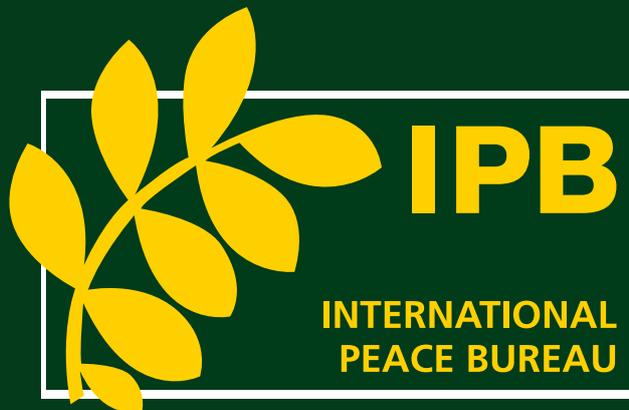




Global Day of Action on Military Spending: IPB supporters at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. April 12

ACTIVITY REPORT 2011



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INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

ACTIVITY REPORT 2011

2011 was above all a year of revolt. The early months saw the extraordinarily rapid spread of the brush fire of the **Arab Spring** - from the spark that set off the process in Tunisia, to Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria and beyond. From May onwards another citizens' rebellion began to take shape in an estimated 82 countries: the **Occupy/Indignés** movement. While few would mourn the deaths of Muammar Gaddafi or Osama bin Laden, there were many tragic losses in the Fukushima disaster in Japan and the Utoya massacre in Norway. Furthermore, millions were affected by the severe floods seen notably in Thailand, Philippines and Pakistan; and millions more suffered in the famine in south Somalia, the worst for 30 years. Europe continued to struggle to solve its debt crisis, and at long last began (in certain countries at least) to make limited reductions in military budgets. Meanwhile in December the US formally ended its war in Iraq. But the other 'long war', in Afghanistan and spilling over into Pakistan, consumed billions more dollars without succeeding in resolving any of the challenges in those countries - indeed many peace advocates would argue that the West's military efforts have only aggravated the situation.

IPB's long-term goal is a world without war. While the causes of war are complex, and the attempts to tackle them very varied, IPB has chosen to focus its efforts in several areas, of which the main one is Disarmament for Development. The report below offers a summary of the highlights of the year's activities.

What is the IPB?

IPB is a **Nobel Laureate organisation** with 300 member organisations in 70 countries (including 21 in the UK). We have a relatively small office base: the 3 salaried staff are supported by a group of voluntary staff/interns. The organisation has a democratic structure, with an elected Council and Board. IPB was founded in 1891 to coordinate the general work of the world's national peace associations. Thirteen of our officers and staff have won the Nobel Peace Prize over the years.

DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

In 2005 IPB launched a major new programme, entitled [Disarmament for Development](#). (D for D). This is designed to reflect widespread public concern at the rapid rise in global military spending; and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development. Over 10 years on from 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. The following report outlines the principal activities undertaken in support of this programme.

Our main **Disarmament for Development** programme has 3 thematic areas: (1) military spending (2) impacts of weapons on development (3) justifications for investments in militarism. The various concepts are discussed in detail in our book *Warfare or Welfare?* (2006). A follow-up volume, *Whose Priorities?* (2007), provides examples of creative campaigning by NGOs and other civil society organisations who have taken up the military spending issue.

The issue of **military spending** has been a concern of peace movements since at least as far back as the end of World War I. However in the Cold War years campaigners' attention tended to focus mainly on nuclear weapons, and in the period since then on a variety of issues related to specific conflicts, human rights, environmental challenges etc. It has therefore been necessary to spend time building up an international constituency of groups and individuals concerned with this particular issue.

MAIN PLATFORM/EVENT: 1ST GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING (GDAMS) - April 12.

After several years preparing the ground, we felt ready to offer a public focal point for this work and the IPB Board decided to launch a major worldwide focus event, in order to demonstrate public rejection of policies leading to astronomical levels of military spending, at the expense of programmes of development and social welfare. The Day was organised in partnership with the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), Washington DC, together with an International Planning Committee.

