



**IPB**

International  
Peace Bureau

# Newsletter



October 2018

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

this month, IPB was delighted to hear that Denny Tamaki won the gubernatorial elections in Okinawa, Japan. He opposes the relocation of a U.S. military base on this Japanese island and the construction of the new base at Henoko.

IPB notes that the awarding of this year's Nobel Peace Prize winners highlights the importance of gender in war and conflict and hopefully marks the beginning of a different approach on the global peace process. Additionally, the Indian peace activist and previous recipient of IPB's Seán MacBride Peace Prize Binalakshmi Nepram was honoured with the Anna Politkovskaya Award. This prize recognizes Binalakshmi's commitment to support victims of armed conflict and arms control in the region of Manipur, India.

This October was also full of significant and impactful events, such as the Asia-Europe People's Forum in Ghent and the Peace March against Nuclear Weapons in France in nine different locations.

Last but not least, for all those of you who want to support us, please [donate](#) to IPB. We appreciate any donation, regardless of the amount.

We hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter!

With our warmest wishes

Theresa Kresse  
Lorena Schwab

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 **EVENTS  
NOVEMBER**

**Future Wars: The Impact of New Technologies**

November 10th  
Birkbeck University, London, UK  
Conference, CND UK

**1st International Conference against US/ NATO Military Bases**

November 16th to 18th  
Liberty Hall, Dublin, Ireland  
Global Campaign against US/NATO Military Bases,

**Seán MacBride Peace Prize Ceremony**

November 24th  
Home for Cooperation, Nicosia, Cyprus  
International Peace Bureau



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EVERY DONATION, REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT COUNTS!

*Thank you!*



## **NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2018: A DECISION AGAINST VIOLENCE AND FOR PEACE**

The decision of this year's Nobel Peace Prize winners creates a clear connection towards the importance of gender dimensions in war and conflict. This is the statement of IPB:

The presidents of the International Peace Bureau welcome the decision of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee to give the award to Nadia Murad and Dr. Denis Mukwege.

It is an excellent decision to give the award to people who actively stand up against violence and for peace and human rights. Handing the prize to Nadia Murad is a symbol of solidarity to all the victims who have suffered from human rights violations. Equally important, awarding Dr. Denis Mukwege the prize, too, is an important gesture to the world community for those who are standing by the victims of human rights abuses and dedicating their efforts to help.

Both prize recipients are impressive people who felt they could not stand by in silence when faced with unspeakable violence and cruelty.

We recognise that the efforts and work of both recipients is coming from the same source of values and goals – which IPB shares as well – a world without violence and war.

A world without war and violence can only be achieved through a worldwide process of disarmament and demilitarisation as war is a criminal act that needs to be banned from the planet.

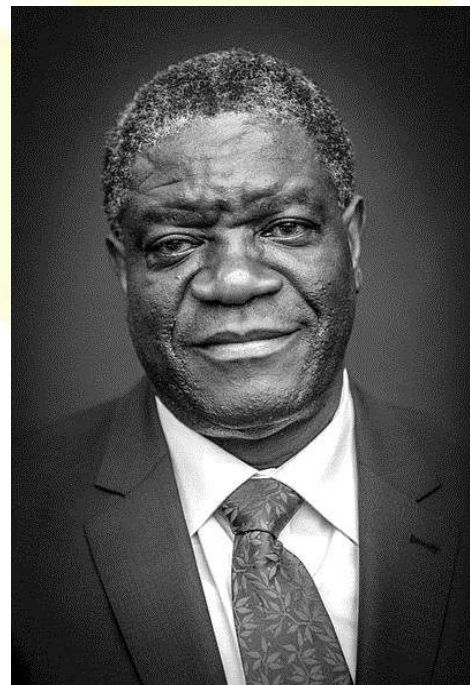
Florence & Berlin, 5th of October 2018

Lisa Clark & Reiner Braun (Presidents of IPB)

<http://www.ipb.org/ipb-statements/nobel-peace-prize-2018-a-decision-against-violence-and-for-peace/>



Nadia Murad suffered herself from war crimes, such as rape and sexual assaults, as a captive of the Islamic State (IS). Being a member of the Yazidi minority in northern Iraq, she chose to openly share her story after she managed to escape.



