



International Peace Bureau

Working together for a World Without War

IPB News: 6 October 2006

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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 \$1118 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.

Global arms industry exploiting major loopholes in arms regulations

The globalisation of the arms industry has opened up major loopholes in all current arms export regulations, allowing sales to human rights abusers and countries under arms embargoes, according to a new report by the Control Arms Campaign. [Read more....](#)
[View the report.](#)

US Army warns Rumsfeld it's billions short

The Army's top officer withheld a required 2008 budget plan from Pentagon leaders last month after protesting to Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld that the service could not maintain its current level of activity in Iraq plus its other global commitments without billions in additional funding. [Read more...](#)

New York Times on Military Spending: Showcases Progressive Perspectives

Frida Berrigan of the World Policy Institute writes: The New York Times draws heavily from the work of the World Policy Institute work to craft a Unified Security Budget (USB) along with Centre for Defence Information, Foreign Policy in Focus and other groups. Editorial Board member David Unger's new "Talking Points" highlights our critical look at military spending in his article "Our Indefensible National Security Budget." [Read more...](#)

Report: Banks continue investments in cluster munition producers

Since Spring 2006, Belgium is the first country to introduce a ban on cluster munitions. Despite this, the bank groups AXA, Dexia, Fortis and ING still invest in cluster munitions. This was revealed on 14 September in a new report 'Explosive portfolios' published by Netwerk Vlaanderen. [Read more...](#)

Iraqi de-miners help out in Lebanon

Most of the news from Iraq is discouraging, but there are some brighter stories. One of them concerns the work in ridding Iraq of landmines left from recent fighting. The UK-based NGO, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), with funding from the US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, is training and equipping former soldiers from the 14th Iraqi National Guard Brigade, based in Kirkuk. [Read more...](#)

Sri Lanka's 2007 defence spending to rise sharply

The Sri Lankan government's proposed defence expenditure for next year has shown a sharp increase despite plans to resume peace talks with Tamil rebels later this month, officials said Thursday. [Read more...](#) [Reuters article.](#)

Book Launch: *No Refuge: The Crisis of Refugee Militarisation in Africa*

A new book *No Refuge: The Crisis of Refugee Militarisation in Africa* was launched at the UN Palais des Nations, Geneva on 29 September. Co-published by the Small Arms Survey and the Bonn International Center for Conversion, *No Refuge* provides compelling evidence of the specific relationships between arms flows and the militarisation of refugee and internally displaced person (IDP) camps throughout the African continent. [Read more...](#)

Disarmament and non-proliferation education – report by the UN Secretary-General

This 24 page report reviews the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and possible new promotional opportunities. [View the report](#)

Planete Paix dossier on military spending



For our French speaking readers, the September 2006 edition of *Planete Paix*, the magazine of IPB member organisation the Movement de la Paix (France), contains a special dossier on military spending: *Dépenses militaires – le gâchis*. It explores the waste of worldwide military spending which has reached \$1118 billion and is still rising. The dossier comes in four sections: a) world military spending on the rise b) European defence industry c) decline of the French arms industry d) military spending in figures. Link to Movement de La Paix website www.mvtpaix.org - has back numbers of *Planete Paix*. An evening debate on military budgets will held in LYON on OCT 12: contact cdrpc@obsarm.org or go to: www.obsarm.org

Costa Rican President speaks out on military spending

The Costa Rican President, H.E. Mr. Óscar Arias Sánchez speaking at the UNGA general debate on disarmament: "For quite some time I have argued that the struggle for human development is connected to the struggle for disarmament and demilitarisation. Certainly it is not a badge of honour for our species that global military spending has exceeded one trillion dollars in 2005...". [Read more...](#)

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Wake up call from Hans Blix

Comments made by Hans Blix at the UN Conference of NGOs, New York, 6 September 2006. Hans Blix is the President of the Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction, whose report was published in June 2006: 'I appreciate the opportunity to address this forum of non-governmental organizations. Many NGOs provide help that is direct and vitally needed and many NGOs speak in an equally direct way to promote and defend common global needs and values...'. [Read more...](#)

UN First Committee Chair agrees to receive Gensuikyo petition for swift abolition of nuclear weapons

Yayoi Tsuchida of Gensuikyo (IPB member organisation in Japan) writes: 'The delegation of the Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo) will hold a joint petition presentation for the swift abolition of nuclear weapons to the 61st UN General Assembly during our stay in NY on Oct. 2-4. ...'. [Read more...](#)

Report of the *Return to the ICJ* meeting, September 2006

The Decision for a follow-up meeting to discuss further work on the return to the International Court of Justice was made during the July Brussels Conference to mark the tenth anniversary of the World Court's Advisory Opinion on nuclear weapons. The drafting of the UNGA resolution to request an Opinion from the Court, and approaches to "like-minded" states is already in capable hands. The purpose of the Helsinki meeting was therefore to consider the third aspect of our initiative – the involvement of global civil society. [Read more...](#)

Internal IPB News

Helsinki Triennial conference a success

IPB triennial conference 2006 – Helsinki, Finland: *Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development*. **Summary report and texts of presentation:** IPB's relationship with Finland is a longstanding one. Already in the early years of the 20th century the IPB issued a defence of the Finnish national cause in the face of Russian colonialism. In the last two decades of the century, IPB developed a strong partnership with its member organisations in Finland, notably the Peace Union, which resulted in a number of important conferences and peace books. [Read more...](#)

IPB elects new President

Tomas Magnusson, a well-known figure in the Nordic peace world, has been elected President of International Peace Bureau at the Triennial Assembly of the organization held in Helsinki on Sunday September 10th. [Read more...](#)



MacBride Prize - Photos of ceremony

The International Peace Bureau has awarded the 2006 MacBride Peace Prize to the Mayors for Peace organisation, founded and led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The ceremony took place in Helsinki on Friday Sept 8th, within the framework of the IPB's Triennial Conference. [Read more....](#)

Obituary: Solange Fernex



Solange Fernex (former IPB Vice-President) campaigned for the preservation of the environment, against nuclear power, and for equal rights for women for 40 years. Her activities as a member of the Green Party and of the European Parliament (1989–1994), of her town council (24 years), her involvement in several NGOs, her public presentations, numerous translations and books, her civic disobedience and her concrete actions promoting solidarity, have informed and inspired young people, helped others and encouraged them to shoulder their responsibilities, and served as a brilliant example to all. [Read more...](#)

Report of IPB Italian conference on reconstruction in Iraq

Activists from IPB Italia have been working hard to recruit municipalities to the network of Mayors for Peace in Italy. Now they have gone a step further by convening a meeting to plan a new post-conflict solidarity project in Iraqi Kurdistan, in which Italian cities will be the main sponsors. [See report](#). [Visit website](#)

Global Leaders Call for Action on Arab-Israeli Settlement

In a statement organised by the International Crisis Group, on 4 October 135 respected global leaders -- former presidents, prime ministers, foreign and defence ministers, congressional leaders and heads of international organisations -- joined together in a call for urgent international action to comprehensively resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. [Read more...](#)

Kofi Annan's last speech to the UN - 19 September 2006

Cora Weiss writes: 'This is a remarkable speech by Kofi Annan, his last before the United Nations with heads of state etc. He leaves in December quite a giant of a statesman in my view following his remarkable work in the Middle East where the cease-fire still holds. As I was asked in Helsinki to represent the IPB at the UN, I send this to you for your education, inspiration and information'. [Read the speech](#)

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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