Among the tools made available by IPB and IPS were:

- A 'Call for Action' in several languages
- GDAMS Newsletter
- An Organisers' Kit

Much of the preparatory period was spent in outreach and networking, both to specific language communities and generally.

We also forged an important partnership with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute that we plan to continue in future years.

The results of this exercise - the main highlight of IPB's year - were highly successful, with around 100 actions organised in over 30 countries.: The full report on the 2011 GDAMS, as well as other documents and resources, can be found at: <http://demilitarize.org/event-reports>

Note: the exercise was repeated in 2012 and plans are under way for GDAMS 2013.

IPB was greatly encouraged by the support received from the **United Nations**, notably the statements made on the Global Day of Action on Military Spending by the High Representative for

Disarmament Affairs. He concluded that GDAMS "*should serve as a catalyst for shifting global and national priorities from massive military spending to creating human security and safety for all.*"

Examples of actions undertaken

There were GDAMS events at the international, national, and local levels. Activists produced videos, constructed powerful public displays and performances, held press conferences and seminars, and mobilized public opinion in favour of reducing military spending. Nor was the effort limited to developed countries. In Bangladesh, activists held discussions with parliament members including the Deputy Speaker. In India, activists drummed for three hours in New Delhi as part of a campaign to get the attention of national leaders. In Thailand, campaigners conducted a Chinese funeral rite in front of the Ministry of Defence where they burned money and guns. In Uganda, the government cracked down on a proposed 2 kilometre-march in Kampala, forcing activists to hold their meetings in more remote areas.

Geneva actions:

The Geneva work involved no less than 3 actions on the same day:

- An **outdoor symbolic action** at the Place des Nations. IPB volunteers and members of the Group for Switzerland without an Army made up 160 boxes to symbolize the \$1630 billion spent on the military in the previous year – and just 30 to symbolize what is needed to attain the MDGs.
- An **afternoon seminar** with invited diplomats and NGOs focussing on the opportunity costs of military spending in terms of development investments foregone.
- An **evening public meeting** organised by the Swiss Burma Association, at which a film was shown which reports on allegations that the Burmese military regime was engaging in preparations for a nuclear programme.

Media coverage

Our GDAMS events generated considerable media coverage with stories in the Christian Science Monitor, Huffington Post, Russia Today Television, Telesur, Voice of America, and many national and local outlets.

Dialogues with governments

IPB believes that little progress will be made in reducing national level military budgets without engaging in dialogue with governments. This can be done at many levels, including via parliamentary debates. Direct contact with diplomats and other government representatives is one of the areas where the IPB can have some access, and during this year in Geneva, around the Conference on Disarmament, meetings were held with a number of government missions.

At the national level, IPB encourages all members and partners to engage with their governments/parliaments/political parties on D for D issues. IPB has continued to produce materials to support this.

Outreach – partnerships - networking:

IPB is conscious of the need to extend the range of organisations engaged in this work, not only via engagement in the GDAMS, but also through ongoing partnerships through the year. This can range from attending (or speaking at) each others' meetings; exchanging news and information related to the topic; encouraging outreach to member organisations and affiliates etc, involved in many organizational partnerships. At the international level, such collaborations include the World Council of Churches, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, UN Institute for Disarmament Research, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility and the No to War, No to NATO coalition.

Examples: IPB was represented by Binalakshmi Nepram (India) at the World Council of Churches' week-long International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Jamaica.

We were represented by Reiner Braun (Board member, Germany) at the No to War, No to NATO coalition meeting in Dublin in April.

At the national level, outreach visits and speeches at meetings were arranged with numerous partners, for example: Prague (Colin Archer, Secretary-General); Leeds (Secretary-General); Paris (Meeting with Mouvement de la paix, combined with Board meeting). Geneva (Secretary-General speech at a meeting organised by the Bangladesh Minorities Council).