Dr. Denis Mukwege is a gynecological surgeon who stands up for the victims of sexual violence. The crimes against his patients were mostly committed during the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## OKINAWANS REJECT MILITARY BASES AND WAR!

The *All Okinawa Coalition Against New Construction of Henoko Base* won the Seán MacBride Peace Prize in 2017 for its commitment to win the closure of the Futenma Marine Air Base and for its unremitting nonviolent opposition to the construction of a massive new base in Henoko.

<http://www.ipb.org/all-okinawa-coalition-against-construction-of-new-base-in-henoko/>

*Article by Hiroshi Taka*

*Representative Director of Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo)*

At the election for the governor of Okinawa on Sept. 30, Tamaki Denny, the candidate opposing the construction of a new US Marine base at Henoko, Nago City, won a landslide victory over the pro-base candidate backed by Prime Minister Abe and his government. The final result of the votes was 394,761 for Tamaki and 315,621 for his opponent.

*Land Seized by Bayonets and Bulldozers*

Okinawa is the only prefecture where the ground battle was fought during WWII, and every fourth of the islanders was killed in the war.



After the end of the war, Japan was fully occupied by the US forces. The San Francisco Peace Treaty came into effect in 1952 and Japan was accorded independence. But Okinawa and the Bonin islands remained under the direct rule of the US forces.

The US bases in Okinawa were built on the land while its residents were detained in camps by the occupation forces. Okinawa has since then turned to an attack base of the US Navy, Army, Air Force and Marines in their operations against Indochina and elsewhere in Asia during the “Cold War”, and in the Indian Ocean and the Middle East, as well as the Korean Peninsula.

In 1972, pressed by the mounting demand of the people, the administrative right of Okinawa was returned to Japan. But the bases stayed, and no land was returned to the islanders. The Japanese Government not only did not demand the reversion, but continued to help the US to use the bases, saying that the presence of the US forces was a part of “deterrence”. Under the protection, hideous crimes continued. Prior to the reversion of Okinawa, President Nixon and Prime Minister Eisaku Sato concluded a secret agreement to allow the US forces to bring nuclear weapons to Okinawa in any case of emergency.

*New Base Plan at Henoko – Another Deception of the Okinawan People*

The construction of a new base at Henoko in Nago City, which was the focal point in the election, has its origin in the gang rape of a 12-year-old girl by three US soldiers which happened in the Northern Okinawa on September 4, 1995. At this brutal crime and the privileged protection, the anger of the Okinawan people exploded. Some 85,000 islanders gathered in the protest rally in October that year. Against the backdrop of this development, the Japanese and US governments could not but make a gesture to remove the Futenma Marine Base out of Ginowan City.

The US agreed to transfer the Marines from the Futenma base, in part to Guam much at Japan’s

expenses, but demanded a new base to compensate it. The Japanese Government agreed and proposed to build one in Henoko, Nago-city.

#### *All Okinawans United – 2014 Gubernatorial Election*

In December 2013, an opportunity arose. Under the pressure of the Japanese Government, the then governor Nakaima gave sanction to the landfill of the Oura Bay of Henoko. It was a betrayal against his own promise to the Okinawan people. But by the time, there had already been the broad consensus among the mayors of all municipalities in Okinawa to oppose the deployment of the Marine's transport aircraft Osprey. Anger against the betrayal of Nakaima at once flared up. In the prefectural capital Naha, the city assembly members of the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) broke away from the party to form a new group "LDP-Shinpukai (fresh air)". For the imminent gubernatorial election in November 2014, all political parties that stood for the removal of the Futenma Marine Base, opposition to a new base in Henoko and against the deployment of "Osprey", including "LDP-Shinpukai", united to support Onaga Takeshi, then mayor of Naha-city. At the election, Onaga defeated Nakaima by the margin of 100,000 votes.

