



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

August 5th 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.

Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The High-level Event (HLE) on the MDGs will take place at UN Headquarters on 25 September 2008. It will be jointly convened by the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to review progress, identify gaps and motivate commitments to bridge the gaps to ensure that the MDGS are achieved by 2015. More at <http://www.un-ngls.org/>

Books, not bombs needed in Iraq

Some two million Iraqis have fled their homeland and are now sheltering in run-down neighbourhoods in surrounding countries. These are the new Palestinians, the 21st-century Arab diaspora that threatens the region's stability. Many youngsters are getting no education, and some girls are pushed into prostitution, particularly in Damascus. This article shows the need for education for those affected by the war in Iraq. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/26/opinion/26kristof.html>

Military + social spending

France unveils plans to scale down military spending

On July 24th, France announced it would cut 20 regiments and close military bases across the country from next year as part of plans to modernise the defence sector and help it face the threat of terrorism. Prime Minister Francois Fillon said the army would lose 20 regiments and battalions and that 10 air bases and one naval base would shut. By the end of the reform, the military will have 54 000 fewer personnel, and will count 131 000 soldiers, 50 000 air personnel and 44 000 people in the navy, he said. Full article [here](#). Also see more articles from defencetalk.com, liberation.fr and lemonde.fr. Click [here](#) for another related article on the US presidential election and defense expectations from Europe.

Britain plans to spend more than £3 billion on new nuclear warheads

The UK is to replace its stockpile of nuclear warheads at an estimated cost of more than £3bn, according to documents seen by *the Guardian*. Ministers have repeatedly denied there are any plans to replace the warheads as part of the upgrade of the Trident nuclear system, insisting no decision will be taken until the next parliament, probably sometime after 2010. Full story [here](#)

Price of war in Iraq nearing that of Vietnam

The total cost of the Iraq war is approaching the Vietnam War's expense, a US congressional report estimates, while spending for military operations after 9/11 has exceeded it. The new report by the Congressional Research Service estimates the U.S. has spent \$648 billion on Iraq war operations, putting it in range with the \$686 billion, in 2008 dollars, spent on the Vietnam War, the second most expensive war behind World War II. Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the U.S. has doled out almost \$860 billion for military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere around the world. Full report [here](#). Also see [US military budget reaches extreme heights](#)

Cancellation of the US Navy's DDG-1000 'Zumwalt' destroyer program

On July 22, news broke that the Navy had decided to terminate its DDG-1000 destroyer program. While the program originally included 16 to 24 vessels (and possibly as many as 30), the current requirement has shrunk to just seven ships. According to the Department of Defense, the total value of the program is roughly \$29 billion. More [here](#)

US Defense Secretary warns against a militarized policy

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates warned yesterday against the risk of a "creeping militarization" of U.S. foreign policy, saying the State Department should lead U.S. engagement with other countries, with the military playing a supporting role. "We cannot kill or capture our way to victory" in the long-term campaign against terrorism, Gates said, arguing that military action should be subordinate to political and economic efforts to undermine extremism. Read the rest in [the Washington Post](#)

US Senator takes on military industry complex

In her first term, Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Missouri), a former prosecutor and Missouri state auditor, has taken the lead in figuring out whether the US military gets what it pays for from contractors. In a speech on the Senate floor, McCaskill outlined the findings of a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, which found that Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) officials and major defense contractors successfully pressured Pentagon auditors to hide damaging facts about the performance and costs of weapons systems. Click [here](#) for more.

Raytheon boosted by strong missile sales

Raytheon, the US defence contractor, reported second-quarter profits ahead of expectations on Thursday and raised its full-year forecast as it benefited from strong missile sales. The company's profits from its continuing businesses came in at \$426m or \$1.00 per share, up from \$355m or 79 cents

per share, in the same period last year and ahead of Wall Street's average predictions of 92-93 cents per share. Full article [here](#)

'Raytheon 9' protestors acquitted over charges

On 11 June 2008, 6 people, who had occupied the offices of Raytheon in Derry and destroyed computers, were acquitted of criminal damage by a Belfast jury. Raytheon is a huge US arms manufacturer, with sales of \$20 billion in 2006 and over 70,000 employees worldwide. Visit the [link](#) for the full story.

