



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

16th May 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.

NOTE NEW DATE:

November 11 - 13, Books or Bombs? IPB Seminar and Council, in Alexandria, Egypt

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

An IPB Initiative in the 'Disarmament for Development' Campaign - Integrating Military Spending Issues within the UN Treaty-monitoring Mechanisms

IPB's Disarmament for Development Campaign not only seeks to reduce military spending, but, more importantly, to re-channel that spending into the social and economic development measures that are essential for reducing the conflicts that breed violence and war. One of IPB's initiatives aims to integrate military spending into the monitoring of the human rights treaties. For the moment, IPB is focusing on the monitoring of one treaty, the Convention on the Rights of the Children. See [Calendar](#), and read [MORE...](#)

Cluster munitions - Partial success in Sweden

Frida Blom, Chair of IPB member organisation the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society (Svenska Freds), reports on the result of a lobbying action undertaken by Swedish groups and members of the Cluster Munitions Campaign (CMC), with help from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL): click [HERE](#)

We globalise the Resistance! Report from the No Bases Network

The National Network for Closing the Manta base in Ecuador, together with the International Network for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases organised in Quito, Ecuador, a remarkable conference for abolishing military bases all over the world. 400 participants from 40 countries heard speeches i.a. of Walden Bello and Joseph Gerson, and exchanged on strategies. A bus caravan to the near-by Manta base was organised. In the end of the conference President Correa declared that the Manta base treaty with the US should not be renewed when it expired in 2009. See [declaration](#) and Agneta Norberg's [report](#).

MORE: www.no-bases.org or mail to agneta.norberg@spray.se

Resisting US military base at Vicenza

The U.S. government has proposed to make Vicenza, Italy, the largest US military site in Europe, but the people of Vicenza, and all of Italy, have sworn it will never happen. For full report, comment and links: <http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/vicenza>

Peace doesn't need new missiles - International Conference against the Militarisation of Europe in Prague, Czech Republic

Faced with new US military plans to begin official negotiations with the Czech and Polish governments on May 10th, the signatories of this declaration underlign: "We voice our protest against the plans of the Bush administration to install a 'national missile defence system' for the US on the territory of the Czech Republic and Poland. Most people in the Czech Republic and Poland, as well as in the rest of Europe, reject plans to host this system." IPB [supports](#) the process begun at the Prague meeting. See [MORE](#)

Short Survey: Conflict Diamonds and Human Security in Sierra Leone

Compiled by Ekah Mathias Nnane (IPB Secretariat), this essay describes the problems of a country now recovering from a bloody civil war waged partly for control of precious mineral resources. It also describes the international

civil society work that led to the creation of the Kimberley Process and the World Diamond Council. It gives a brief overview of the whole issue and includes a list of references incl. the film "Blood Diamonds".

[Click](#) for more.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

No Nukes in Our Name! - Hunger Strike at the University of California

On Wednesday, May 9th, 41 University of California (UC) students, alumni, and faculty members began a hunger strike to demand that the UC retract its management of the Los Alamos and Livermore labs. For over six decades, the UC has been the United States governments primary nuclear weapons research and design contractor. In March, the US Nuclear Weapons Council, an interagency committee of executives from the Departments of Defense and Energy, announced that the UC's Livermore facility would develop a new hydrogen bomb. The focus is the UC Regents meeting at UC San Francisco on Thursday, May 17th. Hundreds of their supporters will mobilize for direct action at the meeting... [READ](#) more

Report: NPT Preparatory Committee in Vienna

The Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) held its third session from 30 April to 11 May 2007 at the UN Austrian Centre in Vienna. Costa Rica and Malaysia presented a working paper to begin negotiations of a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) - a law that would comprehensively ban nuclear weapons. Chair's summary:

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/prepcom07/workingpapers/FactualSummary.pdf>

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons' summary: Click [HERE](#)

Visit as well: www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/nptindex1.html

German Physicist and Philosopher Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker died

Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker, a physicist who helped research nuclear weapons for the Nazis during World War II, but later dedicated his life to pacifism and philosophy has died at the age of 94, on April 28, after a severe illness. In 1937 Weizsäcker made a name for himself through the so-called "Weizsäcker Formula", a semi-empirical formula giving the binding energy of a nucleus as a function of the numbers of protons and neutrons that it contains. For more information on a fascinating life story, see: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/04/28/europe/EU-GEN-Germany-Obit-Weizsaecker.php>

Marshallese demand justice for nuke survivors

Former Marshallese activists are seeking international support for an online petition seeking justice for victims and survivors of 67 nuclear tests carried out in the Marshall Islands from 1946 to 1958. Many of the nuclear test survivors are sick and unable to get adequate medical treatment and have not received monetary compensation that the U.S. promised them. Read [MORE](#) about this initiative.

Other

German Federal Prosecutor's Office Dismisses Rumsfeld, Gonzales War Crimes Case

On April 27th Germany's Federal Prosecutor announced she would not proceed with an investigation against Donald Rumsfeld, Alberto Gonzales and other high-ranking U.S. officials for torture and other war crimes committed in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantánamo. The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) says: "We will continue to work for justice for the victims of these crimes. Torturers are enemies of all humankind - they can be brought to justice anywhere." Read [MORE](#)

Resources

Empire & The Bomb: How the United States Uses Nuclear Weapons to Dominate the World

By Joseph Gerson

The book describes how, during international crises, confrontations and wars, the U.S. has prepared and threatened to initiate nuclear war on more than 30 occasions - most recently in relation to Iran. The book concludes with a chapter that provides an impressionistic history of the abolition movement. ISBN 0745324940 - ISBN-13 9780745324944, paperback \$28.95 in the US bookshops, or \$30, including postage, from the author:

JGerson@afsc.org [MORE](#) (including [full contents](#))...

PRIO report on the 2006 workshop 'Integrating Small Arms Measures into Development'

Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) has published its report on the 2006 workshop 'Integrating Small Arms Measures into Development Programs'. See: www.prio.no

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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