



# International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

September 1<sup>st</sup> 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 media programme. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

## IPB books on Disarmament for Development, new stocks

IPB Secretariat is pleased to announce the arrival of substantial stocks of the two main book publications which promote our Disarmament for Development campaign. Copies can now be ordered from the IPB office in Geneva. They can also be downloaded from [IPB's website](#). Certain foreign language editions are also available. Please note [revised prices](#).

- *Warfare or Welfare ? Disarmament for Development in the 21st century: A human security approach*
- *Whose Priorities? A Guide for campaigners on military and social spending*

## Military vs. social spending

### Australia: Our turn to be heard on arms spending

As Australia's foreign and defence policy are being opened for consultation, Jake Lynch, director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney, stresses in an [op-ed](#) the opportunity for Australians to have their say on how to spend the country's military budget and for what purpose. He calls for not wasting money on unwanted and unneeded war-fighting kit and for concentrating, instead, on addressing the real causes of conflict and help to bring peace with justice to the region.

### Canada: Supply ships shelved: \$2.1 billion project quietly cancelled

The Conservative government is shelving a \$2.1-billion project to replace Canada's aging naval supply ships because bids from the shipbuilding industry were "significantly" higher than the money set aside for the program. [Full article.](#)

### **New life for missile defence funding as Poland signs deal**

Poland's agreement to host a U.S. missile defence site has increased chances that the final version of fiscal 2009 spending legislation will give President Bush the funding he wants for a European-based system designed to protect from an Iranian missile attack, according to the [Congressional Quarterly](#).

The [Guardian](#) notes that the agreement should generate significant sales for American defence contractors, although critics say the whole effort amounts to a multibillion-dollar sham.

### **Historical perspective - Making Money on a New Cold War**

The Russia-Georgia clash has generated heated anti-Moscow rhetoric from John McCain and U.S. neoconservatives about a new Cold War, a prospect that most people might see in a negative light but which many military contractors surely view as a financial plus. Read the full analysis on [www.consortiumnews.com](http://www.consortiumnews.com).

### **US election: A New Front for Defense Contractors**

Whatever the outcome of the November Presidential contest, industry players could face some significant changes. As industry lobbyists and consultants see it, Russia's invasion of Georgia will probably spur a rethinking of the Defense Dept.'s current emphasis on counterinsurgency and lead to a shift back to traditional superpower tools, such as aircraft carriers. Read the article by Businessweek [here](#).

### **US can't afford guns and butter now**

John M. Keynes showed us that government can, through deficit spending, stimulate an economy out of a recession. Military Keynesianism is the idea that a large military budget will stimulate and maintain a growing economy. That's true if you don't care what kind of economy you have and you're willing to go bankrupt. Unfortunately, the financial mess we are in reflects more than the usual recessionary drop in total demand. It comes from out-of-control military Keynesianism – the **spending of money we do not have for things we do not need**. Read the [full analysis](#) by Paul Heise, professor emeritus of economics.

### **BAE chief warns over UK defence spending**

Britain risks losing its say in the world if it doesn't make defence a bigger priority, according to BAE Systems head Mike Turner, who also warned his company might consider leaving the UK if military spending ever declined below a "reasonable level". Find [here](#) the full Financial Times article.

### **Iraqi Figures Back U.S. View on Low Spending for Reconstruction**

Internal budget figures provided for the first time by the Iraqi government suggest that it has spent as little as 18 percent of the money it has devoted to rebuilding the country this year, roughly in line with previous estimates by American oversight agencies, but far below the amount cited by the Iraqi government itself. Find [here](#) the full NYTimes article.

## Weapons and their effects

### Control Arms Global Week of Action - September 13-19 **UPDATE**

With just two weeks to go, over 45 events around the world have been planned for the **Week of Action on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)** from 13-19 September. If you organise any action, inform IANSA through [bruce.millar\(at\)iansa.org](mailto:bruce.millar@iansa.org). Find campaign materials and declaration to sign [here](#).

IANSA members from across Africa will participate in a regional meeting on how an Arms Trade Treaty could help facilitate sustainable development. The meeting will take place in Nairobi, Kenya on 3 - 4 September.

### Russia alleges use of cluster munitions by Georgia

After having been condemned by the Cluster Munition Coalition for using the controversial munitions, Russia has alleged, through the voice of its ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, that the Georgian military fired cluster munitions in South Ossetia. See the unofficial transcript available [here](#). So far we have not received any independent information confirming those allegations.

## Weapons of mass destruction

### Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) Meeting of Experts

The BioWeapons Prevention Project has issued its sixth and final report for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention 2nd Meeting of Experts (MX), which took place in Geneva on August 18-22. Click [here](#) for all the reports and other related documents.

### Australia & Japan boost efforts towards nuclear disarmament

The two countries of the Pacific will submit to the United Nations General Assembly in September a resolution urging all atomic states (and China in particular) to cut their nuclear arms. The text is expected to be adopted in December. Full article [here](#).

The Australia/Japan-initiated new **International Commission on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament**, which aims to strengthen the NPT, is to hold its first meeting in October, according to [reports](#). Gareth Evans, Australia's co-chair of this commission said the next Washington administration could bring a historic US commitment to "serious nuclear disarmament", as a result of the bipartisan alliance of former state secretaries. Find the full article [here](#).

