



International Peace Bureau

Working together for a World without War

IPB News: 20 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.

Sensible Priorities – The Korb Report: A Realistic Defence for America

Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities is a non-profit organisation that is campaigning to increase funding to meet the needs of our children and children around the world (at no additional taxpayer expense) by reducing money spent on the Pentagon for Cold War weapons systems no longer needed to protect America. Just published on [their website](#) is Lawrence J. Korb's latest analysis of the Pentagon budget, revealing that America can cut \$60 billion in waste from the Defence budget, without affecting its ability to fight terrorists. Korb was President Ronald Reagan's Assistant Secretary of Defence. [Read report...](#)

Tax on air tickets offers a model for military tax

The Swiss press recently announced* that a new organisation established at the WHO in Geneva will handle receipts from the new international tax on airline tickets. This project was put forward by President Chirac, and French travellers are already contributing 1 Euro (internal) or 4 Euro (international) per flight. The amounts collected (300m Euro expected in 2007) will go to a special fund to purchase medicines to counter AIDS, TB and malaria. Nineteen governments have so far agreed to join the system. ***So which government will offer to launch a similar tax on military budgets?*** This announcement shows that, if there is political will, the mechanics of a transfer to social/development spending can be arranged. (**Le Temps (Geneva), 10 Oct. 2006*)

Increased Military Spending in the South Caucasus

Against the backdrop of the recent crisis between Georgia and Russia, a deeper trend has emerged in the South Caucasus, which is contributing to an even deeper degree of insecurity. A significant military build-up and an increasingly worrisome level of militant rhetoric poses the most serious threat to stability in the region and may even spark a sudden resumption of hostilities. [Read more...](#)

Bolivia: Conscientious Objector Not Subject to Military Tax

Conscience and Peace Tax International report on a "friendly settlement" which was reached before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on 27th October last year in the Bustos case. This is perhaps, at least in modern times, the first instance of a conscientious objector being successful in a legal challenge to the requirement to pay a military tax. [Read more...](#) [Read report.](#) [Visit CPTI's website.](#)

New report on cluster munitions highlights devastation in Lebanon

A new report by Landmine Action details the devastating impact on civilians of the use of cluster munitions in Lebanon and the failure of the international community to prevent this foreseeable harm.

- Between 3 and 4 civilians are being killed or injured by cluster munitions every day.
- Thirty five per cent of casualties have been children.
- Sixty per cent of Israeli cluster strikes hit built up areas. [Read more...](#)

DIME, Yet Another New Weapon?

IPB Italia reports that the Italian station RAI News has featured a news item on the use of a 'new and inexplicable' weapon in Gaza, at the time of the war against Lebanon. This report has been triggered by the warning launched in mid-July by some doctors of Gaza hospitals, who, for the first time, have treated inexplicable wounds, which, in at least 62 cases, have caused the amputation of a lower limb. [Read more...](#) [Visit website.](#) [Read Guardian article.](#)

Big Success at UN as Control Arms Campaigners Race for an Arms Trade Treaty

18 October: Control Arms campaigners completed a marathon mass lobby in New York today during the Race for an Arms Trade Treaty, when dressed in running gear they visited all 192 UN Missions to deliver a message calling on governments that have not yet done so to co-sponsor the ATT resolution, and encouraging them all to vote in favour of it. A total of eight governments, including Brazil, Mali and Cambodia, joined the co-sponsors list today (compared with two or three on previous days), taking the number of co-sponsors to 97, over half of the governments represented at the UN. [Read more...](#) For article by former Irish President Mary Robinson [click here.](#)

Weapons of Mass Destruction

North Korea

IPB members have condemned the 8th October North Korean nuclear test, and IPB member organisations have sent us their statements on the event. If your group has a statement on this topic please email it to: mailbox@ipb.org. [Read more...](#)

News and comment on the diplomatic movements over Iran's nuclear programme

Despite earlier optimism, hopes that EU-Iran negotiations would lead to a diplomatic compromise over the ongoing nuclear crisis have this week diminished. Iran's refusal to relinquish what it sees as its legitimate uranium enrichment rights - as protected under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) - has led to an impasse. [Read more...](#)

[Latest updates.](#)

IPB Internal News

IPB's MacBride Peace Prize 2006 to be awarded to Mayors for Peace

Nagasaki, October 17, 2006. The International Peace Bureau announced today the award of its 2006 MacBride Peace Prize. It will be given to the Mayors for Peace organisation, founded and led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba of Hiroshima already received the medal on behalf of Mayors for Peace at a ceremony linked to IPB's Triennial Conference, held in Helsinki in September. On this second occasion, Mayor Iccho Itoh of Nagasaki will receive a further MacBride medal on behalf of Mayors for Peace. The award will be made by IPB representatives in Nagasaki during the Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on Oct. 21-23. [Read more...](#)

Other

IPB Open Letter to Mohammed Yunus, Nobel Peace Laureate

Dear Professor Yunus, On behalf of the International Peace Bureau (Nobel Peace Prize 1910) may I convey our warmest congratulations to you and your colleagues at the Grameen Bank. As the Nobel citation says, 'Lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty.' [Read more...](#)

Petition for International inquiry into assassination of Anna Politkovskaya

The world has been shocked by the cold-blooded murder of the famous Russian journalist Anna Politovskaya. It would be good if IPB members could sign this petition of Reporters without Borders. The purpose is to demand an international inquiry into the murder, to avoid a cover up by the authorities. IPB secretariat has worked for several years with opponents of the war in Chechnya and especially women trying to build reconciliation processes across the Russian-Chechen divide. In view of the deteriorating situation, both within Russia, and between Russia and its neighbours, efforts to keep the international spotlight on the region are very important. We urge you to circulate this petition and return signed copies to Reporters Sans Frontieres: 5, rue Geoffroy-Marie, 75009 Paris – France. Print out petition in [English](#), [French](#) or [Spanish](#). [Read article...](#) [Sign online petition](#).

Getting the UN into Darfur – New Crisis Group Briefing

With Khartoum continuing to reject the expanded UN mission in Darfur, the international community must take strong economic and legal, and some new military measures to change the regimes calculation of the costs of non-cooperation. Getting the UN into Darfur, the latest policy briefing from the International Crisis Group, examines ways out of the impasse over deploying a major UN peacekeeping force. [Read report](#).

Space: America's new war zone

The Bush administration has staked an aggressive new claim to dominate space - rejecting any new treaties that seek to limit the United States' extraterrestrial activities and warning that it will oppose any nations that try to get in its way. A new policy recently signed by President George Bush, asserts that his country has the right to conduct whatever research, development and "other activities" in space that it deems necessary for its own national interests. [Read more...](#)

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.

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