ACTIVITY REPORT 2020
INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 was a challenge, not only for IPB, but for the whole world. The COVID-19 pandemic imposed significant restrictions on the way we used to work and live, but it also proved that there are more important areas to invest in, like public health and infrastructure. The pandemic proved that the reallocation of money from the military to human is needed more than ever. That is why IPB started an online petition under the title “Healthcare not Warefare”.

To adjust to the new circumstances, the IPB expanded its online means of communication and action. We held several webinars and started to have online meetings instead of our in-person Board, Council or other meetings. This is how IPB engaged people from all around the world, who might not have had the chance to travel for that particular meeting. Another positive side effect of the focus on online communication, is that our Board and Council members met almost every two months and we had regular communication with some of our members, which resulted in common projects such as webinars. The IPB family got truly closer together.

The year 2020 brought also a positive structural change to the IPB. Our Berlin office got the opportunity to be part of the German voluntary service (Bzundesfreiwilligendienst) with the help of our Council members. This gives us the opportunity to work with young and engaged people for a year, to learn from them and to improve with them. The first two volunteers were Sean Conner and Eskil Grav, starting in February/March 2021. Just a few weeks after they started to work with us, the pandemic started, so not only that they had to adjust to a new working environment, but they had to it in the middle of a pandemic. This, however, did not stop them to do great work and be an exceptional help. The IPB became more active during the pandemic, tackled so many issues, managed to adapt to the new circumstances that quickly started preparing the World Congress in 2021, because of the help of Sean and Eskil. In November, Julia Auf dem Brinke joined our office in Berlin too. We are very grateful for the opportunity to be part of the German voluntary service. The first results can already be shown. We hope to continue in the future.

What is IPB?

IPB is a global network of peace groups, with 300 member organisations in 70 countries. The organisation has a democratic structure, with an elected Council and Board. IPB was founded in 1891 to coordinate the work of the world's national peace associations. It is a Nobel Peace laureate (1910), and in addition, thirteen of our officers and staff have won the Nobel Peace Prize over the years.

IPB's long-term goal is a world without war. We see our work as a contribution to the development of a peace-building community, cultivating in all societies the seeds of a culture of peace. While the causes of armed conflict are complex, and the attempts to tackle them very varied, IPB has chosen to focus its efforts in a limited number of areas, of which the main one is Disarmament for Sustainable Development.
NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Nagasaki Day

August 9, 2020 was Nagasaki Day, the 75th anniversary of the USA dropping an atomic bomb on the city. IPB organised, supported and was involved in a number of events to commemorate this.

IPB Co-President, Philip Jennings, addressed attendees at the 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs. Philip reaffirmed IPB’s commitment in solidarity with the Nagasaki people to continue its work of providing education around the devastating impacts of nuclear weapons and advocating for their complete eradication from artillery. To read the full speech, please see the following link: http://www.ipb.org/uncategorized/ipb-co-president-philip-jennings-speaks-to-2020-world-conference-against-a-and-h-bombs/

Peace Wave, September 20-26, 2020

As it is written in the Final Declaration of the World Conference Against A and H Bombs “To move forward towards completely eliminating nuclear weapons, it is of decisive importance to build a majority of opinion in favour of the treaty in the nuclear-armed countries and their allies and press their governments to sign and ratify the treaty with the force of public opinion and movements.”

In recognition of this, a Peace Wave, initiated by Gensuikyo, supported and promoted by IPB, was organised. This entailed a week of actions by all States for on 20 September the United Nations hosted a ceremony where States came to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Peace Wave campaign brought the global trend for a nuclear weapon-free world onto a new stage. As the world is facing wars and conflicts, Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, economic gap, poverty and many other critical problems, it became as urgent as ever to overcome divisions, and stop conflicts, abolish nuclear weapons and ensure that cooperation and solidarity could prevail. IPB wanted to help make the “Peace Wave” a tremendous campaign by which the anti-nuclear movements, in cooperation with all other movements could take the lead in establishing a nuclear weapons-free, peaceful and just world.

Starting from Hiroshima at 8:15 am on Aug. 6, the time the bomb was dropped, waves of many creative forms of actions will encircle the globe westward along with its rotation until 11:02 am on Aug. 9, the time the A-bomb was dropped over Nagasaki.

The Peace Wave was able to be taken up by anyone in any form. From a lone action at home to big demonstrations with tens of thousands of people, including virtual, social network-based events or in-person meetings or marches suited to respective conditions at different places. Participants could prepare and join any activity at any country under any circumstances, making full use of their imagination, creativity and solidarity. It was emphasized that key to success was people’s willingness and actions.

