



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

August 19th 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.

'D for D' and Global Article 9 Campaign new joint outreach project

IPB's Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development Programme and the Global Article 9 Campaign to Abolish War are both advocating a shift in resource allocation from the military to sustainable development and human security. Three years after their launch, the two campaigns are seeking to develop a global network of organisations and institutions which would benefit from reallocation of resources spent on the military. The objective is to increase the pressure of civil society on national governments and at the international level to secure more resources for health, education and sustainable development on the one hand, and to pass laws promoting security through peaceful means on the other hand.

We call on all IPB members and potential partners to join this network, putting the 'D for D' and the Article 9's 'No Military, No War' messages at the core of their campaigns. Find [here](#) a joint leaflet for information and distribution.

IPB Annual Seminar in Copenhagen (November 2008) - Brochure

IPB will hold its 2008 Seminar in Copenhagen (Denmark) on November 14-16. This meeting - which commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to IPB's first President, Fredrik Bajer, will address a range of contemporary peace challenges. You will find the detailed programme [here](#).

Georgia: IPB member organisation speaks out, launches 'Sorry' campaign

IPB's member organisation in Georgia, the Human Rights Centre (HRIDC) in Tbilisi, sent a number of [messages](#) about the current crisis. In March 2007, they launched a [Sorry Campaign](#) which envisages the reestablishment of confidence between Georgian and Abkhazian people, and to break through the informational vacuum by encouraging people to think about the horrors of war and the mistakes made.

Disarmament to Combat Poverty campaign: Urgent Appeal to UN Sec-Gen.

A new appeal has been launched to highlight military spending in UN deliberations, promoting jointly the agendas of social justice and peace. Please get your organisation to endorse this [important appeal](#). IPB has already signed, but it will add greater strength if all IPB member organisations also sign up.

Deadline: Sept. 11th . Find [here](#) more information about the campaign launched by Frères des Hommes.

Ecuador ends agreement with U.S. on military bases, campaigners applaud

The government of Ecuador notified the U.S. on July 29 that it will need to leave the Manta air base next year, as the military cooperation agreement would not be renewed. The Ecuador No Bases Coalition (read [here](#) their letter) considers that this decision is the result of the Ecuadorean government's commitment to the demands made by various social sectors. A referendum will also take place on September 28, 2008 to adopt a new Constitution banning foreign military bases.

U.S. presidential candidates converging on military policies

Both Barack Obama and John McCain support a large, strong and well-funded military and have made clear they are willing to use it to protect U.S. interests. Advisers to both candidates say they do not foresee cuts in the defence budget, at least in the short-term. At more than \$600 billion this year, U.S. defence spending accounts for about half the global total and has risen by about 85 percent under President George W. Bush, who initiated the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. See [here](#) an article by Reuters, and find [here](#) further comparison in a recent IPB paper.

Not so "new" US Defense Strategy stresses terrorism and "small wars"

The Pentagon issued on July 31st a new U.S. National Defense Strategy, emphasizing the need for the U.S. military, and the entire government, to be prepared to fight global terrorism and related small-scale conflicts like the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The new strategy updates a document issued in 2005 under then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Read [here](#) the full article by VOA.

Flu, not terrorism, is most serious risk to Britain, report finds

According to a document on homeland security, issued on August 8 by Britain's Cabinet Office, a potential flu pandemic (not terrorism) poses the most imminent danger over the next five years. Read the full article of the [International Herald Tribune](#).

Military vs. social spending

Defense spending to rise in the wake of Georgia conflict

Ukraine's top military official on August 14 asked the government to double spending on defence in the wake of the massive invasion of Russian troops in Georgia, according to [Ukrainian Journal](#). Ukraine's defence spending accounts for 1% of the country's GDP (estimated at \$ 180 billion in 2008).

The same day, Estonia's government said it would also boost its defence spending, whereas Poland won a U.S. pledge to help improve its defences in exchange for basing interceptor missiles on its territory, [Bloomberg has reported](#).

The CEO of Northrop Grumman Corp., the Pentagon's third-largest contractor commented on the conflict as a "wake up call" for the U.S. not to lower its guard. This view is likely to be shared by top officials in the military services and the Pentagon, who are currently working on a six-year spending plan for the period beginning in fiscal year 2010. More from [Reuters](#) and other [analysis](#) about profit opportunities for the weapons industry.