Main networking tool: [IPB News](#) (monthly) carries information and opinion on all aspects of D for D work (and nuclear and other topics)

RELATED TOPICS

Arms Trade

There exists a close relationship between military spending (ie by governments) and the sales made by arms manufacturing entities (often, though not always, private sector companies). Thus civil society campaigning against the arms trade is closely linked to the work done by IPB on the specific topic of military spending. IPB gives support to two rather different networks and approaches:

1) **Arms Trade campaigning**

In early October 2011, the Secretary-General made presentations at the 'Trobada' conference in Barcelona, linked to the special [International seminar on war profiteering and peace movement responses](#) organised by the **War Resisters International** and the **European Network Against Arms Trade**. This was an important opportunity to renew our links with the key European campaigners in this field.

2) **Arms Trade Treaty negotiations**

IPB was represented by several member organisations at the 2011 PrepComm in New York, which paved the way for the 4-week long negotiation conference in July 2012. Allison Pytlak was appointed as an IPB consultant, to attend the PrepComm in NY on behalf of IPB; and to submit detailed reports.

Nuclear Abolition – Economic Aspects

At the **Abolition 2000** annual meeting, (16 September) IPB took on the role of co-convening the [Abolition 2000 Working group on Economic Dimensions](#), which encompasses work on divestment from private sector industries, as well as challenging public spending on nuclear weapons programmes. The task is not only to collect material but to work with others to do political work based on these materials. Preparatory work was also begun on a new edition of the IPB book *Nuclear Weapons at what Cost?*

See next section for other work on nuclear disarmament.

Toxic Remnants of War

On Nov 17, 2011, IPB staff participated in a

workshop at the UN in Geneva on the emerging theme of Toxic Remnants of War, organised by the [International Campaign to Ban Depleted Uranium](#)

Biological Weapons

In early December 2011 a group of students from universities in Germany spent two weeks at the UN in Geneva to learn about the BWC negotiations and interact with diplomats. IPB organised their accommodation and hosted an afternoon discussion at the IPB office.

FORWARD PLANNING

An important part of IPB's work in 2011 was to make plans for new D for D projects over the coming years. This included work in the following areas:

Dialogue with development agencies

IPB recognises the importance of engaging in discussion with major development organisations on the issue of military spending and development financing. In 2011 we began to map the territory and prepare materials for this task. IPB will encourage members and partners to open discussions with HQs of major national development organisations.

Arab Spring

IPB shared both the excitement and the concerns of the worldwide peace and human rights movements when confronted with the dramatic developments in the MENA region. The Board began a process of discussion which we hope will lead to a programme of work around topics including democracy, gender, and the role of the military.

On-line education course

IPB believes it is important to develop **educational programmes** to make this issue better known, and for this reason we started preparations for on-line course for adult students entitled *Disarmament for Development*, organised jointly with the Open University of Catalonia. 2011 saw preparatory work both in Geneva and Barcelona. Alicia Cabezudo, IPB Vice-President is the Course Director, working with two teachers. Content materials were devised, based on the two principal IPB D for D publications. During the planning phase, an international consultative meeting was held at the International Bureau of Education in Geneva (May).

Transparency: Lafontaine commemoration:

The Secretary-General visited the Mundaneum archives centre in Mons, Belgium to discuss a possible programme, to be organised jointly with the Mundaneum and the University of Mons, in 2013. This rather unusual conference will present both the pioneering work of Henri Lafontaine (Nobel Peace Prize 1913), noted for promoting the cause of transparency and citizens' access to information; and an analysis of contemporary issues linking democracy, armament and war.

** Lafontaine was IPB President 1907 – 1943, and co-Founder of the Mundaneum Archives Centre.*

New staff: In order to be able to better handle these multiple commitments, a new staff position was created: the Disarmament for Development Coordinator. The recruitment process was completed in November 2011, for a January 1st start.

NUCLEAR ISSUES

IPB has a long history of work to promote the elimination of nuclear weapons, notably in the late 1980s and 1990s when we focused on the struggle to bring the issue to the International Court of Justice (World Court Project); and since 1995 in support of a variety of networks such as Abolition 2000, Mayors for Peace, ICAN, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and the Middle Powers Initiative.