Weapons and their effects

BAE sets up global ethical contract for arms

BAE Systems is to ask all external advisers it uses on foreign arms sales to sign up to a uniform, global contract as part of efforts to ensure its business dealings meet strict new ethical guidelines. The initiative is among a number announced by the defence company yesterday in response to recommendations set out by Lord Woolf, former Lord Chief Justice, about how it could improve ethical standards. Under a three-year programme, BAE will execute all 23 proposals set out in Lord Woolf's May report. This story can be found at this [link](#)

UK arms bribery case: Government win will not dampen public outrage

IPB member organization Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), UK has issued a letter regarding the notorious case dealing with BAE's Saudi arms deals. To learn more about the case and what CAAT is doing, visit <http://www.caat.org.uk/actnow.php>

Landslide vote sets UN gun talks back on track

Campaigners welcomed the resurrection of the UN small arms process today, as states strengthened their commitment to work together to curb the illicit trade in small arms. 134 states voted for the agreement of the Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms. No state voted against it. More at <http://www.iansa.org/un/voteBMS08.htm>

Photos of Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) actions

An excellent series of photos of Cluster Munitions Coalition actions in and around the recent Vienna conference can be seen at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/clustermunitioncoalition/>

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Report on Group of Governmental Experts

The third 2008 session of the Group of Governmental Experts brought delegations together for the purpose of reaching a consensus on limiting the use of Cluster Munitions (CM) to reduce the humanitarian impact they cause, while bearing in mind military considerations. Click [here](#) for more details, and for a report by IPB volunteer Sara Sawesh, see this [link](#)

Small arms conference adopts final report

On Friday, 18 July, the Third Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms closed with the adoption of its final report by a vote of 134 in favour, two abstentions, and none against. Pointing out that 5000 people were shot dead during the conference period, the International Action Network on Small Arms expressed enthusiasm for the result and "welcomed the resurrection of the UN small arms process." More information and the final report can be found [here](#). Also, Sudanese singer Emmanuel Jal, a former child soldier, spoke about his experiences on a panel discussion at the [UN Biennial Meeting of States](#) (BMS) on small arms, 14-18 July 2008. More at <http://www.iansa.org/un/JalBMS08.htm>

Women Advocates Place Gender and Guns on the UN's Agenda

In New York on July 23rd, advocates for women's rights have succeeded in getting violence against women included in a major United Nations initiative to regulate the global small arms trade. For more visit <http://advocacy.net.org/resource/1190>

Weapons of mass destruction

IPB signs letter on nuclear Disarmament Commission

The IPB has joined other organizations in signing a letter to Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd congratulating him on the initiative to set up an International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. The letter also voices some concerns and suggestions as to what the new commission will face. Click [here](#) to read the full letter.

Pakistan warns that US-India nuclear deal could lead to new arms race

Pakistan warned the international community yesterday that a deal allowing India to import US atomic fuel and technology could accelerate a nuclear arms race between Delhi and Islamabad. The warning was made in a letter and was addressed to more than 60 nations. More at the [Times online](#)

Russia considering using Cuba to refuel nuclear bombers

Russian military sources said that Moscow is contemplating using Cuba as a refuelling base for its nuclear-bomb carrying aircraft. The move would be in retaliation for the Bush administration's plan to site a missile defence shield in Europe, though Russia has officially denied the report. Full article at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jul/25/nuclear.russia>

Leading Italian politicians join in call for nuclear abolition

Closely following the call from four prominent British politicians carried in 'The Times' (UK) on the 30th of June, a major Italian newspaper published a groundbreaking Op-ed signed by five leading figures in Italian politics. Their statement adds further momentum to the ongoing international debate on the nuclear issue, underlining the urgent need for a safe and peaceful end to the nuclear age. Full story at <http://2020visioncampaign.org/pages/446/>

Anti-nuclear marchers left their footprints in Geneva

After walking nearly three months from London all the way through North-Eastern France, Footprints for Peace marchers arrived as scheduled in Geneva on July 18th.

In Geneva, IPB helped organise the warm welcome they received and guided them through the UN system. The activists submitted their call for a “nuclear-free future” to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and to diplomatic missions. See [here](#) for first reports and media coverage of the march.

