



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

24th April 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.

IPB Seminar and Council, Egypt, October 2007

IPB is pleased to announce its annual Council meeting, to be held at the *Biblioteca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt* at the end of October this year. It will be arranged jointly with an international seminar on the theme of our main programme: *Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development*. The dates are: **October 28-29 (seminar) + Oct 30 (Council)**. Discussions are under way with various institutions in Alexandria, including the Peace Studies Institute and the Swedish Institute, regarding co-sponsorship and co-organisation.

[More...](#)

UN attacks climate change as threat to peace

The United Nations Security Council on April 17 debated the impact of climate change on conflicts around the world. Britain, which holds the rotating presidency of the Security Council, organized the open session to highlight the threat posed by climate change to peace.

More... <http://iht.com/articles/2007/04/17/news/climate.php>

[Click here for more on Britain round table on Climate Change held by Tony Blair on Wednesday April 18, 2007](#)

Global climate change presents a serious national security threat

A latest US report brings to light the threats of climate change on national security. The 61page document brings together the views of US senior

military experts on this question. Among the many recommendations is the idea that the Department of Defense should adopt technologies and business practices that "result in improved US combat power through energy efficiency". Such a perspective should encourage peace movements to develop an alternative, human security-based analysis.

More... <http://securityandclimate.cna.org/report/>

The double-headed risk - climate change and violent conflict

The London-based NGO International Alert has just published the following statement and related materials on the subject of climate change and violent conflict. This is a topic that IPB is working on in the context of our Disarmament for Development programme. A publication on this theme is forthcoming. All those interested are encouraged to make contact with the IPB Secretariat.

More... <http://www.international-alert.org/press/article.php?id=128>

Global Day of Action on Small Arms, bulletin

Those who have been shocked and distressed by the shootings in Virginia and in Nagasaki - as well as the continuing high levels of violence in Iraq and elsewhere - over the last few days may find it useful to read the latest bulletin from the International Action Network on Small Arms, of which IPB is a member.

[More...](#)

<http://www.iansa.org/>

<http://www.ipnw.org/>

<http://www.monuc.org/News.aspx?newsID=14383>

Dutch pension fund ABP and PGGM invest in arms production companies

Many Dutch protest against two of their largest pension funds ABP and PGGM after a television documentary revealed they had shares with producers of cluster munitions.

More...

<http://www.investor.reuters.com/business/BusNewsArticle.aspx?ticker=ATK&storyid=81959%2b06-Apr-2007%2bRTRS&symbol=ATK&target=%2fbusiness%2fbuscompany%2fbuscompnewsset%2fbuscompnews%2fbuscompnews&page=busnewsarticle>

Canadian banks and pension funds invest in cluster munitions companies

Despite international efforts to ban cluster munitions, Canadian banks and pension funds continue to finance the manufacture of these deadly weapons.

More... <http://www.thestar.com/opinion/article/199618>

The hidden cost of the Iraq war

The US direct military spending in Iraq will not be the sole expenditure associated with the war. Economists predict the cost of rehabilitation and caring for the wounded in Iraq will be about \$2.5 trillion.

More... <http://www.newstatesman.com/print/200703120024#>
<http://www.newstatesman.com/200703120024>

Weapons of Mass Destruction

The assassination of Itcho Itoh, Mayor of Nagasaki

The International Peace Bureau is shocked and deeply distressed by the tragic murder - in the final days of his election campaign - of Nagasaki Mayor Itcho Itoh. We extend our profound sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues, and to the citizens of Nagasaki.

[More...](#)

[Statement from the UN Secretary General](#)

[Statement from Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace](#)

[Statement from Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament](#)

Remembering Janet Bloomfield

IPB is very sad to report the sudden and tragic death of our dear colleague and anti-nuclear activist Janet Bloomfield, who passed away on April 2. The funeral will take place in Saffron Walden on Thursday April 19, and there will be a Memorial event on Saturday 12 May 2007 also in Saffron Walden. Some time during the summer there will be a memorial activity in California.