BAE expects world defence spending to jump as its profits rise

UK arms manufacturer BAE Systems signalled that world defence spending will only increase, as it posted a 20pc increase in first-half profits on the back of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. More [here](#). In such a prosperous situation, it is not surprising to learn that the firm has spent some \$ 1.3 million in the second quarter, lobbying the US government on various military programs. See [AP](#).

Interview with Lockheed Martin chief

Lockheed Martin, the world's leading defence contractor, with \$41.9 billion in revenue last year, has expanded its business through acquisitions in the health care IT sector and peacekeeping support. The firm's chairman forecasts a "modest growth" over the \$515 billion defence budget requested by the US President for '09. Full interview [here](#).

Military cutbacks will harm French Polynesian economy

After France announced it would downscale its military, the French Pacific territory of French Polynesia is trying to convince Paris not to halve the number of military personnel based there, fearing negative economic impact. Full [article](#).

War spending helps U.S. rural economy - is that good?

The Institute for Southern Studies raises the issue of rural America's increasing dependence on military money. Find more and links to full reports [here](#).

Winning Iraqi hearts and minds with money

The U.S. military have spent at least \$2.8 billion in various relief reconstruction projects in Iraq, with a field manual called "Money as a Weapon System". Read the full story by the [Washington Post](#).

U.S. spending on contractors in Iraq to top \$ 100 billion - a \$20 billion bid to "militarily" aid Afghans

The United States will, by the end of 2008, have spent 100 billion U.S. dollars on contractors in Iraq since the invasion in 2003, according to a congressional report released on August 12. Click [here](#) for the full story.

The Pentagon announced on August 7 that it will endorse a \$20 billion plan to substantially increase the size of Afghanistan's army and will also restructure the military command of American and NATO forces in response to the growing Taliban threat. More on this story [here](#).

\$500 monthly bonus for extended US enlistees

Soldiers forced to stay in Iraq and Afghanistan past their enlistment may be getting an extra \$500 a month "special pay" for their trouble, AP has [reported](#). The measure, costing about \$600 million, should go unnoticed in the \$860 billion spent so far by the US for its military operations in these two countries.

By any name, a South American arms race is senseless

Journalist Andreas Oppenheimer of the Miami Herald analyses recent data on military expenditures in Latin America. He makes no reference to the huge U.S. spending budget but the figures he cites do shed light on the current state of militarism in the continent. Click [here](#) for more.

Weapons and their effects

Cluster Munition Coalition condemns Russian use of cluster bombs in Georgia

The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) condemns Russia's use of cluster bombs in Georgia just three months after 107 nations agreed to ban the weapon and urges all countries and organisations to speak out against this action and call for an immediate end to their use. Full [press release](#) and for [action](#) required.

China fuels repression in Darfur say two reports

While China uses the Olympic Games to assert itself as a responsible international player, its role in sustaining the violence in Darfur is highlighted by two corroborating reports. See [Investing in Tragedy](#), by Human Rights First and [DEADLY TRAFFIC: China's Arms Trade with Sudan](#) by the Arms and Security Initiative.

Insurance companies sustain Burmese regime and repression

Burma Campaign UK has released, end July, a groundbreaking new report exposing how foreign insurance companies, from London to Singapore, have facilitated the flow of billions of dollars to the Burmese regime, money that hasn't benefitted Burma's people and has instead been used to finance campaigns of repression and ethnic cleansing. The report *Insuring Repression* can be found [here](#).

Firearms fuel insecurity in northern Kenya

The widespread availability of firearms in northern Kenya is contributing to an increase in people being killed during livestock raids, according to the Kenyan Red Cross Society. Over 60 people died during a clash between the Turkana and Pokot communities on 29 July. Nomadic tribes suffer from a lack of basic amenities and often turn to stealing cattle to survive, but easy access to guns has made cattle-rustling more violent. Civil society organisations have suggested disarming civilians using incentives such as trading guns for livestock, which has proven successful in several districts. Stricter border control between Kenya and Uganda might also curb the flow of illicit arms. More on this story from [IRIN news](#).

Control Arms Global Week of Action - September 13-19

The Control Arms Campaign is setting up a week of action to boost its call for an effective Arms Trade Treaty and to lobby for a strong UN General Assembly resolution. Campaign materials and declaration to sign [here](#).