To see which States and associated organisations participated and a full list of actions taken, please refer to the below link: https://www.ipb.org/peace-wave-sept-20-26/

The Vow from Hiroshima

IPB partnered with International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), Hibakusha Stories and International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to fund a 24-hour screening of the film on Nagasaki Day.
Nuke Free Europe

Coming together to express their concern about the global situation which they say is more dangerous than it has ever been due to threats from Nuclear weapons, eight organisations launched the Nuke Free Europe campaign in August 2020.

"The world is at a crossroads and Europe has to make a strategic choice: remain part of the arms race or demonstrate global leadership by promoting a peaceful approach towards common global security".

Initiating organizations include Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, Church and Peace, International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility, International Trade Union Confederation, Pax Christi International and the Quaker Council for European Affairs. The campaign is currently supported by an additional 7 organisations. By the end of 2020 the campaign had received 534 signatories.

The Atomic Bomb on My Back: A Life Story of Survival and Activism

Taniguchi Sumiteru suffered the A-bombing on August 9, 1945 in Nagasaki. He was exposed to the intense heat and blast from behind while delivering mail. It took him 3 years and 7 months before he was finally discharged from the hospital, including 1 year and 9 months, when he had to lie on his stomach, immovable.

Despite heavy injuries and unhealed scars on his body and facing discrimination against the Hibakusha, Taniguchi decided to live on behalf of so many victims who suffered and died without voicing their sorrow or anger and to struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Over the years, he led the Nagasaki A-Bomb Youth and Maidens Association, served as a co-chairperson of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations. He also spoke at a number of international conferences, including the 2010 NPT Review Conference held at the United Nations in New York.

The original Japanese book "Having A-Bomb on My Back" was published in 2014, authored by Hisashi Tomokuni of Nishinippon Shimbunsha, based on his detailed interview with Mr. Taniguchi. After some great efforts by Japanese and American volunteers and peace activists, including Dr. Joseph Gerson of the AFSC and IPB Vice-President , the English version of the book will finally be published on August 9, 2020. They are now asking for donations to raise part of the total cost of $8,000 required for printing, distribution and shipping of the first 500 copies of the book. We would like to ask for your kind support to bring this project into reality, so that Taniguchi Sumiteru’s life story of survival and activism should be known to the world to mobilize global public opinion in favor of abolition of nuclear weapons.

To donate or for more information, visit: https://motion-gallery.net/projects/Taniguchi-Book
Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS), April 13th – May 9th 2020

The Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) is a permanent, global, year round campaign to tackle the worldwide issue of excessive military spending. It was first launched by the IPB in December, 2014.

The launch of GCOMS coincided with the release of a data by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute that revealed that the world’s governments spent over USD 1700 billion on the military sector in 2014 alone. This is money that could instead be spent on creating jobs for young people, feeding the hungry, protecting us all from the effects of climate change, tackling epidemics…and much more. IPB had been and continues to called for annual reallocations of (as a minimum) 10% from the military budgets of all states; and for a process to be started to reduce arms production as well as the international weapons trade.

The Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) builds on over a decade of work done by IPB and others around the theme of ‘Disarmament for Sustainable Development’. It incorporates the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) – now in its 5th year, whose goals it shares and which is also coordinated by the IPB.

IPB’s concept of the 5 Directions would mean that money released from the military budget could be made available to 5 broad alternative areas:

1. Peace: disarmament, conflict prevention and resolution, human security;
2. Sustainable development and anti-poverty programmes;
3. Climate change and biodiversity loss – for mitigation and adaptation;
4. Public services/social justice, human rights, gender equality and green job-creation;
5. Humanitarian programmes to support the most vulnerable groups.

The final statement on the occasion of Global Day of Action on Military Spending 2020 states: Amidst the Covid-19 crisis and the revelation of yet another year of increased global military spending – reaching over US$ 1,920 billion, according to SIPRI figures for 2019 – IPB rallied peace activists and partners around the globe to take part in the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) 2020, from April 10 to May 9. To ensure health and safety, actions took place online through a number of different channels.

In total, 2020 saw more than 300 actions around the world, including:

- Individual and organizational participation in the #MoveTheMoney selfie campaign, in which participants took pictures of themselves with a sign calling for military funds to be moved to other programs – each individual could choose where they believe the money should go.
- Press conferences in more than 10 cities in Asia, Oceana, Europe, and the Americas.

A petition campaign, “Healthcare Not Warfare”, which is still underway in preparation for the next UN General Assembly meeting in the fall. If you have not yet done so, please sign the petition at www.change.org/healthcarenotwarfare.