### Hibakusha Project: a historic voyage for a nuclear-free world

Peace Boat's 3 months Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World will start on September 7<sup>th</sup>. **100 atomic bomb survivors** of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be on board to share their testimonies and experiences with people around the world. A delegation of Hibakusha will also visit the UN headquarters in New York to deliver a presentation at the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. This historic voyage will be a unique and possibly last chance to hear directly from the Hibakusha the stories of their sufferings as well as their hopes for the future.

Find [here the voyage itinerary](#) and contact Peace Boat to participate in the activities organised in each port.

## Other news

### September 21<sup>st</sup> : Are you celebrating the International Day of Peace?

In order to raise global awareness of the importance of peace and conflict prevention and to increase the pressure on policy makers, governments and international organisations around the world, the **Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)** calls on individuals, groups and organisations to mobilise under the common slogan "[people building peace](#)" and organise activities on September 21<sup>st</sup>. You are invited to send information and material about your planned activities to GPPAC ([pbp\(at\)conflict-prevention.net](mailto:pbp(at)conflict-prevention.net)), who will publicise it to a larger audience. An [awareness raising toolkit](#) has been prepared in 7 languages, to assist anyone who wishes to start a campaign or organise an activity around issues of peace and conflict.

See also [www.peaceonday.org](http://www.peaceonday.org) for the impressive film *The Day After Peace* and more.

### World March for Peace and Nonviolence, from New Zealand to the Andes

This [project](#) is being launched in collaboration with countless organizations and individuals who are willing to circle the globe calling for the end of war and nuclear arms and the elimination of all kinds of violence. Beginning in **New Zealand on October 2, 2009**, the anniversary of Gandhi's birth which has been declared the "International Day of Nonviolence" by the United Nations, the March will make its way **through all six continents in 90 days** of several concurrent journeys, to conclude high in the **Andes Mountains on January 2, 2010**. This March will open up a new space of expression for all who cry out for peace, who feel that we need to go beyond borders, beyond particular situations, and create a worldwide social conscience to build a nonviolent society.

### Global Campaign for Peace Education (GCPE) - call for volunteers

GCPE plans to increase its visibility, and that of peace education in general by launching a new website and distributing a new logo. The website will offer more concrete suggestions of types of activities and actions that might contribute to the achievement of the Campaign goals and establish an online database and reporting system to better track peace education related organizations, events and activities taking place around the world. More information and volunteering opportunities in their latest newsletter. Free subscription [here](#).

### Culture of Peace: World Report and online game

The [Culture of Peace News Network](#), lists by continent first hand articles written by people involved in various events promoting a culture of peace. An online "[culture-of-peace-game](#)" has recently been created. Structured in three parts, it helps defining the culture of war and culture of peace in the initial one, provides suggestions on how to go from a culture of war to a

culture of peace in the second part, and finally it offers a dialogue section in which readers are invited to comment on the various issues raised by the game.

## Resources

### Finance for development: *The Road to Doha* - August issue

This issue contains information on the latest reports from the Secretary-General relating to financing for development prior to the [November Review Conference](#). It also provides information on regional consultations on financing for development as well as a guest editorial by the Doha NGO Group, with an initial reaction to the Doha Draft Outcome Document.

Click [here](#) to read the latest as well as previous issues of *The Road to Doha*.

### *Practical Peace*: a monthly e-bulletin

Peace Direct's monthly e-bulletin is an interesting and quick read stuffed full of links, books, quotes, tips, anecdotes and articles, offering suggestions of what you can do, read, buy, question or change to help make moves towards a sustainable peace. To subscribe click [here](#).

Peace Direct is also launching its first public campaign called 'Make Your Peace'. It's a special campaign to mark September 21st, the International Day of Peace.

### GPPAC Awareness Toolkit - available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Arabic, French and Dutch

Useful for campaigns and activities in the field of peace and conflict, this [23pp toolkit](#) includes campaign basics, facts and figures you can use in your campaign; strategies you can employ in order for your campaign to be successful; and ideas for taking action such as public events and ways to engage the media. It also lists a number of other sources that could be helpful in raising awareness on conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

### Incendiary new book: *The Pornography of Power: How Defense Hawks Hijacked 9/11 and Weakened America*

Veteran journalist Robert Scheer brings a lifetime of wisdom and experience to one of the most overlooked and dangerous issues of our time - the destructive influence of America's military-industrial complex. The author of *With Enough Shovels: Reagan, Bush, and Nuclear War* takes now aim at America's defence policy and bloated military budget in this pugnacious and rigorously researched polemic. Tragedy can be opportunity, Scheer writes, and 9/11 provided the defence industry with the opportunity it had long been seeking. Click [here](#) for excerpt and more.

### Book: *War on Terror, Inc.: Corporate Profiteering from the Politics of Fear*

The so-called War on Terror has created a global bonanza for the world of commercial military suppliers. Who is behind companies that reap the dividend of war? How close are they to our political decision-makers? Do they actually deliver what they are contracted to deliver, and at a cost-effective price? Freelance reporter Solomon Hughes catalogues the

appalling record of private contractors doing our governments' dirtiest work, and asks how we can possibly justify delivering into the hands of market forces an area of public life which requires the very highest standards of scrupulousness and integrity. More [here](#).

Transcend Peace University - 2nd Semester 2008: 15 September - 8 December

Registration for online courses open until 12 September 2008. More info [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](http://www.geneva-forum.org) and by Reaching Critical Will [here](#).

**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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