



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

14th September 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 ANNUAL SEMINAR, ALEXANDRIA (NOV. 07) - TIME TO REGISTER!

Registrations are now coming in for the seminar *Books or Bombs?* to be held at the Alexandria Library (Egypt) on Nov. 11 and 12. The meeting is co-organised by the Institute for Peace Studies. This will be followed by the 2007 IPB Council meeting on Nov. 13. The 2007 Sean MacBride Peace Prize will also be awarded at this gathering. The draft programme with initial speakers list, information about co-sponsors, and other details can be found in the seminar brochure - click [HERE](#) for pdf version. The registration form can be downloaded [HERE](#). Paper copies are available on request. A *Practical Information Guide*, including details of travel and hotel arrangements, will be published in the next few days. Many foreign participants are considering taking extra days to visit Egypt. Please forward this information to your contacts and colleagues. Further details: mailbox@ipb.org.

Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace

The Global Alliance was launched at the first People's Summit for Departments of Peace, held in London in 2005, with the intention of supporting national-level campaigns to establish departments of peace in governments throughout the world. These Departments would operate in the realm of foreign affairs as well as at home. Their work abroad would include monitoring the world scene for signs of conflict and taking pre-emptive measures according to non-violent solution of conflicts. Their work at home would involve fostering a culture of peace at all levels of the community by transforming conflict in the home, the workplace, the school, and in all aspects of government. The vision is of a world in which peace, toleration, and justice prevail, within and between nations. More... <http://www.mfp-dop.org/index.php>.

Russia and Indonesia Sign \$ 1 Billion Arms Deal

Russia and Indonesia concluded an arms deal on September 6. Russia hereby strives to maintain its influence in Asia and the Pacific, apart from making a

great deal of money. Indonesia, which until 2005 was under a U.S. arms embargo because of human rights abuses, will purchase Russian tanks, military helicopters and submarines. More...
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/06/AR2007090601518.html?hpid=sec-world>.

Cora Weiss Speech on Climate Change and a Culture of Peace

Former IPB President and current representative to the UN, Cora Weiss, addressed the annual 60th NGO/DPI Conference at the UN in New York on September 7. "There is a culture of violence contributing to climate change because among those who could make a just and equitable difference there is a culture of greed. There is a culture of violence leading to climate change because among those who could make a difference in military expenditures and the rush to war there is a culture of lust for power." Click [here](#) for the speech.

Iraq war - Nationwide Campaign of Grassroots Activities in US

A robust campaign of grassroots activities based on various coordinated civil, non-violent actions throughout the fall will culminate on October 27th with 10 massive demonstrations for peace across the US. More explanations and links to the corresponding activities at United for Peace & Justice website <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/>.

Innovative Action against the War in Iraq: Tax boycott scheduled in the US for May 15th, 2008

"Withhold from war and pay for peace" is the message of the initiative of the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee. It is time for taxpayers who oppose this war to join together in nonviolent civil disobedience and show Congress how to cut off the funds for this war and redirect resources to the pressing needs of people. More... <http://www.nwtrcc.org/>.

Switzerland: Popular Initiative against Firearms

To fight against the threat resulting from the presence of weapons in society, the Schweizerischer Friedensrat (SFR) and two national parties supported by more than 60 organisations have just launched a popular initiative to establish a stricter control over firearms and take them out of Swiss homes. Campaign site of SFR in German <http://www.friedensrat.ch/kleinwaffen.hauptseite.html> Information and arguments about the initiative by the Swiss Socialist Party in French and German <http://www.sp-ps.ch/index.php?id=478&L=1>.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Nuclear Weapons and Education do not mix

The US Department of Energy gave the University of California \$2.85 billion to run the nuclear weapons programs. That's more than the \$2.8 billion the university system received from the State of California for *education* during the same period. UC management of the nuclear weapons labs has met with strong opposition from students. The most dramatic manifestation of this

took place from May 9-17, when more than 40 UC students, alumni, and faculty, acting independently of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, conducted a hunger fast under the banner of "No More Nukes in Our Name." More...

http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/07/19_parrish_educ_and_nuc_weapon_s.htm.

The 50th Anniversary of Pugwash Conferences: The Urge to Revitalize Nuclear Disarmament

The Pugwash Conferences and the Middle Powers Initiative endorse global cooperation in a more vast scale, facing all threats to humanity, such as climate change, HIV-AIDS and other diseases, lack of adequate food, water, health care and education, and environmental degradation. For this purpose mankind need to start thinking in new patterns and remembering humanity. The conference focused on the nuclear threat but recognized the need for innovative strategies to combat a wide range of challenges. More...

http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/08/24_imperative_of_revitalizing.htm

Follow up on Iran's Adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty

The IAEA has been able to verify the non-diversion of the declared nuclear materials at the enrichment facilities in Iran and has therefore concluded that it remains in peaceful use. Report: <http://www.isis-online.org/publications/iran/IranIAEAreportAugust30.pdf>.

Other

First Peace University Online

The Transcend Peace University offers online courses on a wide range of topics related to peace. Visit: <http://www.transcend.org/tpu/index.shtml>.

Academy for Conflict Transformation, Germany

The Academy imparts knowledge and skills for sustainable peace work at home and abroad in courses, workshops and seminars. It offers facilities to learn about and discuss current issues of peace development, civil conflict transformation and the Civil Peace Service. More...

http://www.forumzfd.de/aka_english.html.

Security Sector Reform Trainings

The Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform gives introductory and advanced trainings on four occasions in 2008. See...

http://www.ssrnetwork.net/documents/ssrbulletin/ssrbulletin_sep07.pdf.

Resources

New Tool for Mapping World's Foreign Military Bases

Researchers from US universities, NGOs, Transnational Institute and Fellowship of Reconciliation used official sources, security websites, and private research to map more than 800 bases in more than 60 countries. A great tool based on Google Earth for visualising global military reach around the world. More...

http://www.tni.org/detail_page.phtml?act_id=17252&menu=11e

Paper about Coca and the Conflict in Colombia

Read about how the war on drug and terror is used on the ancestral territory of the Cofán community to clear the way for major economic interests. More... http://www.tni.org/detail_page.phtml?&&act_id=17235

New handbook for reducing gun violence through parliamentary action

The Inter-Parliamentarian Union (IPU) and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre) have launched a handbook to guide and inspire parliamentarian action in the crucial area of the control of trafficking in small arms, light weapons and ammunitions. Resume, PDF version and orders at <http://www.ipu.org/english/handbks.htm#guns>

Iran Awakening: One Woman's Journey to Reclaim Her Life and Country - Shirin Ebadi

An extraordinary memoir by the first female Iranian judge, and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Shirin Ebadi. More...The book can be purchased at Amazon.com.

Action Toolkit on Banning Cluster Bombs - Now Online

Mines Action Canada has set up a very beautiful and useful site for anyone working for a ban on cluster munitions. Available in English and French: http://www.minesactioncanada.org/tool_kit/.

New Website Launched for the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

The Swiss government has created a website for the monitoring of the Geneva Declaration. <http://www.genevadeclaration.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.

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