In 2011 we continued the tradition by participating in a number of key events and projects.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days, August 6-9

Co-President Ingeborg Breines represented IPB at the World Conference Against A & H Bombs in Japan. She made presentations both at the opening in Hiroshima and at the closing in Nagasaki, had a meeting with the new Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Kazumi Matsui, and participated in ceremonies and workshops, as well as visits to schools, hospitals, local organisations, peace museums and peace monuments.



Ingeborg Breines (IPB Co-President, right) with Yayoi Tsuchida (Board member, conference organiser) at the World Conference Against A & H Bombs, Hiroshima, August 2011. Note behind them a large collection of paper cranes, the symbol of nuclear disarmament.

Middle Powers Initiative

IPB is one of eight co-sponsoring organisations. The role of MPI is to build support among middle power governments for negotiations leading to nuclear abolition. Current work focuses on the organisation of a number of **Framework Forums** to discuss in detail (among governments and NGOs) the steps towards this goal. **Nobel Peace Prize nomination 2011:** As a Nobel laureate organisation, IPB is entitled to make official nominations for the Prize. In 2011 we nominated Doug Roche, President of the Middle Powers Initiative.

Parliamentarians

The Secretary-General attended the annual assembly of the [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament](#) held in Berne in mid-November 2011.

Participation in work of **NGO Committee for Disarmament, Geneva**, of which IPB is Secretary. The Committee helps to bring together a range of international organisations working for disarmament.

Geneva Youth Conference on nuclear disarmament: IPB's Secretary-General chaired one session. This event was one of a series held over the last few years, whose purpose is to encourage and support the engagement of young people in the struggle for disarmament.



Douglas Roche at Hiroshima's Atomic Bomb Dome

PEACE EDUCATION and PEACE HISTORY

The modern-era IPB has always regarded peace education and peace history as important aspects of its more general role. In the period 1998-2003 we concentrated on peace education almost full time, helping run the Global Campaign for Peace Education (Hague Appeal for Peace). In the period since 2001 we have used the centenaries of the Nobel Peace Prizes awarded to a number of the IPB founding personalities to shed fresh light on current issues as well as reveal the deep historical roots of contemporary peace work.

Alfred Fried history symposium, October 2011.

IPB co-organised this symposium in the City Hall, Potsdam, together with our German colleagues. The event was combined with the IPB Council meeting, the award of the [MacBride Peace Prize](#), a press conference, and a Board meeting. An exhibition on the life of Alfred Fried was presented by the Austrian government. A book containing the texts of the contributions made is expected in the course of 2012.



MacBride Prize

Every year the IPB awards a special prize to a person or organisation that has done outstanding work for peace, disarmament and/or human rights. These were the principal concerns of [Sean MacBride](#), the distinguished Irish statesman who was Chairman of IPB from 1968-74 and President from 1974-1985.

The 2011 Prize was awarded jointly to Iraqi human rights activist Hanaa Edwar and German anti-nuclear lawyer Peter Becker. The ceremony took place in Potsdam, on the occasion of IPB's Council meeting, which was held the day following the symposium commemorating the centenary of the Nobel Peace Prize to Alfred Fried.

Making Peace This [major photo-exhibition](#) was created by IPB and shown in Geneva in 2010. It consists of 100 panels with photographs by major photographers, plus text in English and French.

During 2011 the exhibition's curator Ashley Woods made progress in locating possible venues for future showings. For example, preliminary contacts were made with the City of Utrecht, in order to arrange to show it at their 2013 festival, commemorating the tercentennial of the Peace Treaty of Utrecht 1713: 11 April - 21 Sept.

<http://www.vredevanutrecht2013.nl/En/Programme/Agenda-for-2013.aspx>.

Other cities/venues are at various stages of negotiation.

Peace history conference: Secretary-General Colin Archer made a speech on *'The Olympics and Peace'* at the annual Peace History conference, held at the Imperial War Museum, London, 13-14 May. A summary of his illustrated talk is available at:

<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/speeches/TheOlympicsforwarorpeace.pdf>

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(6)	Tony Kempster	UK
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TOTAL REG. REPS.	20 PERSONS	
TOTAL COUNCIL		
(BOARD + REG.REPS)	20 + 19 = 39 PERSONS	