



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

12th October 2007 edition

NEW IPB-WEBSITE !

Our new website is - after many months in preparation - now available at the normal address www.ipb.org

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you have visited the old site in the recent past, you may now need to **REFRESH** your browser, and/or **EMPTY THE CACHE**. *This site is best viewed with Safari or Firefox. Users of Internet Explorer may experience a few formatting problems. We are working to fix these.*

We hope you like the new site. It is not yet 100% complete and there will be many changes, additions and improvements as we go along. We plan to put frequent new stories on 'front page' so that it is more lively than the old one. There will also be an archive which can be perused with the search engine. The new site is intended as a tool to promote the whole range of IPB's work and that of its members and partners. It also should be very valuable in fundraising efforts. Your feedback will be welcome. Please pass the word on to your colleagues to encourage them to make an electronic visit.

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.

Twin campaigns to move the world towards peace and social justice

In his new essay, our Secretary-General Colin Archer links the "pacifist" article 9 of the Japanese Constitution and article 26 of UN Charter that requires Security Council to "*formulate plans for a system for the regulation of armaments*"... "*In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources.*" Showing the potential power of art. 9 and its significance in a Disarmament for Development perspective (art. 26), he stresses the need for coordination of international civil society efforts in this field. Read full article [here](#).

Military Spending

Most in US poll want war funding cut

According to a new Washington Post/ABC News poll, a majority of Americans are against the 2008 \$190 billions war budget request by the Bush administration and support an expansion of the child health's insurance bill the President has promised to veto. A public claim linking military spending to social spending as directly related. Read full Washington Post article at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/01/AR2007100101235.html?hpid=topnews>

1.4 billion dollars in possible US arms sales to Mideast

The Pentagon notified Congress of possible arms sales of missiles, armoured vehicles and cargo aircraft upgrades worth \$1.4 billions to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Kuwait. Full article at http://www.spacewar.com/reports/1.4_billion_dollars_in_possible_US_arms_sales_to_Mideast_announced_999.html

Devastating costs of Africa's wars

Accordingly to a study released by Oxfam, conflicts in Africa since the end of the cold war affected one out of two countries and cost the continent £150 billions (\$300bn), equivalent to all foreign aid it has received over the same period. They also had devastating effects on economies, health and human rights. Read BBC article at

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7038348.stm> and full report at

<http://allafrica.com/peaceafrica/resources/view/00011394.pdf>

Ex-military leaders and war correspondents united to call for tough arms control at the UN as arms trade represents 15% of GDP in the continent.

http://www.oxfam.org/en/news/2007/pr071009_call_for_tough_arms_control

IPB is keen to extend its network of groups concerned with military spending, in particular to link up with groups involved in sustainable development and social justice work, whose efforts would benefit from a transfer of resources from the military sector. Over the coming months we shall feature a number of such groups.

European Anti-Poverty Network

EAPN is an independent network of NGOs and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the member states of the European Union. It lobbies officials both at national and EU level in order to put this issue on top of the EU agenda, putting the accent on the effectiveness of actions against poverty and social exclusion by direct participation of concerned people and groups. See www.eapn.org

Weapons and their effects

IANSA Women's Network and 16 days of activism against gender violence

International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) Women's Network is participating in this year's 16 days of activism against gender violence from November 25th to December 10th organised by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. IANSA Women's Network wants to use the 16 days campaign to mobilise against gun violence and invite its members to organize an event or an activity in their country on one day of the campaign.

IANSA Women's Network website <http://www.iansa.org/women>
General information about the campaign at
<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>

Contaminated countries embrace ban on cluster munitions

A conference of states affected by cluster munitions was held on October 3rd and 4th in Belgrade to ensure that the expectations of those who have suffered the most are central to the new international treaty to be negotiated banning these weapons. Initiated by Serbia, this conference is part of the Oslo process started in February with the aim of concluding a treaty to ban cluster munitions by 2008. 80 countries are currently taking part. Read press release from the Cluster Munitions Coalition
<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news.aspx?id=90>

Yemen: Moves afoot to reduce number of firearms in cities

Following a decision of Interior Ministry in August, the carrying of arms has been banned in the capital and in provincial capitals as a reaction to the high level of killings and injuries caused by guns. Officials already speak about a decrease in the number of incidents, although further efforts are needed. Yemen is known as the second most heavily armed society just after the U.S. Read report at <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=74402>

Two citizens' initiatives in Switzerland: for prohibition of arms exports and for protection from weapons kept in the home

The first initiative aims to forbid the exports of arms and related goods - in order to make the Swiss humanitarian position more credible and to show its commitment to peace and disarmament. It was submitted on September 21st (Intl. Day of Peace) to the federal authorities along with 109 000 signatures. Swiss voters will have to vote on it later on. IPB member organisation Women for Peace is supporting this initiative.