#### *Okinawa – Not Deterrence but a "Bridge of Peace between All Countries"*

The gubernatorial election on Sept. 30 this year was held due to the death of Governor Onaga from cancer in August. During Onaga's tenure, the Japanese government began the seawall construction for the landfill of the bay in Henoko. Governor Onaga repealed the sanction; the Abe Government filed lawsuit; and it obtained the court decision that the repeal was invalid.

Okinawans did not give up. Pledging that Okinawa would never allow the building of the new base, Governor Onaga announced that he would now notify the Abe Government that it would withdraw the landfill permission.

With the start of the election campaign the Abe government did everything to defeat "All Okinawa" candidate Tamaki Denny, in dispatching its Cabinet

Secretary and other cabinet members, governing LDP and Komeito leaders and members, and conservative Tokyo Governor to help the pro-base candidate. Yet, the strong will of the Islanders was not broken. Citizens stood in the forefront, and the unity of the parties supporting Tamaki Denny, including ex-LDP Shinpukai, JCP, Social Democrats, Social Mass Party, the Liberal, was firm.

When I brought the messages of international peace movement leaders, including the message from Reiner Braun, the IPB Co-president, Denny, thanking to the global support, said: "I will work like a blunt pencil. You may sometimes feel it slow. But a sharpened pencil sometimes gets broken. I will move forward steadily".

On the day of the election, the strong typhoon was gone by the morning. Overwhelming majority voted for Denny. The 394,761 votes he got were the record high in the history of Okinawa's gubernatorial election. Encouraging news follows. At both of the two local elections which followed, the mayoral elections of Tomigusuku, the neighboring city of the prefectural capital Naha on Oct. 14, and of Naha itself on Oct. 21, the "All Okinawa" candidates won the landslide victory over the pro-base candidates.

At his speech in November 2014, when I presented the messages of international support to him, Onaga said that Okinawa, not as a military threat but as a bridge, will serve the purpose of peace connecting Japan and the rest of Asia. I believe that this is a choice to be made not only by Okinawans but now by the whole of the Japanese people. It is time now when we all must struggle like Okinawans.

Read IPB's statement on the gubernatorial elections in Okinawa here: <http://www.ipb.org/news/denny-tamaki-won-the-gubernatorial-elections-in-okinawa-japan/>

Source of picture:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/30/world/asia/okinawa-governor-election-us-base.html>

## **THE ASIA-EUROPE PEOPLE'S FORUM (AEPF): BRINGING TWO CONTINENTS CLOSER TOGETHER**

Asia has recently come more into public focus and the IPB strives towards a closer cooperation with this region. As a parallel event to the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting)-Summit, the Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF) was held from 29<sup>th</sup> of September to 1<sup>st</sup> of October in Ghent, Belgium. We talked to Dong Huy Cong who is a member of AEPF, to learn more about the challenges in the cooperation between Asia and Europe.

### **1. We would like to get a general idea about AEPF. What are the goals of the Asia-Europe People's Forum?**

The Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF) is an inter-regional network of progressive civil society organizations across Asia and Europe, which was first organised in 1996 prior to the ASEM-Summit. The AEPF has remained the only continuing network linking Asian and European NGOs and social movements. It has assumed the unique function of fostering people's solidarity across the two regions and has become a vehicle for advancing the people's voice within Asia-European relations. Since its beginning AEPF has provided a space for social actors in each region to strengthen network building at the national and regional levels in order to:

- Undertake cross-regional initiatives and campaigns;
- Analyse issues of common interest such as security, development and neo-liberal globalization and their impact on peoples in each region and develop and take forward visions and strategies for alternative futures for a more just, equal and inclusive Asia and Europe;

- And provide people's organizations and networks with a channel for constructive engagement with ASEM-member countries.

