



# International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

14 February 2007 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 (now totalling \$1118 billion); 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.

## IPB at the World Social Forum, Nairobi

*Colin Archer reports:*

Since its inception in 2001, the World Social Forum has established itself as the world's largest assembly of civil society. Even if this year's gathering was less huge than expected (some 60,000 participants rather than 100,000 anticipated), the effect was none the less overwhelming. The tremendous sense of collective empowerment that is generated by being part of this extraordinary political experience was only partially offset by the subsequent realisation that it passed almost unnoticed by the mainstream international media. [More...](#)

## IPB and Peace NGOs write to the UN Secretary General to strengthen not diminish the role of the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs

New York-based civil society organizations working on issues of disarmament and security in the United Nations context write in support of keeping an independent Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA), with its own mandate and Under-Secretary-General. In the letter, they urged the UN not to reduce the status of disarmament at a time when the problems posed by

nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as small arms, are escalating.

[More...](#)

### NGO Committee disarmament programme, March 6-7, Geneva

Geneva's NGO Committee for Disarmament is organising a 2-day programme of disarmament events in early March, together with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the International Campaign to Ban Uranium Weapons. Themes include nuclear disarmament at the Conference on Disarmament, Depleted Uranium and Military Spending. All are welcome. Click [HERE](#) and here for [more...](#)

### The new United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon urges all States to fund development not armament

Mr. Ban told the 65 Member States of the Conference on Disarmament, the world's that "stakes are high" in dealing with these issues. He also highlighted the massive amount of money spent on arms and suggested this would be better used helping to fund the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce poverty and other global ills by 2015.

More...<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=21297&Cr=disarm&Cr1=>

### UN Conference on Disarmament re-opens in Geneva

The incoming President promised to spare no effort to wake the deadlocked chamber from its slumber this year. The Conference has not negotiated a treaty since the 1996 completion of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty because it has been unable to agree by consensus on a programme of work. Last year, however, the six rotating presidents of the Conference worked together to create a [timetable](#) of substantive discussions for the 2006 session.

More...<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/cd/cdindex.html#2007>

### UN Cost of work on small arms

Around \$US660 million was spent on implementing the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms (PoA) between 2001 and 2005, according to a new report from the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). This money has funded over 600 activities in 94 countries. In the context of other

disarmament programs, the average yearly expenditure of \$US132 million is relatively low. For example, spending on landmine action was US\$332 million in the year 2005 (figures from Landmine Monitor). Over two-thirds of the funding for small arms control was spent on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programs.

More...[www.iansa.org](http://www.iansa.org)

### Russia plans to boost military spending

The Russian Defense Ministry wants to increase spending up to about \$189 billion for the next eight years. The defence minister intends to use this budget to build sophisticated Intercontinental ballistic missiles, aircraft carriers and an early warning radar system. Russia hopes to replace nearly half of the obsolete military hardware in the course of the 2007-2015 procurement program. This year alone will see \$11.3 billion spent on new arms. [More...](#)

### Research on the excessive military spending by the Bush administration

Two researchers write on the excessive military spending by the current US administration. In their various research articles, Senior Fellow Robert Higgs and Ivan Eland, Director of the Center on Peace & Liberty, criticized the Bush administration for mismanaging the defence budget. In his latest article, Rober Higgs writes "For more than a decade the Defence Department has invariably stood in violation of the 1994 federal statute that requires every government department to make a financial audit."

More...<http://www.independent.org/publications/article.asp?id=1896>,  
<http://www.independent.org/newsroom/article.asp?id=1906>

### Weapons of Mass Destruction

### Mayor of Hiroshima Urges cities to join 2020 Vision Campaign for Peace

On 24 June 2007, Mayors for Peace will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary. The Mayor of Hiroshima uses this occasion to invite you join its international network of over 1500 cities in 120 countries. As of January 31st 2007 nineteen new cities have joined Mayors for Peace from Argentina (1), France (1), Italy (12), Mongolia (1), Spain (1), UK (2) and US (1). Today the Conference involves 1,572 cities in 120 countries and regions around the world.

More...[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/pages/137/Letter\\_from\\_Mayor\\_Akiba\\_Tadatashi\\_President\\_of\\_Mayors\\_for\\_Peace](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/pages/137/Letter_from_Mayor_Akiba_Tadatashi_President_of_Mayors_for_Peace)

## Other

### IPB Nobel Nomination: Mary Robinson + Peace Women

The International Peace Bureau is glad to make a double nomination for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize to Mary Robinson the former President of Ireland, and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. And Peace Women across the world who have, in their different capacities in every continent, made powerful contributions to peace and human rights. [More...](#)

### Innocent victims: Iraqi children traumatized by every day violence

Iraqi children are the silent casualties of the war in Iraq. With all the figures put forward regarding civilian casualties in Iraq, no one is sure how many children have been killed Iraq. But psychologists and aid organisations warn that while the physical scars of the conflict are all too visible in hospitals, mortuaries and on television screens, the mental and emotional turmoil experienced by Iraq's young is going largely unmonitored and untreated. [More...http://www.guardian.co.uk/print/0,,329706884-103550,00.html](http://www.guardian.co.uk/print/0,,329706884-103550,00.html)

### Appeal for Support to Protect the Japanese Peace Constitution

Owing to the new Prime Minister's plan to revise or broaden the interpretation of article 9, Japan's Catholic Council for Justice and Peace is appealing for worldwide support from individuals and organisations for the protection and maintenance of Article 9 of Japan's Peace Constitution. The Article states, "Land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained". [More...http://www.paxchristi.net/](http://www.paxchristi.net/)

### May 24 Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament

This year's edition of our annual publication 'May 24 - International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament' focuses on the situation of girls and young women. It contains articles on girl soldiers, the 'clean clothes' campaign and other peace building activities and perspectives i.e. from Africa, Asia and the Pacific -- and it has lovely cartoons. Co-published by IPB and the

International Fellowship of Reconciliation. Click [here](#) to open the booklet. Hard copies can also be ordered from IPB Secretariat.

## Newsletters

- [1325 PeaceWomen E-news](#)
- [Campaign Against Arms Trade](#)
- [Campaign Against Depleted Uranium](#)
- [Civil Society Watch](#)
- [Faslane 365](#)
- [Global Campaign For Peace Education](#)
- [Global Security Institute](#)
- [IANSA](#)
- [International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms \(IALANA\)](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy](#)
- [Movement for the Abolition of War](#)
- [NGO Congo](#)
- [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)
- [Nuclear Age Peace Foundation](#)
- [Pax Christi](#)
- [Peace Education Center](#)
- [Peace Women Across the Globe](#)
- [Scientists for Global Responsibility](#)
- [Small Arms Survey](#)
- [Stop the War Coalition](#)
- [Swisspeace - KOFF](#)
- [The Monitor- News from the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court](#)
- [UNIDIR Highlights](#)
- [War Profiteers](#)

## Calendar

Click [here](#) for IPB's international events calendar.

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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