



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 (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 annual seminar, COPENHAGEN, November 2008 - [speakers list](#) now available
Fredrik Bajer - a Pioneer of Modern Peacemaking. An international seminar on disarmament, terrorism and poverty: challenges for peace and human rights movements.

Organised by the Danish Peace Council and the International Peace Bureau on the occasion of the centenary commemoration of F. Bajer's Nobel Peace Prize(1908). For conference brochure click [here](#). Please pass this new information on to anyone interested.

Alexandria seminar 2007: *Books or Bombs?* - booklet now available

The [summary report](#) of the IPB-Institute for Peace Studies seminar, held at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt, in November 2007, is now available on request from the IPB secretariat. It will be sent in the coming days to all IPB member organisations. For copies of the Arabic version of the booklet, (ready by the end of October) please write to: ips@bibalex.org

Director-General of UN Office at Geneva says "arms build-up not only increases the likelihood of violence, but it drains much needed resources away from development."

Sergei Ordzhonikidze made the following remarks on Sept. 12th at the ministerial Review Summit on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development:

"Strategic disarmament could free up significant funds that could be channelled towards improving the lives of the over 1 billion people that live on less than 1 dollar a day - the so-called "bottom billion". Moreover, strategic disarmament would help to build greater confidence among States and contribute towards stability, which would, in turn, also further the development agenda. It is my hope that the Geneva Declaration deliberations may be placed within this broader context and help to provide added impetus to the ongoing efforts to re-vitalize multilateral disarmament." Read the full statement at the [UNOG website](#).

African governments discussed how an ATT would promote sustainable development

Representatives from 20 African governments expressed their continuing support for a strong Arms Trade Treaty calling for the UN General Assembly to start negotiations on the ATT. Government ministers, experts and NGOs met in Nairobi (Kenya) from 3-4 September to discuss how an ATT would promote sustainable development. More from the [BBC](#).

Military vs. social spending

Military spending not best way to create new jobs - in the US and certainly anywhere

Quoting a report by the University of Massachusetts, Susan Shaer, Executive Director of [Women's Action for New Directions](#) stresses that investing public dollars in areas other than the military (health care, education, mass transit or home weatherization) creates significantly more jobs (up to twice more) than investing that same amount in the military. Read the full analysis [here](#).

U.S.: Defense contractors lobbying the Congress and the next President

The next president must launch a multibillion-dollar, decade-long military modernization drive to head off a loss of U.S. ability to protect [militarily!] its interests worldwide, the Aerospace Industries Association representing major defense contractors said in a survey. Full [article by Reuters](#).

Military contractors will also be anxiously monitoring Capitol Hill as lawmakers return from summer recess and sprint to finish a multibillion-dollar defense budget before scattering to the campaign trail ahead of the November election. More details [here](#).

What makes no doubt is that neither the Congress nor the next president will be ready to reduce the defence budget, as [this analyst](#) puts it: "Reducing spending on homeland security or defense and then being faced with any sort of future attack would be political suicide for the ruling party."

China increases defence spending while putting squeeze on abuses

According to the defence business oriented Jane's Information Group, China's military spending could reach \$360 billion by 2020 if current trends continue, but would still remain far behind the U.S. [Full article](#).

[Other reports](#), quoting state media, note that Chinese military officials face intensified scrutiny for abusing or mishandling the nation's fast-rising defence budget. (a 17.6% increase in 2008 has been announced by the government).

Australia: last call to counter the government's rising spending policy!

"Clearly, the 'war on terrorism', as conceived and run since September 11, 2001, has not added to our sense of security, and may have added to the threat." says Alan Behm, former head of Australian Defence Forces' international policy unit. Nevertheless, the Rudd government has made a promise of a 3% annual increase in military spending to 2018 and Australia's current military spending of over \$60 million a day steals the resources which should be funding human and social needs. Find [here](#), draft letters to

the Federal Minister of Defence about the forthcoming Defence White Paper, to be sent before the October 1st deadline.

Japan: 2% defence spending rise sought as the military is running out of gas

The Defense Ministry will seek ¥4.845 trillion in appropriations for fiscal 2009, up 2.2 percent from this year's initial budget, to cover growing fuel costs, to upgrade the F-15 jet fighter fleet and to improve Self-Defence Forces equipment for future operations overseas (Kyodo News). [Full article](#) on Japan's defence and surveillance spending; [more](#) about fuel shortage.

Papua New Guinea: Government is planning big spending to rebuild the military

Putting forward a submission for 62 million US dollars in new spending, the Papua New Guinea Defence Minister says the Defence Force needs to be built up to a level where it is affordable, efficient, skilled and properly equipped. The PNGDF had been downsized to around two thousand personnel by the Sir Mekere Morauta Government. Full report [here](#).

Weapons and their effects

***Global Burden of Armed Violence* - report from the Geneva Declaration**

Launched by the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development during its review summit (Geneva, Sept. 12th), this report found that the majority of the annual 740,000 deaths due to armed violence occur outside war zones, and that these deaths translate into a loss of \$ 95 - 163 billion in global productivity. The report is available at: www.genevadeclaration.org.

Iraqi minister appeals to Japan for assistance regarding DU contamination

Attending a UNEP meeting in Japan, Ms. Nermeen Osman, Iraqi Minister of Environment said in an interview that 105 sites had been found contaminated by the DU shells used during the Iraq War of 2003, and that she would visit the Japanese Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Environment to ask for assistance in decontamination and health measures for residents. She added she would like to ask Japan, the A-bombed country, for assistance in treatment of victims. Read the full article [here](#).