The development of infographics comparing military and healthcare expenditure drawing attention to the need for a definition of security that reflects the lessons of the coronavirus.

Participation in UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres’ call for a global ceasefire.

The goal of drawing attention to military spending is not limited to GDAMS, however, and the IPB will continue to highlight the dangers and opportunity costs of the excessively high military expenditure. IPB Co-Presidents Lisa Clark and Philip Jennings have shared their thoughts on the end of GDAMS 2020 and what to expect in the coming months and years in a short video, which can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gw8efaNBL7E&lc=Ugxb3tjBHpnYSzTrL4AaABAg

The final report for 2020 can be viewed here: https://demilitarize.org/resources/gdams-2020-final-report/
Spread the Petition “Healthcare Not Warfare”!

IPB would like to thank all our supporters who have signed and shared our petition to the UN General Assembly “Healthcare not Warfare”. This petition shows the wide support for demilitarization and conversion to other sectors, like healthcare, that make the world more secure.

With your help, we’ve reached over 6,000 signatures. However, to send the UNGA a strong mandate, we still need to collect more signatures. We ask you to please share the petition as wide as possible in your circles and ask others to do the same. Together we can show the world the support that exists for demilitarization!

You can find the petition and comments at www.change.org/healthcarenotwarfare

The Opportunity Costs of Military Spending

During GDAMS, IPB ran a webinar titled “The Opportunity Costs of Military Spending: How and Why it’s Time to Rethink our Priorities”. It was directed toward students and young professionals and organized as an active discussion and brainstorming session. Details on military spending in 12 countries were presented to participants who were then tasked with thinking up solutions that could be taken by individuals and groups to combat the continued growth of military spending at the cost of social budgets.

GDAMS workshops

During the Global Days of Action on Military Spending 2020, IPB ran two online webinars.

The first, entitled “The Opportunity Costs of Military Spending: How and Why it’s Time to Rethink our Priorities” was directed toward students and young professionals and organized as an active discussion and brainstorming session. Details on military spending in 12 countries were presented to participants who were then tasked with thinking up solutions that could be taken by individuals and groups to combat the continued growth of military spending at the cost of social budgets.

The second, entitled “Challenging Nuclear Weapons in Europe” was originally designed as a side event to the NPT Review Conference in New York, but moved online due to Covid-19. To see the list of speakers and view the webinar recording, please click here.
Europe Day
On Friday May 9, 2020 Europe Day was celebrated around the continent. In order to mark this day and highlight the unique challenges being posed to Europe during 2020, the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) and the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT) called upon the European Union to fund peace, not arms dealers. Together GCOMS and ENAAT issues a press release titled ‘The way out from the COVID-19 crisis: will the EU work for peace or prepare for war?’.

IPB Youth Network
The Youth Network is affiliated to the IPB, but is not a subordinate organisation and operates independently. It is a loose network of people from every continent working together to build a sustainable, just and peaceful world.

COVID-19 Statement

The statement called for heavy reductions in military spending by governments around the world and supported IPB's campaign, ‘Healthcare, not warfare’. It highlighted the gap in resources and readiness to combat pandemics as showcased by the outbreak, rapid spread of Covid-19 and significant strain this has placed on social infrastructure's and pleaded with governments to learn from these lessons.
Webinars

The IPBYN also held a webinar on August 6 titled 'Civil disobedience against state sanctioned violence and police brutality'. The full webinar recording and detailed description can be found here.

Seán MacBride Peace Prize

The IPB board decided to award the Prize to the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and the International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha.

Black Lives Matter (BLM) is a decentralized human rights Black liberation movement with chapters in the United States, the UK, Canada, and Japan. The BLM Movement advocates for an end to police and other state sponsored violences, abolition of prisons, racial capitalism, and the interlocking social, cultural, and political harms of white supremacy and racism. BLM imagines a world where all Black peoples are free and flourishing in full dignity, self-determination, and power.

The BLM Global Network and its individual chapters have played leading roles in building resistance to and transforming local policies against systemic police violence and extrajudicial murders of Black people across the United States. It has shifted the national narrative, political landscape, and expanded the vision for true democratic possibilities within the United States. Its mission is both specific and universal in that an end to devaluation of Black life everywhere affirms that all people are created as equal and worthy of liberty. Its voice, visibility, and power have commanded international influence, recognition, and solidarity. The BLM movement seeks reparations for wilful and lasting harms caused to African Americans by slavery, and investment in communities—in healthcare, education, economic, housing, and mental health infrastructure and resources.

