



# IPB News

*WWW: Working for a World Without War*

International Peace Bureau

September 17<sup>th</sup> 2009

## **IPB Annual Conference - Washington D.C., Nov 14-18: REGISTRATION OPEN !**

We are at a time of crisis and opportunity. This conference, co-organized with Peace Action, America's largest grassroots peace network, is an invitation to engage in a strategic process, to examine our campaigning priorities and options, to explore new ways to challenge the militarism we see around us, and to build international connections and partnerships. Theme: *Rolling back militarism: a task for the global movement*. The programme includes a central conference and a day-seminar on military spending, plus the annual IPB Council meeting and a planning session for the NPT Review next May. It will also be the occasion for the award of the IPB's annual Sean MacBride Peace Prize. The conference flyer and a news update are available at the IPB website. Detailed programme to follow soon. Registration is NOW OPEN: [https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/161/l/eng/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event\\_KEY=54100](https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/161/l/eng/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=54100)

## **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 (totalling \$1464 billion in 2008); 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 media programme. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

## **Global Youth Campaign on Disarmament for Shared Security: Religions for Peace**

Religions for Peace, the largest international coalition of representatives from the world's great religions dedicated to promoting peace, is launching a *Global Youth Campaign on Disarmament for Shared Security*, supported also by IPB. The inauguration of the campaign will take place on November 7-9, 2009 in San José, Costa Rica. The goal of the campaign is to gather religious youth leaders from all over the world and to plan how to engage communities, international organizations, governments, media, and other members of civil society in promoting the abolition of nuclear weapons, stopping the proliferation and misuse of conventional weapons and reducing military spending. Here are the draft of the [campaign's program](#), the [concept](#) and the [fact sheet](#) .

## **Military Spending**

### **U.S. a global leader in weapon sales**

The annual report made by the Congressional Research Service shows that weapon sales agreements signed by the U.S. in 2008 equalled \$37.8 billion, which makes it a global leader in arms sales and also in sales to developing countries. The rise in the U.S. arms sales is particularly noticeable as the total global arm sales for 2008 equalled \$55.2 billion and showed a drop of 7.6 percent as compared to sales in 2007. More at:

### **The end of funding for the F-22 programme**

In July 2009 the US Senate voted to cut \$1.75 billion funding for the F-22 Fighter programme. The argument for ending the program, given by the Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, was that F-22 is no longer suitable for the type of warfare the U.S. is engaged in. Cancelling the program was a long process and senators' opinions were divided. It is a small but significant step in cutting wasteful military spending, which seemed impossible, and could mean a new stage in the U.S. defense politics. However, it could also mean that F-22 may be replaced by a newer model, like the F-35. For more please go to:

<http://www.campusprogress.org/fieldreport/4538/what-the-death-of-the-f-22-really-means>

### **Emerging Latin American Arms Race reliant on European weapons**

According to statistics from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Latin American defence spending increased by 50 percent between 1999 and 2008. At the same time Europe and Russia, rather than the U.S., are becoming the main suppliers of military hardware to Latin American countries. On September 7, 2009, Brazil announced plans to buy French fighter jets worth \$4 billion in addition to five French submarines and 50 military transport helicopters it purchased in December 2008. Brazil favoured France's Rafale jets over the US F/A-18 Super Hornet and Sweden's Gripen NG as Sarkozy guaranteed to share all military technology with Brazil. The technology used in both F/A-18 and Gripen NG depends on the approval from Washington which vetoed transactions, it didn't agree with, in the past. After U.S. imposed an arms embargo on Venezuela in 2006, Chavez turned to Russia and China to buy fighter jets, military helicopters, missile launchers and rifles worth \$4.4 billion. Peru has Russian and French fighter aircrafts in its air force, German submarines and French, German, Italian and Russian armoured vehicles in its army, in addition to American ones. Colombia and Chile also turn to Germany and France for military supplies. More at:

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\09\09\story\\_9-9-2009\\_pg4\\_8](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\09\09\story_9-9-2009_pg4_8)

### **Pentagon to speed up deployment of Bunker Buster Bomb**

The Pentagon is trying to accelerate the deployment of 30,000-pound Massive Ordnance Penetrator, known as MOP. The MOP will be the biggest conventional bomb that the U.S. has had, with an ability to reach 200 meters underground before exploding. If the Congress designates enough money for the project, the deployment will take place before July 2010. The reasons for the accelerated deployment, as given by the U.S., are the perceived nuclear threats from North Korea and Iran.