The objective of the second initiative that has just been opened for signatures is to establish a stricter control over firearms and to reduce the number of homes containing weapons. IPB member organisations [Centre for Non-violent Action](#), the [Swiss Peace Council](#), [Women for Peace](#) and [Pax Christi](#) are supporting this initiative.

The popular initiative is one of the two pillars of Swiss direct democracy, allowing citizens to modify the Federal Constitution. If 100 000 signatures can be collected for a particular initiative, a nationwide vote will be organised.

More details to follow over the coming months.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Italian Mayors for peace: making Italy a nuclear weapon free zone

An initiative launched by two Italian mayors and a large coalition of NGOs wants to make Italy a nuclear weapon free zone. This is very significant as the two mayors are from the cities where US nuclear weapons are held. The objective is to collect 50 000 signatures so the initiative can be discussed in Italian parliament. Various activities and manifestations have already been

held in Italy. More at <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/pages/284/> and official site of the initiative <http://www.unfuturosenzatomiche.org/>

Indo-Pak nuclear war could cause 1 million starvation deaths

A US medical expert report during a conference at the Royal Society of Medicine in London presented a scenario that would result from a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. Not only would it have catastrophic effects on these two countries but an estimated 1 million people could die from starvation across the world. This would be due to the effects on grain production and the already very low level of world grain stocks. Read The Times of India full article

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/Indo-Pak_nuclear_war_could_cause_one_billion_starvation_deaths/articleshow/2428228.cms

Resources

Global Conscience

Former Canadian senator and IPB Vice-President Douglas Roche analyses the interplay of public policy and private actions, making a powerful case for the emergence of a new global awareness. Read more and order at

http://store.novalis.ca/comersus_viewItem.asp?idProduct=811

Security Sector Reform and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

This book offers analyses of an international group of academics and practitioners with direct experiences with security sector reform programmes in different parts of the world. More details at

<http://www.unu.edu/unupress/2005/securitysectorreform.html>

United Nations Disarmament Yearbook 2006

The Office for Disarmament Affairs just issued the new edition of the Disarmament Yearbook. Electronic version at

<http://disarmament.un.org/e-yearbook.html>

Others

Oct 7, 2007 - 6th Anniversary of the bombing of Afghanistan - a comment

Check the Western press today. Not a word about the 6th Anniversary of the imperialist, militarist bombing of Afghanistan. The US and its allies have killed a many times larger proportion of the Afghan people than the proportion of the US people killed on 9/11 - by non-Afghanis. The media bias and pure propaganda have secured that everybody remembers 9/11; it is commemorated all over the world and called a turning point in modern history. In contrast, no one commemorates the senseless killing of Afghan citizens in the US revenge on Afghanistan on October 7, 2001. Six years later everything is worse there - like everywhere else Empire and Militarism substituted politics, intelligence, ethics, law and peace-making. March 20, 2003 is also conveniently ignored every year as Anniversaries of mass killing. You see, Afghani lives and Iraqi lives are much less worthy of attention than lives in the US. MIMAC - the Military-Industrial-Media-Academic Complex -

knows exactly what it wants you to know and remember and not to know and remember. By Jan Oberg, TFF: www.transnational.org

WILPF statement on the occasion of Keep Space for Peace Week

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom issued a powerful statement condemning the militarisation of space and calling on countries to stop collaborating on this issue and to reject missile defense bases on their territories. Full statement at <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/statements/keep.space.for.peace.2007.html>

German Peace bike ride

Political activists from all over Germany met in Munich for a bicycle tour to demonstrate for peace and disarmament. On a 9 day tour, they visited army bases of the Bundeswehr, weapons industry in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg as well as German Mayors for Peace. Watch videos (in German language) at <http://www.dfg-vk-mainz.de/67/> as well as in Youtube <http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=querdenker0>

UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security

The initial report of the annual 4-5 week session of the Committee that began on Monday has already been published on the 10th. Against the background of the deadlocked Conference on Disarmament (CD), most delegations appear optimistic about the possibilities of progress in the debates, although the usual signs of resistance from certain delegations are already clear. More about the 2007 Committee at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1comindex2.html#2007>

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.

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from this newsletter please email:

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