



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

20th December 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.

Military Spending

UK: proposed defence cuts of £15 billions and arms projects £3.5 billions over budget

Proposals by the Treasury to cut up to £15 billions from defence budget over the next decade has caused a split between the Whitehall and the Cabinet. Prior commitments to Trident and new aircraft carriers mean there will be deep cuts in other areas. This comes at a time when the military are under enormous pressure to meet requirements in Iraq and Afghanistan, and just after the National Audit Office predicted that Britain's biggest weapons projects, mainly the naval ones, will be overspent by £3.5 billions. Read The Guardian articles at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/frontpage/story/0,,2221530,00.html> and
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/military/story/0,,2219650,00.html>

Global Wellness treaty project to close

IPB is sad to report that the project known as the Global Wellness Treaty is winding up. This group has pursued an interesting idea very close to that of IPB - an international treaty to reduce the world's spending on armaments and transfer funds in social spending. Unfortunately, as one delegate from New Zealand said, "despite its internal logic, the nations of the world aren't yet ready for this treaty". Their website

<http://www.globalwellnesstreaty.org/> will soon be closed.

Israel the world's fourth largest arms exporter

Israel became the world's 4th largest arms exporter just behind the US, Russia and France. It has this year already sold arms worth \$US 4 billions so far. In Israel, the weapons industry employs 40 000 people. Read article at

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,22903518-5005961,00.html>

Weapons and their effects

Mine Ban 10th Anniversary - ICBL statement

On the 3rd of December, it has been 10 years since the Mine Ban Treaty was signed in Ottawa by 122 States. 156 States are parties to the Treaty so far, and “despite the absence of some important countries, the norm banning antipersonnel mines is firmly taking hold” said Stephen Goose. More efforts are though in victim assistance. Read press release at http://www.icbl.org/news/10years_pr

UN General Assembly passes Depleted Uranium (DU) resolution

On 4th December, 136 countries voted in favour of a resolution calling for further research into the health effects of DU. This ensures that the DU issue will be high on the United Nations’ next year’s agenda. Read article from the ICBUW at <http://www.bandepleteduranium.org/en/a/152.html>

Vienna Conference: Cluster bomb ban treaty in progress

The third international conference on cluster munitions ended on 7th December. It has been successful in various aspects. A consensus emerged on important issues to be included in the treaty, such as victim assistance, clearance, stockpile destruction and international cooperation and assistance. Developing countries showed overwhelming support for the Treaty and some new countries expressed explicit support to the Oslo Process. Claims from countries trying to weaken the treaty did not take hold. The next conference will take place next February in Wellington with negotiations expected to conclude in Dublin in May. Read CMC press release at <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news.asp?id=105>

There is also a very interesting blog on disarmament issues with independent reporting from the Vienna Conference by John Borrie and Patrick Mc Carthy. Please visit <http://disarmamentinsight.blogspot.com/>

Germany and Norway call for NATO disarmament initiative

German and Norwegian Foreign Ministers have called on NATO countries to do more for disarmament, arms control and nuclear proliferation. This comes at a time when important international control regimes such as the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT Treaty) are at risk of unravelling. Read Press release of the German Federal Foreign Office by clicking [here](#).

Weapons of Mass Destruction

188 Mayors join as Mayors For Peace prepare for the Decisive Decade for Nuclear Disarmament, 2010-2020

Mayors for Peace is an initiative that is committed to the elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2020. Capacity building is a key element for the success of the initiative. The objective of 2020 members by 1st January 2008 is about to be reached, so the executive cities of Mayors for Peace decided to continue capacity building with on average one new member city/municipality per day for the 2008-2010 preparatory period. They also

recognised the need to broaden the base of financial support for the 2020 Vision Campaign. Read more about Mayors For Peace and the 2020 Vision Campaign at <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>

Meeting of States Parties (MSP) to the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) report

The 2007 MSP wrapped up its proceedings on Friday 14th December. States Parties finally agreed on a final report where they recognise the value of ensuring that national implementation measures penalize and prevent activities that breach any of the prohibitions of the Convention, as well as of including provisions to prohibit assisting others to breach the Convention; to strengthening national capacities, to have effective systems of export/import controls; and to hold regular national reviews of adopted measures. Read full report at <http://www.bwpp.org/2007MSP/MSP2007Resources.html>

Resources

Negotiating peace in Liberia : Preserving the possibility for justice

This case study provides an in-depth examination on how specific justice issues came to be included in and potentially excluded from the Accra peace accord, which was the foundation of the current peace process. The report also examines how justice issues have developed after the accord, and where appropriate, strives to analyse how justice issues might have been handled in a different way. This is part of The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) project "*Negotiating justice: strategies for tackling justice issues in peace processes*". For the report, go to <http://www.hdcentre.org/Rule+of+Law+publications>