Landmine survivors push Vietnam to adopt cluster bomb ban

Thirty-three years after the end of the Vietnam War, landmine survivors in Vietnam are pressing their government to sign a groundbreaking treaty banning the use of cluster bombs. Click [here](#) to learn more about the campaign launched by the Landmine Survivors Network-Vietnam.

Uganda: Landmine victims struggle to integrate

The return of peace to northern Uganda has prompted many formerly displaced people to return home, but resettling into the villages has proved tough for landmine survivors as many had been affected by trauma, inadequate medical support and inability to fend for themselves. Read the full story by IRIN [here](#).

Georgia acknowledges dropping cluster bombs, says Human Rights Watch
Georgia has admitted dropping cluster bombs during its attempt to regain control of its breakaway province of South Ossetia, said the human rights group which had also [documented](#) Russian use of these indiscriminate weapons, causing 11 civilian deaths. The South Ossetia conflict was the first time cluster bombs were deployed since the Lebanon war in 2006. Find [here](#) the full article in the Guardian.

Weapons of mass destruction

Indo-US nuclear deal: voices of conscience and ugly cry of victory!

After the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group approved the Indian exemption, on Saturday 7th, condemnations came from all sides: in Japan, the media and activists [warned](#) the decision could hinder future efforts to completely abolish nuclear weapons, and the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki [expressed](#) their disappointment. In Australia, [voices regret](#) the “deeply disappointing role” played by their country despite its stated aim of a nuclear weapon free world and a brand new Commission to ensure a successful NPT meeting in 2010.

In India, however, some savour the “historic waiver”, hoping it will help India “move decisively from its traditional emphasis on the power of the argument to the more effective argument of power.” Full editorial in the Indian Express [here](#).

***In-security. The Nuclear Dilemma* exhibition opens in Spain - Gernika**

Inaugurated at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, Geneva (28th February - 27th July 2008), this important exhibition supported by IPB has now travelled to Spain where it will open at the Gernika Peace Museum, Spain - on show from 19th September to 25th January 2009. Details [here](#) and at <http://www.nucleardilemma.org/>.

Non-nuclear warhead urged for Trident missile

A National Research Council blue-ribbon panel of defense experts is recommending development and testing of a conventional warhead for submarine-launched intercontinental Trident missiles to give the president an alternative to using nuclear weapons for a prompt strike anywhere in the world. Find [here](#) the full article published by the *Washington Post*.

Other news

Obituaries: exceptional resister Vassili B. Nesterenko & Abie Nathan, maverick entrepreneur and anti-war activist in Middle East politics

Nuclear physicist at the highest level in the Soviet Union, since 1986, [Nesterenko](#) (1934- 25.08.08) has fought against disinformation on Chernobyl. In 1990, with the help of Sakharov, he set up the Independent Institute for Radioprotection BELRAD to investigate radioactive contamination and to provide assistance to the affected populations, in particular children.

To rightwing fellow Israelis, [Abie Nathan](#) (29.04.27 - 27.08.08) was a figure of fun, or, worse, a traitor. Nathan did seem an unlikely warrior for peace in the Middle East, but he invariably had the last laugh.

Resources

***Behind Closed Doors* : a new SGR report on military influence in UK universities**

Scientists for Global Responsibility's new publication is the result of an in-depth investigation into 16 of Britain's universities, including some of the most prestigious. The report highlights how, since 2002, new military research groups have sprung up in universities, supported by publicly-funded research councils, military corporations and the Ministry of Defence. The expansion of such groups has been accelerated by the 2006 Defence Technology Strategy. Available [on the web](#) or in printed copies.

***The Age of Consequences: The Foreign Policy and National Security Implications of Global Climate Change* - report by the [CSIS](#) and [CNAS](#)**

The contributors developed three scenarios of what the future may hold and then analyzed the security implications, which at a minimum include increased disease proliferation; tensions caused by large-scale migration; and conflict sparked by resource scarcity, particularly in Africa. They consider what we can learn from the experience of early civilizations confronted with natural disaster, and they ask what the three largest emitters of greenhouse gases can do to reduce and manage future risks. Summary and full report available [here](#).

***Transitions*, a semiannual newsletter on social and ecological peace**

Earth and Peace Education Associates International (EPE)'s e-newsletter is an educational resource which focuses on our global community's progress towards a culture of peace, i.e. a society of institutions and norms based on nonviolence, ecological sustainability, social justice, intergenerational equity and participatory decision-making. To subscribe contact [wenden\(at\)rcn.com](mailto:wenden(at)rcn.com) and click [here](#) for earlier copies and other resources.

WILPF seminar report available

Several IPB representatives attended the annual seminar on International Women's Day held in Geneva in March this year, entitled *At What Cost: Women, Wars, Weapons and Conflict Prevention*. The meeting was organised jointly with the Geneva Forum. The 46pp report contains all the presentations, including two speeches by IPB's former President Cora Weiss, now UN Representative. Copies are available from WILPF secretariat (CHF 15) and also at: <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/events/2008IWD/index.html>

Reykjavik revisited: Steps Towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

This preliminary report from Hoover Institution's "Reykjavik Revisited" conference, held in October 2007, examines the practical steps required to address the nuclear threat and to move toward the goal established by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev at their historic 1986 meeting in Reykjavik: the elimination of nuclear weapons. Find [here](#) the full report.

Bedside book for pacifists? *PEACE: A History of Movements and Ideas*

Veteran peace activist and scholar David Cortright offers a definitive history of the human striving for peace and an analysis of its religious and

intellectual roots. A unique study that combines a history of movements with a history of ideas. Excerpt and order details [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 inter-governmental, grassroots and civil society events in key cities compiled by the [Geneva Forum](#) and by [Reaching Critical Will](#).

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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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