APEF's goals are contributing to the realization of a world based on the principles of peace, participatory democracy, social and environmental justice, human rights, and people's rights to self-determination; opening up new venues for dialogue, solidarity, and action in an inclusive and democratic way and to building a more inclusive voice, influence and access; and deepening, broadening and strengthening citizens' organizations' capacity to dialogue and engage with local and national level decision makers in ASEM member countries and appropriate regional and sub-regional bodies on just, equal and inclusive social and economic initiatives, policies and alternatives.

### **2. How do you work in order to achieve these goals?**

The AEPF is committed to working in a constructive way with the governments who are members of ASEM to implement people-centred responses to the current crises in an effective and responsible manner. Priority must be given to the poor, excluded and marginalized people and more democratic and accountable institutions must be in place to assure that processes and measures will lead to a just, equal and sustainable world based on respect for gender equality and the promotion and protection of human, economic and socio-cultural rights and environmental security.

The AEPF has enabled wide-ranging and constructive exchanges from representatives, within regions and between Asia and Europe. It has developed and taken forward Peoples' Visions, expressed in its Final Declarations.

The biennial forums in the past years have given priority to issues under the main clusters:

- Trade Justice & Corporate Accountability

- Food Sovereignty & Resources Justice
- Ecological Justice & Just Transition
- Peace and Security
- Democratization & Human Rights
- Social Justice



### 3. *What are your next activities for 2019?*

Normally, in between the biennial People's Forums, AEPF carries out activities and campaigns directed at national governments and constituencies of AEPF member organizations. These campaigns are also directed towards key regional, interregional and global bodies, such as the ASEAN, EU, and ASEM.

For 2019, the Peace and Security Cluster plans to work with the Social Justice Cluster in order to organize a thematic workshop in Nepal in March/April and another one in Europe. Other Clusters will organize activities as well and the IOC will convene a meeting.

### 4. *What do you think about the peace process on the Korean Peninsula?*

We can see that this issue has long been a controversial issue, not only between states but also between people's movements with different perspectives. But things are becoming much better this year. I am quite optimistic about the process with efforts of President Moon Jae-in (Republic of Korea) and Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un (Democratic People's Republic of North Korea) as well as the aspirations of people of the two Koreas, who I think are very closely-connected. I hope they will be working closely together and open doors for cooperation before the reunification (for Vietnam, it took five years 1968-1973 to sign a peace accord, and another two years for reunification 1975). No other opportunity is better than this. One of the issues needed for the process is mutual trust. If they both try their best, things will go faster but if they just promise and "look at each other", nothing will happen.

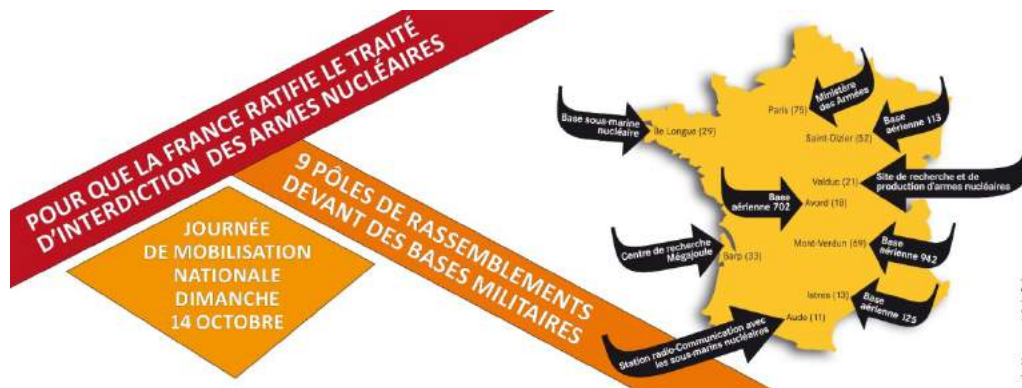
Moreover, in such a complicated and changing world, we understand that the game is not only in the hands of Korea. Super powers are constantly trying to impose their influences in their own interests, that is why the peace process also depends on their policies.

