



IPB News

WWW: Working for a World Without War

International Peace Bureau

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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.

Military vs. social spending

Doha Conference:

civil society fails to draw the link between disarmament and development

At the international follow-up conference on Financing for Development wrapping-up on December 2 at Doha, Qatar, 250 development organizations issued a [declaration](#) which unfortunately failed to mention the reduction of military budgets among potential sources of development finance.

The Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has been the only one to address the crucial issue of disarmament, in accordance with the UN Charter art. 26, and to call for the adoption of the Costa Rica Consensus (which proposes to forgive debt and give extra aid for developing countries that spend more on human resources than the military). Find President Arias' speech in Spanish and webcast English interpretation [here](#).

Can Obama Take on the Pentagon?

Even saddled with two budget-busting wars and a collapsing economy, President Barack Obama may be able to accomplish a lot to cut the bloated military budget that increased 60% under his predecessor, George W. Bush, writes Frida Berrigan in [The Nation](#).

America's Defense Meltdown: Pentagon Reform for the New President

A new book by the Center for Defense Information, examining the policies that govern the Pentagon's spending plans and its relationship to arms manufacturers, reaching the conclusion that the US military establishment is "out of and beyond control, and [...] enormously dysfunctional". The Asia Times has published a [review](#) of the book.

Weapons and their effects

Signing of historic international treaty banning deadly cluster munitions

On December 3rd, governments from around the world signed what has been called the most significant disarmament and humanitarian treaty of the decade, banning the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions, and obligating them to provide victim assistance and to clear contaminated land.

Read press releases from [CMC and ICBL](#).

Weapons of mass destruction

Will Nuclear Disarmament Be on Obama's Agenda?

This year's IPB Sean MacBride Peace Prize Laureate, Jacqueline Cabasso, was interviewed on her expectations for the Obama administration's efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

Read the interview [here](#).

New Deal for South Asian Nukes?

An in-depth article about the political movement towards a nuclear-weapon-free zone in south Asia, detailing the current state of relations between India and Pakistan, by freelance journalist and a peace activist in India, J. Sri Raman

Read [Here](#).

UK Nuclear Policy: stuck in a costly cold war bunker

While US opinion on nuclear weapons is changing, the UK remains stuck in the old rhetoric of deterrence and Trident renewal, writes IPB council member and CND chair Kate Hudson in the Guardian.

Other News

Bremen Peace Prize - Call for Nominations

In November 2009, the Bremen Peace Prize for outstanding efforts for peace and justice will be awarded the fourth time. The German "Threshold" Foundation that gives out the prize is looking for nominations from the general public.

The Award honours people and organisations that set an example in their activity by contributing to reconciliation, human rights, overcoming of racism as well as to intercultural and inter-religious understanding. More information [here](#).

Resources

New Online Database on International Security, Military Expenditures

A new version of [FIRST—Facts on International Relations and Security Trends](#)—an online database on international security has just been released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. [FIRST](#) provides a comprehensive and authoritative database on conflicts, arms transfers, arms production and military expenditure, country profiles, organizational memberships, international treaties and agreements, economic and social statistics, human security, human rights and chronology of events.

New Disarmament, Peace & Security Newsletter

The NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace & Security (NGOCPDS) has launched a newsletter reporting on political developments in disarmament, peace and security with a focus on the NGO sphere. It is posted regularly on their website, disarm.igc.org

IPIS Briefing on Arms Trade and Natural Resources in Africa

The International Peace Information Service has published a review of the interconnectedness of the exploitation of natural resources and arms trade in the Great Lakes region. [Read here](#).

Arms Trade Treaty Advocacy Package by Pax Christi

UN member states agreed to start work on the ATT in 2006, but civil society pressure is needed to ensure the states' commitment to the process. Pax Christi, in cooperation with the International Action Network on Small Arms, has released an ATT advocacy package including concise information on the ATT process as well as publications and draft letters to elected officials. [View 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.

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

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