For more, please read:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0213354020090802>

### **The growing number of US military bases**

Recently, the U.S. has been trying to expand its military bases and to gain access to new territories, despite the fact that it already has 900 military facilities in 46 countries and more than 190,000 troops. The land and buildings that the military owns is estimated to be worth \$146 billion. Currently, the U.S. military officials are negotiating access to the Pacific islands with an intention to use the land as a training area. The purpose of many facilities is offensive rather than defensive and acquiring new land for military bases often involves eviction of local residents and destruction of their land, as in the case of rice farmers in Camp Humphreys, South Korea. The bases have huge political, economical and environmental effects on local communities including violence against residents, pollution and interference in local affairs. Read more at:

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2009/07/30-3>

### **A world in need: the case for sustainable security**

Paul Rogers, in his article *A world in need: the case of sustainable security*, published at <http://www.opendemocracy.net>, suggests that in the face of current world crises, the concept of security should be reanalyzed for it to lead to a more sustainable world. He points to the fact that while Western Europe started reducing its military spending and focused more on healthcare and education, Eastern Europe's military spending increased by 143 % between 1999-2008. Considering Britain's and France's military budget crises in the near future and the controversy over wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, a security analysis should be conducted by independent research organizations such as The Oxford Research Group.

## Tom Hayden's petition for Congress not to fund sending more troops to Afghanistan

Tom Hayden, veteran US politician and activist, is appealing to the Congress to vote 'No' to sending troops to Afghanistan. According to Robert Greenwall's documentary *Rethink Afghanistan, Part 6*, American military interventions in Afghanistan increase the chances that more American civilians will be killed in a future terrorist attack. The Pentagon also estimates that another 1000 American soldiers will die in the next two years in Afghanistan and an additional \$130 billion is going to be soon spent on wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Hayden's petition calls on the American government to withdraw troops and focus on providing humanitarian aid instead. The petition can be signed here <http://gopetition.com/online/30533.html> and the documentary *Rethink Afghanistan, Part 6* can be watched at: <http://rethinkafghanistan.com/>

## Nuclear Disarmament

### World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs

2009 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs took place from August 2 to 9, 2009 in Japan. It was a great success, achieving its role of being a springboard for actions aimed at creating a nuclear weapon-free world toward the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Participated in by some 10,000 people, including 73 overseas delegates from 24 countries, 230 participants in the International Meeting, 2,000 people in the Hiroshima Day Rally and 7,800 people in the World Conference - Nagasaki, the conference was filled with hope and will to act to rid our world of nuclear weapons. One more promising sign was that more than half of the participants were young people of mainly in their 20s.

Here is the [Declaration of the International Meeting](#) adopted on Aug. 5, and the [Letter from Nagasaki](#) to Governments of All Nations adopted by the Closing Plenary on Aug. 9 in Nagasaki.

### UN Conference on disarmament

A three-day UN conference on disarmament was held in Niigata, Japan, from 26 to 28 August, 2009. The conference gathered government officials and academics from 21 countries such as the U.S., France, Japan, China, Germany and the Middle-East. The conference focused on how to put the visions of a nuclear free world into concrete actions such as reducing nuclear arms, executing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and negotiating Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT). Other issues that were addressed during the conference included the elimination of nuclear arms in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region (particularly North Korea) and the role of media and civil society in disarmament. The Niigata conference preceded the UN Security Council meeting, chaired by President Obama, scheduled for September 24, 2009 and next year's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference that will take place in May in New York. For more information on the conference please visit:

<http://www.ipseurope.org/news/news.php?key1=2009-08-31%2018:02:18&key2=1>

## The Central Committee of World Council of Churches meeting

The Central Committee of World Council of Churches met in Geneva from August 26 to September 2, 2009 and issued a statement on a nuclear free world. In the statement, the Committee urges the international community to participate in the coming events related to peace and disarmament such as the International Day of Peace on September 21 and others. It also calls on governments and especially nuclear weapon states to actively engage in disarmament, and invites churches and their members to urge political leaders in their countries to participate. For more:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/central-committee/geneva-2009/reports-and-documents/report-on-public-issues/statement-on-a-nuclear-free-world.html>

## NGOs address the Conference on Disarmament

In 2004, the 65-member Conference on Disarmament agreed that after the adoption of a programme of work, they would allow one informal session for an NGO presentation. See the decision here: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/cd/ngoaccess.html>.

