

INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News: November 30th 2007 edition

IPB Seminar in Egypt- Photo gallery

The seminar organised by IPB together with the Institute of Peace Studies at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina on November 11-12 was felt to be a great success by all involved. A full report will be published shortly, together with the speeches and workshop presentations. Many thanks to all at the Library and in the IPB team who helped to make everything run smoothly.

Meanwhile, take a look at the excellent collection of photos taken by our 'in-house' photographer Aurel Duta. See his letter and web-link below. Maybe you will see yourself ! If you are one of the unlucky ones who were unable to attend, these photos will give you some idea of what a rich experience it was, both at the conference and in Egypt generally [Photo-gallery at: http://picasaweb.google.com/aurel.romania](http://picasaweb.google.com/aurel.romania)

If there is any of those photo(s) you would like to publish in your magazine, website, etc. and you would like to have a better quality of that photo(s), please let me know and I will edit/touch up and make it better for you, for only a couple of dollars (it will help my family survive). Also, if you have any picture (digital or printed) you'd like to make it look better, send it to me and I'll do it. And if there is any other event where you would like me to come and take photos, please let me know.

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DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

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.

Military Spending

NEW IPB-BOOK! - *WHOSE PRIORITIES? A Guide for campaigners on military and social spending.*

Written by Colin Archer. Published by IPB 2007, 76pp, 20 CHF + postage. Bulk prices available on request.

How to stop governments spending billions of dollars on weapons and war, while millions starve and suffer needlessly, and the planet overheats? How to persuade the private sector - and rich financiers - to invest in products and services that respond to human need and ecological sustainability,

rather than threaten our security in the name of protecting it? How to mobilise our fellow citizens and taxpayers?

Whose Priorities? is a follow-up volume to *Warfare or Welfare? Disarmament for Development in the 21st Century: a Human Security Approach*, published by IPB in late 2005. The latter work combines (a) a factual and political presentation of Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development (human security, military spending, effects of weapons on development, and military bases) with (b) a parallel text offering summaries of the work of some of IPB's member organisations. *Whose Priorities?* extends this parallel text to encompass a wider range of civil society groups. The main chapter contains 18 accounts of campaigning projects by different NGOs. At the same time, the focus of the new volume is essentially the question of spending and resources – both public and private. We hope that the material presented will inspire others to engage with the issue and find their own ways to make an impact.

US democrats forecast 3.5 trillion US\$ War costs

From their beginning and assuming a progressive withdrawal of present troops until 2017, total cost of the wars on Afghanistan and Iraq through this date, including hidden costs such as higher oil prices, care of wounded soldiers and interests of borrowed money, could be as high as 3.5 trillion US\$. Read more at http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/111407A.shtml

UK Prime Minister fends off charges of underspending on defence

On 23rd November, Gordon Brown hit back at claims by former defence chiefs that he had threatened the armed forces with contempt after having told them he had a duty not just to defence, but to other public services. He said he had nothing but praise for the armed forces, and also that he spent more on defence than the Conservatives. Read The Guardian article at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/print/0,,331357658-110595,00.html>

Ethiopia ups military budget, blames Eritrea threat

Ethiopia has boosted its defence budget by more than US\$ 54 million to gird up for a possible resumption of hostilities with Eritrea over their disputed border. This comes one week after Addis Ababa's rejection of a 2002 frontier ruling by the United Nations appointed Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission. Read Article at http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=326125&area=/breaking_news/breaking_news_africa/

Weapons and their effects

Gun violence as a public health problem in Africa (source: IANSA)

The latest issue of the *Journal of Public Health Policy* contains a series of studies on gun violence as public health problem in Africa. Most of the authors are members of IANSA's public health network. Among the findings: the average hospital bill for a firearm injury in Nairobi is equal to 6 months' income for the urban poor, and treatment time for a similar injury in Nigeria was 3 times longer than treatment for other injuries. Articles at

<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jphp/journal/v28/n4/index.html>

New round of ammunition and ordnances destruction in Uganda

As part of the national action plan on small arms and light weapons, 460 tons of stockpiled ammunitions and ordnances consisting of bombs, rockets, grenades, shells etc, are currently being destroyed in Uganda. This is the fourth major destruction round in this country since September 2005. More in IANSA update at <http://www.iansa.org/regions/cafrica/cafrica.htm>

No hope for cluster bomb ban under CCW but momentum grows for Oslo process

During the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), member states rejected an EU proposal to negotiate a prohibition on cluster munitions in 2008. The unique opportunity of a ban treaty to be negotiated under the Oslo Process during the final treaty talks in Vienna from 4-7 December thereby becomes very clear. Read CMC press release at <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news.asp?id=102>

Eighth Meeting of States parties reinvigorates mine ban treaty

The eighth meeting of States parties to the mine ban treaty concluded on 22nd November in Jordan. Discussions helped the mine ban community to reaffirm its commitment to the issue and the participation of 20 countries that are not parties to the treaty yet was a very encouraging sign. A large contingent of landmine survivors participated actively in the meeting and organized for the first time a parallel session. Read full report at http://www.icbl.org/news/8msp_final

Austrian draft law banning Cluster Munitions

A draft Austrian Federal Law on the prohibition of Cluster Munitions initiated by the Austrian government was debated and voted upon in the legislative assembly. Support for the text surpassed expectations. Should it become a law, Austria would become a norm setting example internationally.

