



# International Peace Bureau

*WWW: Working together for a World Without War*

IPB News

15 December 2006

Seasons Greetings from all  
the team at the IPB  
Secretariat



## 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.*

## From Kosovo to Lebanon, cluster bomb casualties continue to mount

Cluster bombs have been used in every major conflict since World War II, which ensures that bomb clearers the world over will have work for decades—even centuries—to come. International efforts to restrict the use of cluster bombs—modelled after landmine treaties of previous years—are being undermined by lack of U.S. participation. [More...](#)

## UNGA adopts Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) welcomes the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the text of the Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities. The Convention comprises 50 articles plus one additional protocol, and was largely influenced by the input of civil society organisations under the umbrella of the International Disability Caucus. [More...](#)

## UN General Assembly backs Kimberley Process to prevent diamonds from funding conflict

The UN General Assembly has passed a resolution backing the Kimberley Process, a global initiative involving governments, the international diamond industry and civil society aimed at preventing so-called “conflict diamonds” from funding warfare and civil unrest. [More...](#)

## Census Counts 100,000 Contractors in Iraq

There are about 100,000 government contractors operating in Iraq, not counting subcontractors, a total that is approaching the size of the U.S. military force there, according to the military's first census of the growing population of civilians operating in the battlefield. [More...](#)

### **Halliburton Unit to Pay \$8 Million for Over Billing**

A Halliburton subsidiary agreed to pay the government \$8 million to resolve accusations of over billing related to the firm's work for the Army in the Balkans, the Justice Department said yesterday. The allegations against KBR, formerly known as Kellogg Brown & Root, stemmed from orders placed with 10 foreign subcontractors that were working for KBR on military logistics support in 1999 and 2000. [More...](#)

### **UN Calls for almost \$4 billion in emergency aid to help 27 million worldwide**

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has launched an appeal for almost \$4 billion to provide food, water, medicine and other emergency assistance to help millions of people struggling to survive in areas of conflict and natural disasters in 29 countries or regions in 2007. [More...](#)

### **IANSAs Campaigns Against Buying Replica Guns as Gifts**

With the Christmas, New Year and Eid-ul-Adha holiday season approaching, many IANSAs members are preparing campaigns against buying replica guns as gifts. Information on campaigns in Argentina, Guatemala, Paraguay and the UK can be found on the IANSAs homepage - [www.iansa.org](http://www.iansa.org).

### **UN General Assembly Votes for Historic Arms Trade Treaty Proposal**

Work on an international Arms Trade Treaty will begin following a historic vote in the UN General Assembly, which saw 153 governments supporting the proposed Treaty to prevent international arms transfers that fuel conflict, poverty and serious human rights violations. Only the United States voted against the proposal, and 24 governments abstained. [More...](#)

### **A Peace Prize for Iraq: An Economist's Solution to the War**

*Dean Baker writes:* Recent events should have dashed any hopes that the Iraq Study Group's plan would lead to a quick US withdrawal from Iraq and an end to violence. Some new thinking is clearly in order. John Schmitt, my colleague at the Centre for Economic and Policy Research, has risen to the occasion. He has developed an economist's solution for the war in Iraq - a \$200 billion peace prize. [More...](#)

## **Weapons of Mass Destruction**

### **Vanunu - Israeli PM Olmert confirms Israel's nuclear program**

Former IPB Vice-President Mordechai Vanunu, the whistleblower that gave Israeli nuclear secrets to the British paper The Sunday Times and served an 18-year sentence for his disclosures, welcomed Israeli PM Ehud Olmert's admittance that Israel had a nuclear weapons programme. Vanunu said he hoped Olmert's comment wasn't a mistake, but rather "the beginning of a policy change" that would see Israel openly acknowledge its nuclear weapons. [More...](#)

### **NASA Plans Moon Base to Control Pathway to Space**

At a time when the U.S. faces historic debt, NASA announced last week its intention to establish a permanent base on the Moon by 2024. In an interview on December 4 from the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas, Scott Horowitz, NASA's associate administrator for exploration said, "We're going for a base on the Moon." [More...](#)

### **Annan Speech on Nuclear Weapons**

*The following is a transcript of Kofi Annan's speech on the danger of nuclear weapons, and the urgent need to prevent nuclear proliferation and promote*

*disarmament. The speech was given at Princeton University on 28 November. 'Let me begin by saying how delighted I am to have been invited to give this address by a School named after Woodrow Wilson, the great pioneer of multilateralism and advocate of world peace, who argued, among other things, for agreed international limits on deadly weapons. [...]' [More...](#)*

### **Climate Threat from Nuclear Bombs**

Nuclear weapons pose the single biggest threat to the Earth's environment, scientists have warned. In a new study of the potential global impacts of nuclear blasts, an American team found even a small-scale war would quickly devastate the world's climate and ecosystems, causing damage that would last for more than a decade. [More...](#)

### **CND Condemns UK Government's Decision on Trident**

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has condemned the government's decision to replace Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system. Tony Blair, in his statement to parliament, made it clear that Britain would be pursuing a new submarine system, and signing up to the US's service life extension programme for the Trident D5 missiles which carry the war heads on the submarines. [More...](#)

### **ICAN - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**

In April 2007 ICAN will be launched as a broad and inclusive education and advocacy campaign for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. It is organised by The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), working in 60 countries, including in Australia through the Medical Association for the Prevention of War. [More...](#)