Weapons of mass destruction

Two petitions "For a Nuclear Weapons-Free World" - 1 million signatures for Disarmament Week and millions for the 2010 NPT Review Conference

A new signature campaign on the appeal "For a Nuclear Weapon-Free World" was launched on Aug. 6 in Hiroshima at the 2008 World Conference against A and H Bombs by the representatives of the peace movement from around the world. This campaign is going to be a common action for linking various creative actions that will be developed towards the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to be held in New York in the spring of 2010. It is also intended to go in support of and in solidarity with "Vision 2020" and "Hiroshima/Nagasaki Protocol" launched by **Mayors for Peace**, the newly launched **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)** and others that call for a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons. Start collecting signatures in every local community, workplace and school for some 20 months, and

heap up tens of millions of signatures in Spring 2010 in Central Park in New York! Click [here](#) to print and sign the appeal.

A parallel petition supporting CANT (Cities Are Not Targets) has already gathered more than 250,000 signatures, but is still far from the goal to present a **million signatures to the United Nations on October 24, 2008**, the first day of Disarmament Week. Please [sign it online](#) and forward the request around you!

Peace Declarations for the 63rd commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings

With the years passing, the number of atomic bomb survivors diminishes. But the determination to abolish nuclear weapons remains unchanged, as attested by the declarations of [Hiroshima](#) and [Nagasaki](#) Mayors.

Bruce Kent, IPB former President, also gave a [speech](#) at the Peace Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima.

India-U.S. nuclear cooperation deal violates the NPT says Dhanapala

Former IPB Hon. President Jayantha Dhanapala, who chaired the global review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995 criticizes firmly the recent nuclear agreement. See the video [here](#).

The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have also addressed their concern on this issue in a [statement](#) to Japan's Prime Minister.

Pax Christi International's Statement on Biological Weapons

At the Biological Weapons Convention's Meeting of Experts held in Geneva (August 18-22), Pax Christi International will remind States that "keeping the world safe from biological weapons requires collective responsibility". Find the statement [here](#).

Middle Powers Initiatives Releases Final Report of the Dublin Article VI Forum

The Article VI Forum is an ongoing series of consultations intended to stimulate and shape effective responses to the crisis of the non-proliferation / disarmament regime manifested by the breakdown of the 2005 NPT Review Conference. The Article VI Forum takes its name from the article of the NPT in which the nuclear states commit themselves to the elimination of their nuclear weapons. Click [here](#) for the full report and summaries.

Nukes Gone Wild on U-Tube - Students for a nuclear weapons free world's blog

[See video](#) of students taking it to the streets to educate the public about the nuclear dangers.

"Students for a Nuclear Weapons Free World" <http://snwfw.blogspot.com>, a new blog formed by student winners of an international contest on what it would take to convince leaders to abolish nuclear weapons.

New on IPB website

New IPB paper: Military Spending and Finance for Development

In recent years a new field of what has become known as 'innovative finance for development' has emerged, in an attempt to find ways to fund the global economic and human development goals adopted by UN members states. The UN Secretary-General has set up a special task force dedicated to innovative financing to further the goals outlined in the 2000 UN Millennium Development Declaration and the commitments made in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus. Many different plans have been made, goals set, and organizations set up, but despite all of this work, especially on

finding innovative sources for financing development, the largest, most obvious source of potential financial resources continues to be ignored: military spending. To read the 38pp study by Nicola Winter click [here](#), and find other IPB studies at: <http://ipb.org/i/newsletters-and-publications/VI-C-ipb-studies.html>

Other news

U.S. worried Japan may cut off refueling support for coalition forces

The U.S. ambassador in Tokyo is worried that Japan might cut off its crucial refuelling support for coalition forces in Afghanistan and Iraq because of domestic political opposition to the continued deployment of Japanese troops. Read the article by [The Washington Times](#).

Resources

Book about the extractive economies and the related conflicts

Extractive Economies and Conflicts in the Global South, Multi-Regional Perspectives on Rentier Politics by Kenneth Omeje, explores through case studies natural resources conflicts, theories and practical ramifications of rentier politics in the Global South. Click [here](#) to order the book from Ashgate.

ICAN Australia Bulletin #13 - August 2008

Find [here](#) the link to the latest issue of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons - Australia bulletin.

Book on the "pre-emptive" military doctrine

Anticipatory military activities are at the centre of American strategic doctrine. The author puts forward an understanding of why states have or, most of the time, have not undertaken such activities in the past. Order *Why Not Preempt? Security, Law, Norms and Anticipatory Military Activities* by Rachel Bzostek [here](#).

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.

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from this newsletter please email:
mailbox@ipb.org

Newsletter edited by: Frederic Durand - frederic@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