As a networked movement, BLM also recognizes the need to center the leadership of women, queer and trans people, the economically poor and working class. BLM has made the commitment to placing those historically dehumanized and excluded at the center of building a world in which all Black lives truly matter.

The International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha was launched in April 2016 in the name of prominent Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since its launch, the signature campaign has been supported by a broad range of prominent individuals and organizations, enjoying great support from people across the world. The collected signatures, total 11.843,549 (as of March 31, 2020) making it one of the largest signature campaigns ever carried out in the world and a powerful popular force manifesting global demands for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The signatures have been submitted and acknowledged by the U.N. and NPT PrepCom Chairs.

In addition to worldwide efforts, across Japan signature promotion committees have been established in each of Japan's 47 prefectures, leading to the endorsement of the Appeal by 1263 mayors and governors. On the August 6-9 the 75th anniversary commemorations for the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the “Peace Wave” of international joint actions by grassroots organizations will circle the globe with activities to press for the elimination of nuclear weapons with the Hibakusha Appeal signature campaign serving as the Peace Wave's common action.

IPB Co-President Philip Jennings will address and congratulate the International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the
Hibakusha during the online Peace Wave World Conference on the 9th of August.

The 2020 Sean MacBride Prize winner, Elayne Whyte Gómez, was postponed to 2021 due to restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**OTHER PROJECTS**

**Stop Air Base Ramstein Action Week**

As many other events, the Stop Airbase Ramstein Protest Week was held online this year. However, this did not stop us to join the online actions. One of the actions – the International Congress Against Military Bases and War was a hybrid event. The part that was taking place in person was hosted by IPB.

**4th International Congress Against Military Bases and Wars**

On Friday September 25, the 4th International Congress Against Military Bases and Wars was presented by the campaign Stopp Airbase Ramstein was held. The event was supported by IPB, European Left and No to War, No to NATO.

More than 20 people were present in Berlin and more than 30 online to discuss the current state of military bases around the world and what actions must be taken to combat the growing trends of militarism, confrontation, environmental degradation, and more.

Present in addition to representatives from the Stopp Airbase Ramstein and supporting organisations, were representatives from numerous organisations within the network. These included World Beyond War (USA), All Okinawa Peace Network (Japan), Peacemomo (South Korea), Mouvement de la Paix (France), Code pink (USA), Netzwerk Cuba (Germany), Shannonwatch and Irish Peace and Neutrality Alliance (both Ireland) and Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (UK).

A special focus was given to the protection of the environment and how military bases, war machinery and wars are destroying the environment and the climate.

Key points of the international conference included:

- The actual political situation and relevance of military bases and presence of war machinery in conflict regions worldwide
- What could be done in order to come back to an international policy of cooperation
- Exchange information about the actions against military bases in different countries around the world
- Analysed social movements worldwide in cooperation in our struggle for disarmament
- Coordination agreement on future common actions, specially how to strengthen the international Anti Bases network.

**Fair Share for Children Summit 2020**

On 10 September 2020, IPB Co-President Philip Jennings spoke at the Fair Share for Children Summit 2020, hosted by the Laureates & Leaders for Children. Philip’s speech focused on the increased vulnerability of children on the move – particularly in the context of war and the Covid-19 crisis. It reinforced the call for a global ceasefire and a redirection of spending from the military to caring for the most vulnerable children.

**WEBINARS**

**Black Lives Matter**

(IPB), the Campaign For Peace, Disarmament & Common Security (CPDCS), and Peace Action invited three racial justice and peace movement leaders to provide background about the institutional racism and structural violence that led to George Floyd's murder, as well as the massive resistance to racism and police brutality. The webinar was attended by more than 120 participants and viewers of the live stream. To see the list of speakers and view the webinar recording, please click here.

The Extreme Right and Militarization in Latin America

On the 28th of May, Dr. Pedro Páez Pérez, professor at the Central University of Ecuador and specialist on economic development and the political economy, joined IPB to discuss contemporary Latin American politics with particular attention to the ascension of far-right forces to power and their role in the militarization of the region. In recent years, Latin American politics has shifted and brought to power far-right leaders. A central aspect of these politicians’ platforms has been a glorification of national militaries and policies of confrontation. Such positions highlight the increasing militarization of the region. Dr. Páez will cover these developments and provide insights into what this means for the future of the region. The presentation was followed by a discussion with almost 30 participants.

To see the list of speakers and view the webinar recording, please click here.

The Colombian Peace Agreement: Where Are We Today?