Find the full AEPF12 Ghent Declaration here:

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e415f4\\_a257f65ddd9a1421ebdcda9b0a2485d1f.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e415f4_a257f65ddd9a1421ebdcda9b0a2485d1f.pdf) (The part relevant for IPB is "Peace and Security" and can be found on pages 26-27, or at our homepage:

<http://www.ipb.org/yesterdays-news/asia-europe-peoples-forums-declaration/> )

And visit AEPF's website: <https://www.aepf.info/>



## DAY OF ACTION AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN FRANCE

Report by Alain Rouy



On the 7th of July 2017 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was adopted and opened for signature at United Nations headquarters in New York on 20 September 2017. France is not one of the signatories and therefore Le Mouvement de la Paix, in order to raise awareness and protest this situation, has called for another peace event on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2018.

The event in October was especially aimed to protest the intention of France to modernize and update their sea and air-based nuclear arsenal under the Military Programming Law passed in December 2013. According to a study 76 per cent of the French demand that France should ratify the proliferation treaty. Unfortunately not many of France's citizens are fully aware of the extent of France's nuclear arsenal. Therefore, a much-needed event to raise

awareness was significant. Nine marches and various demonstrations were organised at the "scenes of crime", aka where these inconceivable politics are decided upon (Ministry of defence, think tanks and military bases). 150 organisations participated in the « marche pour la Paix » to which statements from the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, who are the presidents of the "Mayors for Peace", as well as IPB's statement were read aloud. The next events will directly address and contact parliamentarians who decide about the defence budget.

Find more information about Le Mouvement de la Paix here: <https://www.mvtpaix.org/wordpress/>





## INDIAN PEACE ACTIVIST BINALAKSHMI NEPRAM IS AWARDED THE ANNA POLITKOVSKAYA PRIZE

The organization RAW in WAR (Reach All Women in WAR) awarded Binalakshmi Nepram with the Anna Politkovskaya Award on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October of 2018. The award honours women, who stand up for victims in conflict areas and often assume the risk for themselves. Binalakshmi was honoured with IPB's Seán MacBride Peace Prize in 2010.

Ms Binalakshmi Nepram is a writer-activist born in India's north eastern state of Manipur.

In 2004, Ms Nepram co-founded **Control Arms Foundation of India**, the first Indian civil society organization to work on conventional disarmament issues and to make disarmament an issue that is meaningful to people's lives. Three years later, in 2007, she also set up the Manipur **Women Gun Survivors Network** in her home state of Manipur to help women and children affected by gun violence.

Manipur is located at the border of India with Myanmar and is an area hosting numerous indigenous communities and a variety of cultures and religions, which are often repressed by the

Indian State. The armed conflict in the region has remained unrestrained for decades and involves multiple perpetrators of violence. Ms Nepram is also leading the civil society work in India on the issues of landmines, cluster bombs and the International Arms Trade Treaty. She has represented Indian civil society at the United Nations in several fora such as those related to the Control Arms Campaign, disarmament and the Commission on the Status of Women. She has also published several books.

Currently she is seeking safety in exile but continues to advocate for an arms control and the rights of the victims in conflict. The situation of threat and danger for human rights activists in India and other parts of the world remains tragic: the Indian journalist and co-winner of the 2017 Anna Politkovskaya Award, Gauri Lankesh, was assassinated that same year. These courageous women send an important message to authorities in conflict zones and should receive protection and support for their outstanding work for peace.

Find more information about Binalakshmi Nepram and the Anna Politkovskaya Award here: <http://www.rawinwar.org/binalakshmi/>

## IPB CALLS FOR: DEFENDING THE INF TREATY

President Trump's announcement that he plans to withdraw the United States from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty marks a dangerous escalation on the path to creating a 21st century U.S.-Russian Cold War. It again demonstrates that ignorance, the will and need to dominate others and the news cycle, and nuclear weapons make an extremely dangerous cocktail for renewed and extremely dangerous arms racing that endangers human survival.