[More...](#)

<http://www.janetbloomfield.com>; www.abolition2000.org

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janet_Bloomfield

Hans Blix calls for commitment to disarmament

Dr Hans Blix former Foreign Minister of Sweden and former head of the UN's weapons inspection team in Iraq advocates the complete abandonment of nuclear weapons. He urges the US and Russia not return to the cold war tactics of nuclear deterrence.

More...

<http://www.maximsnews.com/107mnunapril01hansblixcoldwartocoldpeace.htm>

Conference on Disarmament - no breakthrough yet

The March 30th Conference on Disarmament ([CD](#)) did not realize any breakthrough as the session delayed its decision on a proposal for work in 2007. The proposal would initiate negotiations on a ban on the production of

fissile materials for nuclear weapons, and continue discussions on preventing an arms race in outer space ([PAROS](#)), nuclear disarmament, and negative security assurances ([NSAs](#)). Click [here](#) to read the letter from NGO Committee for Disarmament President Ms. Susi Snyder to the CD ambassador's Geneva, urging them to support the P6 proposal. Mayor for Peace have sent a similar to the CD delegations.

More...

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/cd/speeches07/reports.html#mar29>

Other

Kofi Annan to set up a world humanitarian forum in Geneva

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan launches a Global Humanitarian Forum in Geneva. Speaking to the news media on April 16, Mr. Annan said, "there is a discussion going on about this type of issue, a global humanitarian forum, working with the Swiss government, that will bring together once a year major players in the humanitarian world."

More...

[www.tdg.ch/pages/home/tribune_de_geneve/english_corner/news/news_detail/\(contenu\)/55431](http://www.tdg.ch/pages/home/tribune_de_geneve/english_corner/news/news_detail/(contenu)/55431)

Peace History Conference held in London

IPB is pleased to report that the Peace History conference, Encouragement and Warnings, co-organised with the Movement for the Abolition of War IPB member organisation) over the weekend of 13-14 April, was a great success. The meeting was hosted by the Imperial War Museum London and brought together over 100 historians, peace activists, students and interested citizens.

More... <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/peacehistory.shtml>

Email blog a confidence-building impact for US - Iraqi students and teachers

Because of the loss of his nephew in the World Trade Centre attack of 2001, Mitch Wallace decided to set up 121Contact email blog. This blog helps to facilitate communication between teachers and students from Iraq and US to enable them to learn from both cultures.

More... <http://121contact.typepad.com/>

Iraq war news update

Please find links below for latest news and videos of the Iraq war. This collection has been assembled by the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

[More...](#)

Resources

Beyond Terror: The Truth About the Real Threats to Our World

Published by Oxford Research Group (ORG), This important new book describes the failure of western governments in the war on terror and how it took away resources and attention from much greater threats including climate change, competition over resources, marginalisation of the majority world and global militarisation.

[Click](#) link for online shop.

ISBN 978-1-84-604070-2, £4 ORG supporters, normal price £5

More... <http://www.randomhouse.co.uk/minisites/beyondterror/index.htm>
http://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/publications/briefing_papers/globalthreats.php

Aiding peace? The role of NGOs in armed conflict

Written by Jonathan Goodhand, this book explores the role Non Governmental Organisations play in peace and conflict resolution. It compares the programs of national and international NGOs in seven countries namely: Afghanistan, Armenia-Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

ISBN: 978-1-58826-462-6 hardcopy \$55, ISBN: 978-1-58826-487-9 paper back \$23.50 More... www.Rienner.com, email: cservice@rienner.com

Women building peace: what they do, why it matters

The book examines how gender sensitivity can be a component for sustainable peace building. ISBN: 978-1-58826-536-4 hardcopy \$55. ISBN: 978-1-58826-512-8 paperback \$22, Publisher: Lynne Rienner. More... www.rienner.com email: cservice@rienner.com

War and the Christian conscience, where do you stand

Edited by Joseph J. Fahey, the book outlines a comprehensive Christian response to the problem of war including pacifism, just war teaching and the vision of a "world community".

ISBN: 978-15707-5583-5 224pp, paper back £7.19

More... www.albanbooks.com email: sales@albanbooks.com

Newsletters

IPB receives many e-newsletters, both from our members and non-member organisations. Click [here](#) for a list with hyperlinks

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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