



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

2nd March 2007

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.

Oslo conference calls for a new treaty on cluster munitions

Following years of work by NGOs such as the Cluster Munitions Coalition, a meeting was held in Oslo from 21-24 February. Forty governments reached a commitment to negotiate and conclude a new treaty to ban cluster munitions by 2008. The Oslo conference hopefully sets a new international framework for rejecting the use of cluster munitions and dealing with their devastating effects.

More...<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news.asp?id=51>

The UN Secretary General halts attempts to down grade DDA

Owing to the pressure from civil society groups in New York, the UN Secretary General has finally dropped his aim of down grading the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs. Coral Weiss, IPB New York representative argued strongly against the DDA down grading, "It's a disaster," said Weiss, adding that "naming some fine women for high posts, although a good move, does not compensate for this most unfortunate move." please visit IPS news release below for her comments.

<http://www.commondreams.org/headlines07/0117-05.htm>

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/19/world/19nations.html?_r=1&n=Top%2fReference%2fTimes%20Topics%2fPeople%2fH%2fHoge%2c%20Warren&oref=slogin

Increase in Swiss arms exports

The organization (GSsA) lobbying for Swiss without an Army is stunned the sharp increase in Swiss arms exports for 2006. Statistics published by the Swiss Federal Customs administration show a 1/3 increase in Swiss arms export compared to 2005. Last year most of the arms were exported to Saudi Arabia, India and Egypt. GSsA is collecting signatures from militants that will enable them pass a bill to stop Swiss Arms exports. So far, 75'000 signatures have been collected.

More... www.gssa.ch/antiquerre/ and www.materieldeguerre.ch

Reinstatement of symbolic "Broken Chair" outside UN building, Geneva

On March 29, the Swiss President Micheline Calmy-Rey will be among the personalities who will attend the reinstatement ceremony. The symbolic Broken Chair was unveiled by Handicap International in September 1997 and it will be reinstated in front of the UN building "Palais Des Nations" in Geneva. It serves as a reminder to governments of the necessity to fully commit to the Mine Ban Treaty of 1997.

Photo: <http://www.nickladd.com/paris/switz/geneva/b/DSC00098.jpg>

West African officials agree on regional gun control

West African governments have agreed a set of measures that will help enforce gun control. The arms control group in West Africa known as ECOSAP agreed on a five-year program that will provide training and resources to support National commissions and organizations working to fight illicit arms trafficking in the region.

More... <http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-02-18-voa12.cfm>

Banks funding cluster munitions producers

68 financial institutions have been found to play a role in financing companies producing Cluster Munitions. Network Vlaanderen has launched its new briefing paper called '[Explosive Investments](#)' revealing the results of its research into the financing of six companies producing Cluster Munitions. Together the six Cluster Munitions companies secured credit facilities amounting to US\$ 12.6 billion (€ 10 billion) during 2004-2007.

More... <http://www.netwerkvlaanderen.be/en/>

Weapons of Mass Destruction

International meeting on nuclear weapons and terrorism

Meeting in Turkey on 12 February, representatives from the G-8 countries alongside China, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Morocco and Australia discussed guidelines for keeping track of radioactive materials and for ensuring the safety of nuclear facilities. They also pledged to combat the illicit trafficking of nuclear materials.

More... <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/02/12/europe/EU-GEN-Turkey-Nuclear-Terrorism.php>

Japan submit a nuclear terrorism Bill to parliament

The Japanese government has submitted a new nuclear terrorism bill to parliament. If passed, the legislation will penalize the deliberate release of radiation and those who own radioactive substances or manufacture equipment that produces such substances for terrorism purposes. By ratifying this Bill, Japan hopes to promote the international convention adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2005 but failed to take effect due to shortage of signatories.

More... <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20070227TDY01003.htm>

US and International stance on Iran's nuclear programme criticised

The precondition of the US and Europe that Iran freeze its nuclear enrichment as a prerequisite for negotiation is severely criticised by Hans Blix and Richard Haass President of US Council on Foreign Relations. According to Hans Blix, Europe and UN Security Council are « humiliating » Iran in setting out such preconditions. "This is in a way like telling a child, first you will behave and thereafter you will be given your rewards," Blix said. "And this, I think, is humiliating." Many experts think that imposing preconditions on Iran is blocking diplomatic progress to deal with the Iranian nuclear crisis.

More... <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/02/27/america/NA-GEN-US-Nuclear-Iran.php>. For a review of current development, go to: <http://www.basicint.org/update/iran.htm>

Russian President accuses the United States of triggering a global arms race

The US and Russian officials continue to exchange words regarding US plans to implant a missile defense system in the Czech Republic. Russia warns Poland and Czech Republic of becoming potential targets if they allow the US to implant the missile system in their territories.

More... <http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-02-22-voa71.cfm>

High level North and South Korean officials meet

North and South Korean official met on February 27 to discuss the possibility of resuming aid to North Korea. This is their first meeting since the N. Korea nuclear test last year. This meeting comes as a response to N. Korea's agreement to stop her nuclear programme. During a news conference, the South Korean president said « We have to keep sending signals [to the North] that their security will be guaranteed and they could get profits through reform and openness".

More... <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1594014,00.html>

Other

The International Criminal Court to prosecute war criminals in Sudan

The International Criminal Court (ICC) named suspects last Tuesday to be prosecuted for war crimes committed in Sudan. The Sudanese Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmed Haroun and Janjaweed militia leader Ali Muhammad Ali Abd al-Rahman were among those to be prosecuted by the ICC. About 200,000 people have died and more than two million people have fled their homes during the four-year conflict.

More... <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=news>
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6399311.stm>

Resources

Constructing Justice and Security after war

This book examines successful cases of transitions from war in the 1990s drawn from Central America, Africa, the Balkans and East Timor. It also describes how societies emerging from armed conflicts create a system of justice to secure basic rights.

Charles T. Call, January 2007, ISBN-13: 978-1-929223-89-3 \$24.95 (paper), ISBN-13: 978-1-929223-90-9. Order at the United State Institute of Peace, Box 605, Herndon, VA 20172. Visit: <http://bookstore.usip.org>

The Carnage Continues...and now for TRIDENT

Edited by Ken Coates, this edition takes a critical look on the Iraq war and its consequences. It also includes an article "There Are No Safe Nukes" by Hans Blix. The Spokesman 92, ISBN 978 05134 7298 £5.00 (paperback)

Email: elfeuro@compuserve.com, visit: www.spokesmanbook.com/acatelog

Surging for Oil

Edited by Ken Coates, It takes a critical look at the war in Iraq including the human and financial cost.

The Spokesman 94, ISBN 978 085124 7434 £5.00 (paperback).

Email: elfeuro@compuserve.com, visit: www.spokesmanbooks.com/acatalog

Building Peace, Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies

Edited by John Paul Lederach, this book examines different methods and techniques of conflict resolution and self-evaluation.

ISBN-10: 1-878379-73-9, \$14.95 (paper), ISBN-13: 978-1-929223-73-3.

Visit: <http://bookstore.usip.org>

Interfaith Dialogue and Peacebuilding

Edited by David R. Smock, the book draws on experiences in organizing interaction and cooperation across religious boundaries throughout the world. Christians, Muslims and Jewish contributors explore the potential of interfaith dialogue for peace.

ISBN-10: 1-929223-35-8, \$14.95 (paper), ISBN-13: 978 -1-9299223-35-0

Visit: <http://bookstore.usip.org>

Newsletters

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Calendar

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

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