The Russian military may be in technical violation of the Treaty by testing new medium-range cruise missile (which is yet to be proven.) And a joint

commission is currently discussing possible U.S. violations of the INF Treaty with its deployment of a Missile Defence System in Romania. In these circumstances, as Mikhail Gorbachev stated, Trump's announcement was not the work "of a great mind."

More significantly, as Gorbachev wrote and many in recent years have urged, "with enough political will, any problems of compliance with the existing treaties could be resolved" and "there will be no winner in a 'war of all against all' – particularly if it ends in a nuclear war." We note that Russia's

Foreign Ministry has said that “there is still room for dialogue.” This should encourage popular forces to demand that the U.S. engage in negotiations leading to renewed commitments to the INF Treaty.

The INF Treaty’s entry into force in 1987 marked the end of the Cold War. It provides for elimination and permanent renunciation of future deployment of all US and Russian nuclear and conventional ground-launched cruise and ballistic missiles with ranges of 300 to 3,500 miles. It greatly reduced, but did not completely eliminate, the danger of Europe becoming the primary theatre and victim of a U.S.-Soviet (now Russian) nuclear war.

Abandoning the Treaty, combined with the possible expiration of the New START Treaty if it is not soon extended, will eliminate all nuclear arms agreements between the world’s two largest and most dangerous nuclear powers, opening the way for an unrestrained nuclear arms race. While both great powers dangerously use their nuclear arsenals to reinforce or expand their imperial spheres of influence, nuclear arms racing also increases the dangers of nuclear war as a consequence of accidents and miscalculations.

The decision to abandon the Treaty is apparently an expression of President Trump’s vision of “America First” U.S. world dominance, including the self-defeating campaign to weaken and contain China, as well as his and National Security Advisor John Bolton’s disregard for treaties and international cooperation. While it is a dangerous escalation on its own terms, it builds on two decades of increasingly aggressive U.S. military policies: NATO expansion initiated during the Clinton Administration, withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty by the Bush II-Cheney Administration, the Obama Administration’s commitment to spend \$1.2 trillion to develop a new generation of U.S. nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, deployment of missile defences which Moscow fears could be converted into nuclear-armed first strike missiles, and the decision to deploy upgraded and “more usable” U.S. nuclear weapons to five European NATO nations.

Committed to MAD – Mutually Assured Destruction– President Putin has reiterated Russia’s commitment to maintain the balance of forces with the United States. Nuclear-capable missiles have been deployed to Kaliningrad in the heart of Central Europe. To evade or overwhelm U.S. missile defences, Russia is deploying a new long-range multiple warhead missiles, hypersonic cruise and other missiles capable of flying up to five times the speed of sound, and has pledged the deployment of a nuclear-powered “unmanned underwater vehicle” capable of destroying port cities with nuclear weapons.

The last thing the world needs is a new Cold War that most immediately threatens European life and security and ultimately human survival. We urgently appeal for advocacy and actions calling for negotiations leading to the preservation and reinforcement of the INF Treaty, opposition to the deployment of new nuclear weapons based in or targeted against Europe, adoption of and adherence to no first use doctrines, renewed commitments to fulfilling the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty’s obligation for “good faith” negotiations by the nuclear powers for the elimination of their nuclear arsenals, and for the redirection of funds currently being wasted on preparations for nuclear annihilation to funding essential human needs.

We call on all European countries, and especially NATO member States, to use all political and diplomatic means to defend the INF treaty. They should be working towards removing all nuclear weapons from European soil and joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

We call on the peace movement all over the world: start more and intensive actions for nuclear disarmament, support the TPNW and work towards a world free of all nukes.

Lisa Clark & Reiner Braun

Florence & Berlin, 29th of October 2018

Presidents of the International Peace Bureau

<http://www.ipb.org/ipb-statements/ipb-statement-inf-treaty/>