



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

12 June 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 \$1204 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 submits a discussion paper to the Committee on the Rights of the Child

IPB's Disarmament for Development programme subsumes a number of sub-projects. Among these is our work on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The purpose of this project is, in essence, to encourage states to invest in children's welfare and child rights rather than in the military. IPB has recently submitted a paper as a contribution to the Committee's work in advance of the 'Discussion Day' to be held on Sept 21 in Geneva (International Day of Peace).

[More...](#)

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/discussion.htm>

IPB communiqué deplores military spending rise, urges investments to counter poverty and climate change

Geneva, June 12, 2007. The International Peace Bureau has expressed profound concern at the announcement yesterday by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute at the launch of its annual Yearbook (www.sipri.org) that world military expenditures in 2006 reached a new high of \$1204 billion. This represents an increase of 3.5% over the 2005 figure, and is 37% more than a decade ago. The USA accounted for nearly half the total, with \$529 billion. These amounts constitute a huge treasury that should be re-directed to the fight against mass poverty and the threat of climate change.

More... <http://www.ipb.org/web/index.php>

A new campaign "disarmament to combat poverty"

Over the last year IPB has developed a friendly partnership with the French development cooperation organisation 'Frères des Hommes'. We have

cooperated for example over the organisation of a workshop held at the World Social Forum in Nairobi in January 2007. FdH have launched, together with colleagues in India and Pakistan, a new campaign that is very close in spirit to that of IPB: "*Disarmament to combat poverty*". Here is their newsletter, available already in [French](#) and [English](#).

More... <http://www.france-fdh.org/campagnes/disarmement/disarmement-to-combat-poverty.htm>

A new Handicap International report highlights the effects of cluster munitions on civilians.

According to the new Handicap International report released on 16 May 2007, ninety-eight percent of cluster submunitions casualties are civilians killed and injured while returning home in the aftermath of conflict or while going about their daily tasks to survive.

More... <http://en.handicapinternational.be/index.php?action=article&numero=467>.

Christian Aid report on climate change

A new Christian Aid report predicts a trend of forced global migration. According to the report, at least one billion people will be forced from their homes between now and 2050 as the effects of climate change.

More...

<http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/indepth/705caweekreport/index.htm>

The United States is promoting a new arms race in Asia

A new article from the Arms Trade Resource Center titled "Economics, Not Arms, to Shape U.S.-China Relationship" accuses the United States of promoting a new arms race in Asia. The article refers to the criticism by a senior US representative of the Taiwan parliament's failure to approve the purchase of \$10 billion in U.S armaments.

More... <http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/05/15/1199/>

Global warming or conversion of military industrial complex

The US with less than 5% of the world's population produces 25% of global carbon emissions. According to Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, the US military mostly accounts for this US significant carbon emission that contributes to global warming.

[More...](#)

The Chagos Islanders wins appeal to return home

The inhabitants of the islands of Chagos who were forcefully exiled by the British in the 1960s to make way for the US military base have finally won an appeal to return home. After several years of deliberations, the British high court on the 24th May finally granted the right for the exiled islanders to return home. [More...](#)

Weapons of Mass Destruction

China rejects CD compromise

China blocked the best chance in years of starting substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), which has been deadlocked for a decade. Purportedly it wants a stronger mandate for discussing its priority issue, preventing an arms race in outer space (PAROS).

[More...](#)

The Chairman of A-Foundation trying to bridge cultures

Steven Leeper, The first American appointed to head the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Memorial Foundation has called on Japan to stop being a geopolitical "servant" of the country that dropped the bomb (America). "I want to generate a global wave of nuclear (weapons) abolition and serve as a bridge to reconcile the victim and victimizer nations," he said.

More... <http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200705220089.html>

Vanunu - one more year of detention and restrictions

Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu reports that the restrictions on his freedom have been extended for another year - this after 18 years in jail. The sentence regarding talking to foreign media is also postponed to July 25th.

[More...](#)

GSI communiqué on nuclear disarmament

The Global Security Institute (GSI) IPB member organization consistently provide relevant, insightful communications to advance the rule of law, the moral imperative to ensure a sustainable future and the elimination of nuclear weapons. Click [here](#) for their latest communiqué on nuclear disarmament. More... <http://www.gsainstitute.org>

Others

Global peace index and sustainability

Global Peace Index ranks countries by their peacefulness and identified some of the drivers of that peace. 121 countries have been ranked by their 'absence of violence', using metrics that combine both internal and external factors.

More... <http://www.visionofhumanity.com/index.php>

IFOR appoints interim international coordinator

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), one of the world's oldest interfaith peace organizations, and a member of the IPB network, is

pleased to announce the appointment of Marc Forget as Interim International Coordinator.

[More...](#)

30,000 links at new site of Better World Links

IPB wish to recommend the website of Better World Links. Better World Links are free of advertising and offer approximately 30,000 links on 20 main topics under the following headings: general information, peace, human rights, environment, sustainability, social justice, one world, politics, conflict regions, military, economy globalisation, education, religions, women, men, youth, health, culture, and news / media. More...

www.betterworldlinks.org

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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