Engaging armed Non State Actors (NSAs) in a landmine ban : The Geneva Call's progress report (2000-2007)

This report provides a comprehensive review of the action taken by Geneva Call and its partners to engage armed NSAs in prohibiting the use of anti personnel mines. As NSAs are by definition not entitled to sign the Ottawa Convention, Geneva Call offers them the possibility to sign the "Deed of Commitment" in order to commit to its norms. 35 NSAs have signed it so far. For the report, go to <http://www.genevacall.org/home.htm>

New website on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education

The UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Department of Public Information launched a new website devoted to Disarmament and Non-Proliferation education on 15th October as part of the UN Cyberschoolbus website project. Read more as well as many other interesting items on the UNODA update at <http://disarmament.un.org/update/index.html>

Bank Secrets report - Human rights breaches revealed

The Belgian financial watchdog Netwerk Vlaanderen NGO launched on 12th December a report detailing investments by 121 financial groups in

companies violating fundamental human rights. Be it the weapon industry or companies with practices having disastrous environmental impacts, these financial groups keep funding them despite the fact that their practices and human rights violations are well documented. Their site is definitely worth a look. Go to <http://www.banksecrets.be/> and <http://www.netwerkvlaanderen.be/en/> for the whole report.

Small Arms, Armed Violence and Insecurity in Nigeria: The Niger Delta in Perspective

This new report by the Geneva based Small Arms Survey suggests that armed gangs in Nigeria now have better weapons due to funds raised from hostage ransoms and oil bunkering. It shows how people living in the Niger Delta are increasingly feeling the impact of armed violence on their communities and their daily routine. For the report click [here](#). The survey was conducted with the help from members of the Nigerian Action Network Small Arms ([NANSA](#)), a member of IANSA.

Others

UNDP Human Development Report 07-08 - Fighting climate change: human solidarity in a divided world

Climate change is the defining human development challenge of the 21st Century. Although awareness is increasing, serious action has to be taken immediately in order not to reach the point of irreversible ecological catastrophe. The irony is that it is the poorest countries and the most vulnerable citizens that will suffer the earliest and most damaging setbacks, even though they have contributed least to the problem. However, there is no country immune to the impact of global warming. For more material go to <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/press/>

Stop The War Coalition - Worldwide peace protests planned for March 2008

The World against War International Peace Conference held on December 1st in London and attended by more than 1200 delegates from the anti war movement across the world ended with a declaration announcing plans for worldwide peace protests. March 2008 being the fifth anniversary of the Iraq invasions, the protests will call for all foreign troops to be removed from Iraq and Afghanistan, and for opposition to any attack on Iran. <http://www.stopwar.org.uk/>

IANSA Women's Network: women portal news - 16 days of activism

Lots of news and fascinating stories from around the world. International Action Network on Small Arms Women's Network supports organisations working on women and violence prevention to combat gun violence in their communities. Check out their site and newsletter at <http://www.iansa.org/women/index.php>

The 10th December marked the end of the 16 days of activism against gender based violence. There have been mobilizations across the world to raise the awareness of the impact of guns on women's lives. To read reports

and see some photographs go to <http://www.iansa.org/women/en-16-days-2007.htm>

Climate change and conflict - New UNEP Report weighs the risks and pinpoints likely hotspots

According to the new report by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), current climate change may aggravate old and trigger new tensions in parts of the world that may spill over into violence, conflict and war. Southern Africa, the Sahel region, Central Asia, China, parts of the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico are particularly at risk of increased insecurity. This report comes as a time when awareness of climate change is reaching an unprecedented stage: Bali Conference on Climate Change, Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and UNDP 07-08 report on climate change. To read the press release and access the full report, click [here](#).

Military use of Nanotechnology - Geneva Forum Seminar

At a very interesting session organised by the [Geneva Forum](#) at UNOG, Dr Jürgen Altmann (Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Dortmund) gave an overview of the potentially dangerous military applications of current progress in nanotechnology research, a domain in which the US is by far the most prominent actor. While not immediately imminent, the first full applications of the new technology (that also has a variety of very interesting applications outside the military sphere) could become reality in one or two decades. He stressed the need to develop new preventive arms control arrangements to meet these threats: existing treaties should be adapted, although in Altmann's view some of these threats require outright bans. Read a report by David Hay-Edie from the session by clicking [here](#), and access the report by Dr Altmann [here](#).

Peace advocate Sri Chinmoy passes away

Sri Chinmoy was a lifelong advocate of peace. He organised worldwide peace runs, led mediation for diplomats, played peace concerts, produced peace art and poems, was a weightlifter who lifted people for peace, and did many others peace actions during his life. You can read tributes to this multi-talented man from world leaders at

<http://www.srichinmoy.org/sri-chinmoy-1931-2007/tributes-to-sri-chinmoy>

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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**!!!We kindly wish you all the best for
2008!!!**