanding notions of moral and military self-sufficiency. More than four decades ago, Charles de Gaulle, angry with American and British domination of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, said France's military integration into the alliance had been "*stripped of justification.*" But now that the Soviet Union is gone and the European Union is more fully established, President Nicolas Sarkozy has decided that France is best served by participating fully with Washington and NATO, in part because the vast majority of members of the European Union are also members of the alliance. Full article at www.nytimes.com. To see "*The White Paper*" with the layout of French Military policy for the next 15 years in English, [press here](#).

Plans for international common action against NATO's 60th Anniversary

Participants from ten countries met at the international Afghanistan-Congress in Hannover to discuss 60th NATO anniversary in May 2009, which will be celebrated with an official summit in Strasbourg and Kehl. A conference to discuss international protest and action against NATO's celebration will be held in France or Germany, most likely in October 2008 and all interested groups are invited to attend. In preparation for this conference and the next steps, a small, open preparation committee has been formed. Click here for statements ([NATO Commitment](#)) & ([Inter.Afghan Network](#)) from the meeting, and click [here](#) for the speech made by IPB President Tomas Magnusson on NATO and Afghanistan. Those interested in following up on these plans and supporting the actions should contact IPB and/or its coordinators in Germany and France:

Germany: Hr.Braun@gmx.net France: arielle.denis@mvtpaix.org. More info also available at <http://tobiaspflueger.twoday.net/stories/4866911/>

3rd International Salon for Peace Initiatives

The 3rd International Salon for Peace Initiatives which took place during three days at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Paris, on 30, 31 May and 1st June 2008, highlighted the tremendous work carried out by civil society in France and also abroad to break with the culture of violence. This year, nearly 700 children and teenagers came to visit the Salon with their teachers. They participated in interactive workshops promoting ways of living together: feelings' and conflict management, cooperative games etc. Indeed, there is still a whole learning process to reach more peace,

tolerance, respect and solidarity. This Salon and International Conference gathered all these actions for a better world. Complete article at www.salon-initiativesdepaix.org

Dispute over UNSC resolution on sexual violence

IPB representative to the UN Cora Weiss reports that the US has put forward a resolution on sexual violence to the UN Security Council. However women's rights activists believe the text to be inadequate, saying it risks undermining the historic SC Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. For the text of the draft US resolution that is under negotiation, and a critique, see: [UNSC resolution working draft](#); [UNSC Sexual Violence](#) .

IPB contact : Cora Weiss at cweiss@igc.org. For full details and analysis go to: www.iwtc.org

World Federation of the United Nations Association contest and conference

The World Federation of the United Nations Association's Global Disarmament Hub held a student contest where 15 winners will get to attend a conference on disarmament and work with the renown Dr. Hans Blix. The conference will be held in Geneva, July 13-16. A list of the winners and more information can be found at <http://www.disarmamenthub.org>

Resources

Annual SIPRI Yearbook published

The highly influential publication reveals among other things, the latest statistics on military expenditure, which has had a 6 percent increase from 2006, and no less than a 45 percent increase since 1998. Report covers a wide range of arms control and disarmament topics. To see an extensive summary of the book, visit <http://yearbook2008.sipri.org/>.

New test ban treaty website

The Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is preparing to launch its new public website at the end of June. The new website includes a host of new dynamic features which will benefit States, the media, NGOs, academic institutions, think tanks and the public at large. More information at <http://www.ctbto.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

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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