United for Peace and Justice declares August nuclear-free future month

August 6th and 9th will mark the 63rd anniversaries of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The US coalition United for Peace and Justice feels that expanding the traditional anniversary period will allow more opportunities for groups to plan and organize events focusing on all aspects of the nuclear issue. More at www.nuclearfreefuture.org

Middle Powers Initiative (MPI) chairman calls for leaders to stop US/India nuclear trade deal

IPB member organization MPI has stated that the proposed U.S.-India nuclear trade deal would critically undermine the Non-Proliferation Treaty and must be stopped. Former Canadian Senator Douglas Roche, Chairman of the Middle Powers Initiative, said that the “MPI calls once again on all relevant governments and international authorities to use their authority to stop the agreement from being reached.” More at <http://www.middlepowers.org/>

New on IPB website

New paper on Afghanistan

The latest in the series *IPB Studies on Disarmament for Development is Military intervention, aid and governance in Afghanistan* (29pp) by IPB Intern Kenneth Mostad. The study looks at possible alternatives for the development and security situation in the country, giving weight to the issues that cannot be resolved by the military, as well as problems that are arguably worsened by the foreign military presence. It argues that the military presence has often had a negative effect on aid projects. Effective development programmes have also been undermined by persistent corruption, both among Afghans and foreigners. To read this paper, click [here](#) and for other IPB studies visit <http://ipb.org/i/newsletters-and-publications/VI-C-ipb-studies.html>

Other news

Peace Boat programme on poverty

IPB member organization Peace Boat has announced that a Short Voyage programme will be available on the 63rd Peace Boat Global Voyage this August during the Yokohama C Kochi segment. During the 17-day programme, a special training programme, studying how to eradicate poverty from the world, will also be offered. See [their website](#) for more.

Movement against military action in Iran

On May 22, a bill was introduced into Congress that effectively called for a blockade of Iran, [H. Con. Res. 362](#). Following this, many peace groups and individual citizens have pushed back against what is seen to be an act of war, and with surprising results. Read the full story at <http://www.alternet.org/story/92395/>

IPB secretariat welcomes a new volunteer staff member

Frederic Durand, who presented the 'Disarmament for Development' programme at the global peace conference in Tokyo in May, has recently joined our office to work on a joint 'D for D - Global Article 9' outreach project (more on this in the next newsletter). Frederic has studied Japanese language and peace movements and is a board member of the [Group for a Switzerland without an Army](#).

Resources

Book about UK anti nuclear protest - Faslane 365

With 131 blockading groups and 1,150 arrests, the year-long protest against the Trident defence system demonstrated the unity and determined commitment of nuclear protestors, including Scottish Lawyers, Health Professionals and Grannies for Peace. *Faslane 365* brings together a diverse selection of writings, academic and anecdotal, from and about the epic blockade. Order form and more at <http://www.faslane365.org/f365book>

New Book - The Complex: How the Military Invades Our Everyday Lives

This book dives into the new, hip, high-tech military-industrial complex: an omnipresent, hidden-in-plain-sight system of systems that penetrates all our lives. From iPods to Starbucks to Oakley sunglasses, Nick Turse explores the Pentagon's little-noticed contacts (and contracts) with the products and companies that now form the fabric of America. <http://www.nickturse.com/>

Article - "Outsourcing the Iraq War: Mercenary Recruiters Turn to Latin America"

This article by Eric Stoner has just been released in the July/August issue of a magazine called NACLA Report on the Americas. It can also be seen online at <http://nacla.org/node/4805>

New Publication from the US National Academy of Sciences on Health Effects of Depleted Uranium Weapons

A US scientific body issues a new report on DU weapons. This publication critiques the report to see if it says anything new, or if it is even asking the right questions. More [here](#). The same group is also seeking to build support in Central and South America, where politicians have been championing a DU ban. Click [here](#) for that story.

Caribbean Women's Organization - New website

WINAD launched its website on 11 July. It will contain information on the organisation's gender, security and justice campaign, in Trinidad and Tobago and across the Caribbean. www.winad.org/

Newsletters

IPB receives many e-newsletters, both from our members and non-member organisations. Click [here](#) for a list with hyperlinks. Also, to review IPB's past newsletters, please visit [this link](#)

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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This is the last newsletter edited by Nicola Winter and we wish her good luck in her final year of University. Please send all feedback to our next editor: Frederic Durand at Frederic@ipb.org