



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

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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 ANNUAL SEMINAR, ALEXANDRIA (NOV. 07) - BROCHURE + REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE

The IPB Secretariat is pleased to announce the opening of registrations for the seminar *Books or Bombs?* to be held at the Alexandria Library (Egypt) on Nov.11 and 12. This will be followed by the 2007 IPB Council meeting on Nov. 13. The provisional programme with initial speakers list, information about co-sponsors, and other details can be found in the newly published brochure - click [HERE](#) for pdf version. The registration form can be downloaded [HERE](#). Paper copies are available on request. Please forward this information to your contacts and colleagues.

Military Costs in the U.S. Overrun Welfare

The U.S. navy's new amphibious ship's \$1.85 billion price tag is nearly three times what was projected. The aerospace industry has been having the same problem for years. Virtually every single space technology program - from missiles to satellites - is hugely over budget. The entire military industrial complex is way out of control. More...<http://space4peace.blogspot.com> and <http://www.space4peace.org>

Iraqi Environment Minister Blames Depleted Uranium

The Iraqi minister for the environment blames the U.S. for its use of depleted uranium during the initial phase of intervention in 2003. As a consequence of the use of uranium on 350 sites, Iraq now faces 140,000 new cases of cancer related disease. More...

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20070723/69509899.html>

Gun Survivors Network in India Engages Women in Small Arms Policy

The Manipuri Women Gun Survivors Network encourages women to become more involved in small arms practices with the purpose of promoting legislative reforms, conflict resolution, peace-building and development. The network was established to assist women in recovering from small arms violence, to control the use and spread of small arms, and in general in

search of ways to heal the scars caused by gun violence in society. More...
<http://www.iansa.org/women/bulletin11/en-web-iansa-wn-bulletin-11.pdf>

Indian Helicopters for Myanmar – Making a Mockery of Embargoes?

EU non-governmental organisations are concerned at reports from credible sources that the Government of India may transfer military helicopters to the Government of Myanmar (Burma) as part of the two countries' increasing military co-operation. EU and US based companies have been extensively involved in the design and production of these helicopters, the transfer of which would risk undermining existing EU and US sanctions and arms embargoes on Myanmar. This report examines EU (and, to a lesser extent, US) involvement in the making of India's Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). For the full report:
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA200142007>
For Amnesty International's press release:
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGPOL300162007>

A Call on West-African States to Move Towards an Arms Trade Treaty

"West Africa has suffered from gun proliferation and misuse for too many years. The ECOWAS (Economic Community Of West African States) fully endorses the Global Week of Action and urges Member States to submit their views on an arms trade treaty to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, calling for a strong and effective treaty," said Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Head of the ECOWAS Commission, recently, at a joint meeting between ECOWAS and IANSA (International Action Network on Small Arms). Each year activists around the world use the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence to raise awareness, campaign for better gun laws and push for stronger regulation of the global arms trade. This year the Week of Action ran from 11-17 June. More on West Africa:
<http://www.iansa.org/women/bulletin11/en-web-iansa-wn-bulletin-11.pdf>
More on the Global Week of Action:
http://www.iansa.org/campaigns_events/woa2007/index.htm

Mercenaries' Increasing Role in U.S. Military

The privatization of the U.S. army is alarming. Private actors and the employment of mercenaries doubtlessly decrease the transparency and accountability of the government and its military activities, this is said to totally subvert the notion of the nation-state. Blackwater, is one of the many private U.S. companies providing military personnel and in return enjoying great economic benefits. The mercenaries of the company in question have been employed to reinforce and even replace regular military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq. [More...](#)

Argentina Starts First Country Gun Buyback

Argentina's first national gun buyback started on 10 July. The President announced the buyback during the Week of Action in Necochea, the home town of a teenage boy who was gunned down in July last year. The shooting caused public outcry and a strong call for tighter controls on gun purchase and ownership in Argentina. See <http://www.iansa.org/>

AXA Steps Back from Landmine and Cluster Munitions Investments

In a press release AXA announced it will pull out investments from companies that produce anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions. This is surprisingly good news from the Paris headquarters of this bank-insurance company. In recent years AXA has shown heavy reluctance to adopt stricter weapon investment policies. More on <http://www.netwerkvlaanderen.be/en/>

Impunity of the Army—The Greatest Threat to Peace in Nepal

If Nepal is to achieve lasting peace and stability, Gen Katuwal, and the army he commands, must be willing to change loyalty and adapt to the command of civilian politicians. The army's impunity for the crimes it has committed against the civilian population continues to threaten Nepal's fragile peace process. More at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,2130575,00.html>

Japanese Defence on the Road to Japanese Offence

The famous art.9 of the Japanese constitution prohibits the use of military force. It explicitly renounces war as a means of tackling conflict and states that war potential should never be upheld. However, 'in a little over half a decade, Japan's military has carried out changes considered unthinkable a few years back. In the Indian Ocean, Japanese destroyers and refuelling ships are helping American and other militaries fight in Afghanistan. In Iraq, Japanese planes are transporting cargo and American troops to Baghdad from Kuwait.'