RESOURCES

A nation without guns? The story of gun free South Africa

This book by Adèle Kristen tells the story of the South African gun control campaign, and shows how the Gun Free South Africa (GFSA) NGO is having an impact through innovative campaigning and media strategies. Read more at <http://ukznpress.book.co.za/2007/11/23/a-book-to-read-with-talmudic-devotion/>

Armed Non-State actors and landmines - Geneva Call

Geneva Call, an international humanitarian organization dedicated to engaging armed non-state actors (NSAs) to respect humanitarian norms, launched the third and final volume of a research project on NSA's an landmines. The first volume is an overview of NSA's practices regarding their use, acquisition, production, transfer and stockpiling of landmines based on numerous and worldwide case studies. The second volume shows

opportunities and challenges regarding NSAs' engagement in landmine action. This third and final volume suggests an inclusive approach to NSAs, including their potential role in reducing other human security threats such as child soldiers and small arms and light weapons. You will find abstracts and pdf version of all three volumes at

<http://www.genevacall.org/resources/publications.htm>

The arms trade and international law

This book by Zeray Yihdego, a research fellow at Oxford Brooks University, deals with the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their unregulated trade and transfer across borders. International norms, principles, customary rules, treaties and international law relating to arms control are considered carefully. More at

<http://www.hartpub.co.uk/books/details.asp?isbn=9781841137469>

United Nations arms embargoes: their impact on arms flows and target behaviour

This joint publication by SIPRI and Uppsala University is a comprehensive assessment of the 27 UN arms embargoes that have been imposed since 1990. It looks at their impact and effectiveness, and offers a typology of different peace and security end goals to be considered when designing and assessing UN arms embargoes. Read more and order at

http://books.sipri.org/product_info?c_product_id=356

Civil paths to peace: Report of the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding

This book contains the findings of the above mentioned commission. It focuses particularly on issues of terrorism, extremism, conflict and violence and looks at the mechanisms through which violence is cultivated. These diagnoses clear the way for methods of countering disaffection and violence. Read more and order at

<http://publications.thecommonwealth.org/civil-paths-to-peace-483-p.aspx>

Study War No More report

This research project investigates military funding of research and development within 26 UK universities. It analyses raw data collected in these universities about the funding of their departments, their spin offs and their students by specific military companies. Findings revealed hundreds of university programs worth in total many millions of pounds. More at

http://www.caat.org.uk/caatnews/2007_10/204news.php and

<http://www.for.org.uk/swnm>

Housmans Peace Diary 2008

Housmans Peace Diary is a non-profit service to movements around the world working for peace, social justice and the environment including a World Peace Directory listing almost 2000 national and international peace, environmental and human rights organizations in 150 countries. Order at

<http://www.housmans.com/diary/index.htm>

Salaam, Shalom, Solh: Nonviolence and resistance in the Middle East and beyond

This 2008 Peace Calendar by the War Resisters League is a wire-bound 53 pages desk calendar including 53 pages profiling non-violent activists and initiatives in the region. Read more and order at <https://secure.serve.com/resist/cal2008.htm>

OTHER

Japanese Article 9 Campaign - letter of support

As a supporter of the Article 9 Campaign, we invite you to sign the following letter of support (for [individuals](#) and [organizations](#)). As you might know, Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution which is a commitment to the refusal of war is under pressure. IPB believes in the importance of this article being maintained and applied, and stress the need for a wide support base.

Cluster Munitions: Local Voices Global Ban (LVGB) funding round and new Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) material

LVGB funding scheme for campaigners has opened up a new round of applications for grants to national campaigns for work on cluster munitions at <http://www.localvoicesglobalban.org/> Application deadline is 31st January. The CMC has produced a range of new materials for public awareness campaigning including a leaflet, exhibition posters, sign-up cards, stickers & badges, web banners, t-shirts etc. Go to <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/dokumenti/dokument.asp?id=45>

Rumsfeld before German and French justice

Human Rights organizations asked German Court to review the Federal Prosecutor's decision to dismiss former US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's torture case. IPB supports this initiative and stresses the need for human rights violations and war crimes to be addressed. This comes just before France dismissed the case. Human rights groups denounce political motivation. Read the story from Germany at <http://www.fidh.org/spip.php?article4882> and the French one at <http://www.fidh.org/spip.php?article4932>

UNESCO launches a tool to put social science research at the service of the public

Following its 24th General Conference, UNESCO launched a new tool to support policy making based on research from international social and human sciences. The policy relevant material sorted by specific locations and social transformations is freely accessible at http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=7796&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

5th European Social Forum (ESF) will be held in Malmö (Sweden) in September 2008 - another Europe begins here

ESF is the regional counterpart of the World Social Forum. It consists of four days of workshops, seminars, debates, manifestations, films, music, arts etc. in order to build a more sustainable, democratic and equitable society.

About 20 thousand activists and organizations are involved in the forum, which is a unique opportunity to share views and work together. More at <http://www.esf2008.org/en/>

UNGA first committee closes - productive but underwhelming

The sixty-second session of the General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and international security closed on 2nd November. Although it has been quite productive in terms of statements delivered (315) and draft texts adopted (52), the session could be qualified as underwhelming in terms of advances in the cause of disarmament and international security. First Committee summary, monitor, statements, draft texts and more at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1comindex2.html#2007>

BAE-Saudi probe to be reviewed

Two NGOs (CAAT and The Corner House) won an appeal to challenge the decision by the UK government to terminate an investigation into alleged corruption involving BAE systems (UK's largest and world's fourth largest arms company) and Saudi Arabia in arms deals. In December 2006, the government had announced the dropping of the Serious Fraud Office's inquiry into this case on the grounds that it could hurt Britain's national security although there is no legal provision for a national security exception. Read more at <http://www.caat.org.uk/>

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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