



IPB News

WWW: Working for a World Without War

International Peace Bureau

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STOP PRESS: IPB Copenhagen Conference big success - see reports at ipb.org

President-Elect Obama: Peace Movement Comments

The election of Barack Obama has given rise to a multitude of commentaries. Peace movement analysts generally expect positive new policies. Others take a different view on defense. ...see below.

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: "Now Obama Must Deliver Change"

Kate Hudson, Chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament said: "As the US faces a monumental budget deficit and economic crisis on a vast scale, Obama must seize the opportunity to cut back on military spending and instead invest in the genuine needs of the US people and economy. The change which Obama wishes to bring must include nuclear disarmament, the closure of the hundreds of US military bases worldwide, and the abandoning of its provocative so-called missile defence system." [Read full statement here.](#)

Code Pink: "A Victory for the Peace Movement"

"An Obama victory is a victory for the peace movement", say Code Pink members. "It sends a message to the political establishment that being against war is the winning position. War is SO Over.

American voters have recognized the costs - lives lost, international cooperation thwarted, and tax dollars squandered - and chosen the candidate who promised to end the Iraq war and to use diplomacy first."

[Read the full statement here.](#)

Prof. Johan Galtung: "A New Beginning?"

"It depends" is Johan Galtung's answer, as he analyzes the impact of the election and the possibilities for Barack Obama's presidency.

[Full article here.](#)

International Action Network on Small Arms:

"New Possibilities for Arms Control"

The election of Barack Obama as US President should improve the political environment for progress on gun violence prevention and reducing US arms exports, according to members of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA).

[Full Statement here.](#)

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.

Military vs. social spending

Obama To Support Defense, Space Technology

A report from Aviation Week detailing President-Elect Barack Obama's long-standing commitment to develop - among others - unmanned aircraft, electronic warfare capabilities and cyber security. [Full Report here](#).

New Report: The Military Cost of Securing Fossil Fuel Resources

A new paper by Anita Dancs, Assistant Professor at Western New England College, takes a new look at the actual costs of dependence on crude oil, highlighting the military costs of securing energy sources around the world, expenses that don't show up at the gas station, but are paid directly by taxpayers, taking money away from efforts to solve domestic and international problems.

[Read the full paper](#).

Obama May Continue Defense Growth

US military expenditures have risen 72% since the year 2000. A trend that Barack Obama isn't likely to change during his first years in office, says Richard Danzig, Obama's defense adviser and former Navy secretary in a [Bloomberg Report](#).

Pentagon Expects Cuts in Military Spending

After years of unfettered growth in military budgets, Defense Department planners, top commanders and weapons manufacturers now say they are almost certain that the financial meltdown will have a serious impact on future Pentagon spending.

Read the [full article](#) about the prospects for the US defense budget.

Don't Believe Spending Cut Rumors

Bernhard Finel at [defensenews.com](#) takes a look at how the US military is struggling behind the scenes to keep increasing the military budget nonetheless.

[Read the article](#).

Weapons and their effects

UNSC (at last!) discusses reduction of military expenditures

The UN Security Council, under the presidency of Costa Rica, held on Nov. 19 an open debate on Article 26 of the UN Charter which requests the Council to develop a regulating system in order to promote peace and security with the least diversion of resources for armaments.

At a time when global military expenditures reach new records, it is a historical moment for the Security Council to discuss reducing armaments and armed forces as "one of the most important measures to promote international peace and security", and to urge "all States to devote as many resources as possible to economic and social development, in particular in the fight against poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals."

It is most encouraging for the IPB and the civil society at large to see the Disarmament for Development issue taken up at this level. Let's hope that the

debate will bring concrete proposals and commitments.

Read the [statement by Ban Ki-Moon](#) and the [summary](#) of the meeting.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions

107 countries have agreed to adopt the text of the new convention on cluster munitions which is due to be signed in Oslo on December 3rd 2008.

The Oslo process is a diplomatic process that includes States, Civil Society, and the United Nations, which will prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions. Furthermore, the Oslo Convention provides adequate resources to assist survivors and clear contaminated areas.

Read more at stopclustermunitions.org.

All Norwegian cluster munitions to be destroyed

The Norwegian government announced it will order all cluster munitions in their possession to be destroyed "as fast as possible" as part of their leadership in the negotiations for a ban on cluster munitions.

[Full report here](#).

UNGA - Landslide vote in favour of arms trade treaty

The United Nations First Committee on disarmament voted overwhelmingly on Friday 31 October to move forward with work on an Arms Trade Treaty. NGO representatives welcome the vote, but call for more urgency from states in moving the process forward.

[Full report here](#).

United Nations First Committee Overwhelmingly Backs New Uranium Weapons Resolution

A majority of states today backed a second resolution highlighting health concerns over the use of uranium in conventional weapons. All three decisions were "the result of some determined campaigning from NGOs and politicians in key countries".

[Full Report here](#).

Weapons of mass destruction

It's the Future, Stupid: An Address by former IPB Vice-President

Douglas Roche, O.C.

"Human rights for all and the abolition of nuclear weapons must become a single dynamic issue.", Douglas Roche argues in his address to the *Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons*

[Read the full address here](#).

New Paper: "The Reality: A Goal of a World without Nuclear Weapons Is Essential"

Sidney Drell and James Goodby from Stanford University's Hoover Institute analyze the current political situation for nuclear disarmament and argue the case that the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world can provide the inspiration needed to meet current international challenges. [Read the full paper here](#).

Other News

Peace groups celebrate cancellation of weapons exhibition

A coalition of 36 Australian peace groups celebrated the cancellation of the *Asia Pacific Defence and Security Exhibition* that was supposed to take place near Adelaide, Australia, but was cancelled due to rising public pressure on the Australian government to call off the event and withdraw all support for weapons exhibitions in Australia.

[Read more...](#)

Global Day of Action Against Landmines in Nepal

The Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal kicked off the Global Week of Action in Nepal with a tremendous public mobilization campaign, collecting over 50.000 signatures.

[See photos](#)

Record Numbers Stood up and Took Action - Stand Up Against Poverty

The record for the biggest mass mobilization on a single issue was broken last month when over 116 million people participated in the Stand Up and Take Action Campaign to end world poverty.

[Read more...](#)

How UK high street banks' are Banking on Bloodshed (UK)

The campaign fighting global poverty, [War on Want](#) has just issued a report revealing that the UK's largest banks, often in violation of their corporate social responsibility statements, continue to invest in, make loans to and provide banking services for the arms industry (including companies producing depleted uranium and cluster munitions). Although military expenditures are cited as a major barrier to achieving the MDGs, UK remains among the largest exporters of arms to developing countries. This report suggests various actions to take.

[Read the report.](#)

Resources

Housmans Peace Diary and World Peace Directory 2009

Housman's Peace Diary is an annual publication consisting of a week-to-a-view pocket diary laced with weekly quotations, with relevant anniversaries marked each day. The diary also includes a **World Peace Directory**, giving contact details for almost 2000 national and international peace, environmental and human rights organisations, selected each year from the latest version of the full World Peace Database published by the Housmans Peace Resource Project. See [Peace Diary](#) for details

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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