More on <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/07/23/asia/23japan.php>

See also www.article-9.org

Taliban Plant Mines in Afghanistan

Provincial officials say Taliban insurgents have planted hundreds of anti-personnel mines in several districts of Helmand in the last six months. Qari Yusuf, an alleged spokesman for the Taliban, has reportedly confirmed the planting of new mines by insurgents, saying they are only intended to cause harm to the Afghan army and international forces. Although Afghanistan has never produced mines or any other anti-personnel weaponry, the country joined the Ottawa Convention against the production, stockpiling and use of landmines in September 2002.

More at <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=73390>

Weapons of Mass Destruction

North Korea Shuts Down Last Nuclear Plant

At arrival of the international nuclear inspectors in North Korea, for the first time after having been dismissed in 2002, the state-controlled national media announced that the country has closed its only operating nuclear reactor. The site will no longer be able to process weapons-grade plutonium, though the plant is thought to have produced enough material already for six to eight warheads, including the one exploded underground in North Korea's first nuclear bomb test in October. Whole article:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,,2127295,00.html>. Further negotiations will take place in September. More on <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/07/20/asia/AS-GEN-Koreas-Nuclear-Talks.php>

UK Foreign Secretary in Favor of Nuclear Disarmament

During a speech on the 25 of June Margaret Beckett, outgoing UK Foreign Secretary, stated: "What we need is both vision - a scenario for a world free of nuclear weapons. And action - progressive steps to reduce warhead numbers and to limit the role of nuclear weapons in security policy. These two strands are separate but they are mutually reinforcing. Both are necessary, both at the moment are too weak." For the complete speech see http://www.britainusa.com/sections/articles_show_nt1.asp?a=46665&i=41020&L1=41002&L2=41020&d=-1

N. American Indigenous Leader Corbin Harney Passed Away

Corbin Harney dedicated his life to fighting nuclear testing and dumping. Before he passed, he told us to remember: "We are one people. We cannot separate ourselves now. There are many good things to be done for our people and for the world. It is important to let things be good. And it is important to teach the younger generation so that things are not lost." More... http://www.shundahai.org/Corbin_Harney.htm

Other

Sudan: Need to Invest in the Environment to Prevent Crisis

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Sudan is unlikely to see a lasting peace unless widespread and rapidly accelerating environmental degradation is urgently addressed. While the tensions and conflicts in Darfur are currently in the headlines, the report warns that other parts of the Sudan could see resummptions of historical clashes driven in part by declines in environmental services. The most serious concerns are land degradation, desertification and the spread of deserts southwards. More...

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=512&ArticleID=5621&l=en>

Resources

ENAAAT Report on the Role of Export Credit Agencies in Supporting Military Exports and Its Consequences in Developing Countries

According to a report issued by ENAAAT (European Network Against Arms Trade) military exports only amount to 2% of the total EU exports. Despite this, 20-30% of all government export credits are destined for support of the arms trade. Since the end of the Cold War the arms export market is a supply-driven market. Too many suppliers and limited demand has led to a situation in which potential buyers had to be attracted with special offers. The two most important instruments for this are offsets, such as the transfer of parts of the production to the buying country, and favourable financial arrangements. Export credits belong to this last category. For the full report: <http://www.enaat.org/publications/ECA-ArmsTrade.pdf>. IPB assisted in the establishment of ENAAAT in 1987.

NGO Report on War and Occupation in Iraq

This new comprehensive report on the war in Iraq highlights all the side-effects of the conflict. Public discussion on Iraq too often focuses on the violent conflict among Iraqis. The US-led occupation is increasingly misunderstood as a humanitarian enterprise to establish peace and democracy. The report presents a starkly different view. It emphasizes the responsibility of the US Coalition for much of the violence, corruption and sectarian division in Iraq. Full report: <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/occupation/report/full.pdf>

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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