On the 2nd of July the IPB held a webinar on the Colombian Peace Agreement, and where we are today. Many have questioned the peace deal’s survival since President Iván Duque Márquez’s ascension to power in 2018. Further attention will be given to the recent deployment of US troops to Colombia and its effect on relations with Venezuela.

Finally, there as a discussion on the role of the international peace movement in the peace process. Participants also had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the topic with the speakers. To see the list of speakers and view the webinar recording, please click here.

The History of the Peace Movement and the International Peace Bureau (Two-Part Webinar Series)

IPB presented a two-part webinar series to explore the past two centuries of peace movement activities, including the role of the IPB, which was founded in 1891.

In the first session, speakers Guido Grünewald and David Cortright discussed the peace movement of the 19th century and early 20th century, leading up to the First World War. Special attention was given to the role of the IPB prior to, during, and upon the conclusion of World War I. The presentation then turned to the interwar period, the Second World War, and the years immediately following the war.

In the second session, Colin Archer and Reiner Braun outlined the developments in the peace movement during the Cold War period with video contributions from activists who were involved in protests in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s in different countries. The webinar continued with the post-Cold War adaptation of the peace movement and present the modern context in which peace movements operate.

Both webinars presented opportunities for questions and comments from the participants. To see the list of speakers and view the webinar recording, please click here.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

The IPB BOARD gathered several times through video conferences. Physical board meetings were not possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

NEWSLETTER: Our main networking tool: IPB News (monthly) carries vital information and opinion on all aspects of Disarmament for Sustainable Development work, plus nuclear and other topics.

WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA: Maintaining our two websites and their corresponding Facebook (facebook.com/ipb1910), Twitter and Instagram pages (@IntlPeaceBureau) is vitally-important work. Readers are encouraged to consult them on a regular basis: www.ipb.org www.demilitarize.org
STATEMENTS

Despite the difficulties the year 2020 given by the global pandemic, the world did not stop. The IPB felt the need to express its opinion on certain events in statements. Some of them are tied to very pleasant event, like the 50th ratification of the TPNW. Below is a list of all issued statements. Just click on the title and you will be redirected to the text of the statement on our website.

No to war against Kurds | IPB - International Peace Bureau

Nobel Peace Prize 2019 for Reconciliation | IPB - International Peace Bureau

No to War – Statement on the U.S. Assassination of General Soleimani EN/FR | IPB - International Peace Bureau

Call to the G20 to Invest in Healthcare Instead of Militarization | IPB - International Peace Bureau

IPB Statement: Reaction to the Newest SIPRI Figures | IPB - International Peace Bureau

GCOMS/ENAAT Press Release: Fund Peace, Not Arms Dealers | IPB - International Peace Bureau

PETITIONS

Healthcare not Warfare

No sanctions against the Gaeseong Industrial Complex (GIC)!

The Korea Peace Appeal

Nuke Free Europe
IPB STAFF MEMBERS 2020

Berlin
• Amela Skiljan – Coordinator
• Reiner Braun – Executive Director

Barcelona
• Jordi Calvo – Vice-President
• Quique Sánchez – Coordinator
• Pere Brunet – Consultant
• Pere Ortega – Consultant
• Chloé Meulewaeter – Consultant
• Martí Rojas – Project Coordinator
• Arés Perceval – Project Coordinator

Geneva
• Arielle Denis – Consultant

IPB VOLUNTEERS/INTERNS

Berlin Office (BFD)
• Sean Connor
• Eskil Grav
• Julia Auf dem Brinke

Barcelona Office Interns
• Gilles Gounongbé
• Roger Mazariegos
• Sara García

Barcelona Office Volunteers
• Francesca Montagnari
• Tània Ferré
• Marc Enzo Belligoi
IN MEMORIAM

During 2020, we lost three important members of the IPB family. Lina, Goran and John each made valuable contributions to both IPB and their respective fields. We remember them fondly.

Lina Ben Mhenni 22/05/1983 - 27/01/2020
Lina Ben Mhenni was internationally recognized for her work during the 2011 Tunisian revolution, and was awarded the Seán MacBride Peace Prize in 2012

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Goran Bubalo 25/01/1972 - 09/06/2020
Goran Bubalo was an activist deeply committed to peace every single day of his life. He was the chair of the Bosnian Network for Building Peace, an active member of IPB. With his great help, we managed to arrange the international Sarajevo Peace Event in 2014.

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John Hume 18/01/1937 – 03/08/2020
IPB awarded John the Sean MacBride Peace Award in 1998. As a Member of the European Parliament he had been able to harness its influence and prestige in support of the Irish peace process.

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