### **Australia Resolution with Rome Nobel Declaration**

*Jonathan Granoff, President of the [Global Security Institute](#) writes:* It is my great pleasure to attach and copy below for your attention the recent resolution in the Parliament of Australia in which the Rome Declaration which we adopted in Rome this past November is referenced. This resolution furthers the commitment to advance to a more secure world. I urge everyone to distribute the Rome Declaration for such advocacy purposes at all levels of society as quickly and aggressively as possible. We are in a race against time to save the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, which requires minimal steps such as a Test Ban Treaty to give credence to the pledges of the nuclear weapons states to work to eliminate nuclear weapons universally. Link to the [Rome Declaration](#) and the [Australian Resolution](#)

### **Other**

### **Nobel Lecture, Mohammed Yunus, Poverty as Peace Issue**

*Nobel lecture given by Mohammed Yunus, winner of this years Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, December 12:* Grameen Bank and I are deeply honoured to receive this most prestigious of awards. We are thrilled and overwhelmed by this honour. Since the Nobel Peace Prize was announced, I have received endless messages from around the world, but what moves me most are the calls I get almost daily, from the borrowers of Grameen Bank in remote Bangladeshi villages, who just want to say how proud they are to have received this recognition. [More...](#)

### **Kofi Annan's Final Speeches as UN Secretary General**

*Kofi Annan has delivered his final speeches as United Nations Secretary General. At the Truman Presidential Museum and Library in Independence, Missouri Mr Annan delivered a tough critique of President Bush's policies. He accused the*

administration of trying to secure the United States from terrorism in part by dominating other nations through force, committing what he termed human rights abuses and taking military action without broad international support. [More...](#) *In another speech on December 8:* Mr Annan attacked the US policy of sending suspected terrorists to secret prisons round the world, saying it undermined any hope of success in the fight against terrorism. [More...](#)

### **Anti Guantanamo Bay Demonstration in Denmark**

On July 4 Copenhagen witnessed a strange procession. Many hundred persons dressed all in orange, with a black sack covering their heads, and hands and feet in chains marched through the city. All silent. This manifestation was a greeting to America and the world, showing that many Danes feel the Guantanamo Base is a disgrace to human values and that they salute that the U.S. High Court has deemed the Guantanamo Prison illegal according to the American Constitution. [More...](#)

### **The US's UN Ambassador John Bolton Resigns**

In a rare midterm election in which foreign policy was a major issue, it is not too much of a stretch to say that American voters put UN Ambassador John Bolton out of office. Bolton's resignation from his unconfirmed recess appointment at the UN removes the residual fear that the Bush team had something up its sleeve to bypass senatorial resistance to his confirmation. [More...](#)

### **Job Vacancy for a Grants Manager with Nonviolent Peaceforce in Sri Lanka**

Nonviolent Peaceforce is a non-partisan unarmed peacekeeping force composed of trained civilians from around the world. They are currently inviting applications for the post of Grants Manager - Fundraiser for their Sri Lanka project. This is a position within the management team, reporting directly to the Project Director. [More...](#)

## **Resources**

### **A Different Kind of War: The UN Sanctions Regime in Iraq - by H C von Sponeck**

At a time when the international community is again threatening some countries with sanctions, this book comes as a warning. It should be mandatory reading for all those politicians and their foreign-policy advisors who continue to consider sanctions an effective form of policy. The author not only offers us a critical, lucid, and well-informed survey of political developments in Iraq, but also a heart-rending account of the suffering of the Iraqi people.

[Berghahn Books](#), 2006, 336 pages, ISBN 1-84545-222-4, Hb, \$39.95 / £22.95

### **The Ethics of War - Edited by Richard Sorabji and David Rodin**

Traces how different cultures involved in present conflicts have addressed similar problems over the centuries. A look at how the Graeco-Roman world, Byzantium, the Christian just war tradition, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and the Geneva Conventions have addressed recurrent ethical problems of war.

[Ashgate](#), 2006, ISBN: 0754654494, 253pp., US\$29.95

### **Does China Matter? Edited by Barry Buzan and Rosemary Foot**

This book examines China in the context of the world economy, the Asian economy, as a global military power, as a regional military power, within world and Asian politics, and within the contemporary world and Asian culture.

[Routledge](#), 2004, ISBN: 0415304121, 208pp., £20.99

## **Newsletters**

- [1325 PeaceWomen E-news](#)

- [Campaign Against Arms Trade](#)
- [Campaign Against Depleted Uranium](#)
- [Civil Society Watch](#)
- [Faslane 365](#)
- [Global Campaign For Peace Education](#)
- [Global Security Institute](#)
- [IANSA](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [Movement for the Abolition of War](#)
- [NGO Congo](#)
- [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)
- [Nuclear Age Peace Foundation](#)
- [Pax Christi](#)
- [Peace Women Across the Globe](#)
- [Swisspeace - KOFF](#)
- [The Monitor- News from the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court](#)
- [UNIDIR Highlights](#)
- [War Profiteers](#)

## Calendar

[Click here](#) for IPB's international events calendar.

## End of Year Statement

IPB News was relaunched this October, and since then 6 editions have been published on a bi-monthly basis. Important events covered by IPB News over this period include: the rising cost of the Iraq war, North Korea's nuclear test, the devastation of South Lebanon by cluster bombs, movements by the UN towards the creation of an international arms trade treaty, and Mohammed Yunus being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. For all these stories and many more please view previous editions of our newsletter at [www.ipb.org](http://www.ipb.org).

Our IPB News editor, Henrietta Wilkins, will be moving on at the end of the year and we hope to have a new editor in place in January. Meanwhile please send any correspondence to [mailbox@ipb.org](mailto:mailbox@ipb.org). We thank Henrietta for her very competent work in getting this publication out on a regular basis, and wish her well in her future activities.

**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: [mailbox@ipb.org](mailto:mailbox@ipb.org)

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