As a result of the adoption (though not implementation) of a programme of work on 29 May, after many years of stalemate, it was finally possible for the NGO community to make a formal statement to the conference. This small but historic step took place on Tuesday 8th Sept. 2009. The talk was entitled *New Cooperation in the CD: Doing What Our Times Demand*, and was delivered by Susi Snyder, President, Geneva NGO Committee for Disarmament.

Full text here: <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/disarmament/8sept09CD.html>

For more information on the work of the CD, including other ways NGOs can get involved, please see: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/cd/cdindex.html>

## 2010 walk to the United Nations for the NPT

Footprints for Peace is preparing for the 2010 walk to the United Nations for the NPT (Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty) and is calling on all anti-nuclear activists to join it on a walk from the Y-12 nuclear weapons facility in Tennessee to the UN in New York. The organization has been organizing similar walks since 2005. To see the flyer please click [HERE](#). To visit the website go to: [www.footprintsforpeace.net](http://www.footprintsforpeace.net)

## Creation of top level disarmament group

The Top Level Group of UK Parliamentarians for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was created on September 9, 2009. The group includes former Labour ministers Des Browne, Margaret Beckett, John Reid and Lord Robertson; senior Conservatives Malcolm Rifkind and Michael Ancram; and three former chiefs of the defense staff, General Lord Guthrie, Field Marshal Lord Inge and Admiral Lord Boyce. Liberal Democrat peer Shirley Williams, an expert in this area, will also be a part of it. The creation of the formation was welcomed by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament <http://www.cnduk.org/index.php/20090909764/press-releases/global-abolition/cnd-welcomes-new-top-level-disarmament-group.html>.

The main goal of the newly created group is to gain European support and agreement on a withdrawal of 200 U.S. nuclear weapons from Europe. More on the group and related topics at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/sep/08/nuclear-disarmament-cross-party-group> and

[http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20090908\\_6698.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20090908_6698.php),

<http://embassymag.ca/page/printpage/disarmament-9-9-2009>

## Weapons and their effects

### DSEi fair in London and a call for closer arms control

One of the largest arm fairs took place at the ExCel Centre in London's Docklands from September 8 to September 11, 2009. The fair was supported by the British government, which opened the Defence and Security Organisation in 2008 to promote arms exports and help private companies sell arms. Fairs like DSEi have a great impact on the global arms trade, which leads to human

rights abuses, conflicts and deepens poverty. The Campaign Against Arms Trade organized a peaceful demonstration during the fair and is petitioning to end the DSEi and government's support for it. It encourages other organizations to add their names to the [DSEi petition](#).

In the meantime the **Committee on Arms Export Controls**, which consists of senior members of the British parliament, calls for a closer inspection and review of export arm licences. A report confirmed by the British government revealed that the weapons used by Israel in the Gaza conflict had British components. The Committee also suspects that the UK weapons exported to Sri Lanka might have been used against civilians in 2006. The report calls for the British government to create a register of UK arms brokers, trade control licences for British citizens engaged in the arms trade and for a closer cooperation with NGOs for a better control of the arms export industry. To read more please go to:

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/europe/2009/08/200981915830165247.html>

### Landmines - regional conference in South Africa

The Third Continental Conference of African Experts on Landmines took place in Pretoria, South Africa, on September 9-11, 2009. During the conference, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines called on the African Union members to increase their efforts to remove landmines from the African continent and to respect the rights of landmine survivors. Landmines are still present in many African states, such as Chad, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Senegal and Mozambique affecting the daily lives of communities. More here [Press release on Landmines](#)

### Disarm Domestic Violence campaign

IANSA Women's Network has launched an international campaign named *Disarm Domestic Violence*. Its main goal is to ensure that anyone with a history of domestic abuse is denied access to firearms or has their licence revoked. As stated in a recent IANSA bulletin: "Of the nearly 900 million small arms in the world today, 75% are in the hands of private individuals – most of them men". To learn more about the campaign and how to get involved, please visit:

<http://webmail.ipb.org/IClient/Download.aspx?MailboxName=INBOX&SequenceNumber=551205399&FileName=en-wn-bulletin19-web.pdf&PartReference=2&Encoding>

### Other news

### International Day of Peace, September 21

There are only a few days left until the International Day of Peace, celebrated worldwide. The UN established the Day in 1981 to take place every year during its opening session and in 2001 it chose September 21st as a fixed date. It is an important day to remind the world about the significance of peace, conflict prevention, to put more pressure on political leaders, governments, international organizations, and to call for a 24-hour ceasefire. Last year there were 10,000 events around the world sponsored by different organizations which involved 200 million people. They included educational activities and volunteer programs; government proclamations, media events, and many types of activities by human rights, environmental, cultural and civic groups. Noted celebrities as well as religious and government leaders spoke out on this occasion. There were vigils, performances, workshops, ceremonies, fundraising events, peace parties, community service projects, exhibits and much more. This year there will be large celebrations in cities such as Sydney, Okinawa, Beijing, Amsterdam, Tehran, Geneva, Paris, London, New York, Montreal, Havana, Buenos Aires, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Calgary, Honolulu and many more. There will also be a 24-Hour World Peace Celebration and Global Internet Broadcast at: [http://cultureofpeace.org/cpi\\_projects\\_blog/24-hour-world-peace-celebration](http://cultureofpeace.org/cpi_projects_blog/24-hour-world-peace-celebration)

Everyone can contribute by either joining in the UN's minute of silence or create their own events. For more information please visit: <http://internationaldayofpeace.org/> and <http://www.peaceoneday.org>

The following events will take place in Geneva:

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm-5 pm - Expert meeting on peace and disarmament as solidarity rights, Room XXII

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 3pm - 5:45pm - Official commemoration, organized by AEDIDH, UNESCO and the NGO liaison of the UN Office of the Director General, Council Chamber

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2pm-4pm - Celebration organized by Graines de Paix which will take place in Parc Bertrand and include games, workshops, performances and other activities.

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:45 am- Breakfast and forum to celebrate the International Day of Peace organized by Association One4All will take place in Hotel de la Paix. Here is [the program](#) and the [invitation card](#).

Local Swiss groups are organising a two week programme of events: <http://www.paix-nonviolence.ch/>

For more events related to the IDP please see [HERE](#).

## Costa Rica to have the first Ministry of Peace in Latin America

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 marked an important date in the history of Costa Rica as its congress passed a legislative amendment that renamed its Ministry of Justice and Grace into the Ministry of Justice and Peace. The amendment allows the creation of the National System for Promotion of Peace and Citizen Coexistence. The System's main objective is to promote a culture of peace and programmes related to it, and to support organizations that advocate for peace and non-violence. The law will be submitted to the President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias Sánchez, for approval.

Read more at <http://www.pressenza.com/npermalink/first-ministry-of-peace-in-latin-america-to-be-created-in-costa-rica>

## 2009 International Institute on Peace Education

The International Institute on Peace Education took place between July 26 and August 2, 2009 in Budapest, Hungary. It was co-organized by the IIPE secretariat and the EJBO Foundation with the support and sponsorship of UNESCO and the Center for Nonviolence and Democratic Education of the University of Toledo, Ohio. The theme of IIPE was "Human Rights Learning as Peace Education: Pursuing Democracy in a Time of Crisis". The IIPE gathered peace educators from 28 countries. More on this and many other projects and activities at: <http://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/newsletter/index.html>

## Resources

### New IPB Brochure on Arms Trade

We are happy to announce the publication of a new IPB brochure entitled: *The Arms Trade: How it works - How it undermines development - Getting it under control*. Written by IPB staffer Alicia Dueck, it serves as a useful introduction to the complex issues relating to the arms trade. The text links the issue closely to IPB's main programme Disarmament for Development. It has a useful listing of NGOs and institutes working on the problem, and some useful 'quick facts' and charts. The publication was launched at the recent meeting of the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT) in Barcelona. Available on line at [www.ipb.org](http://www.ipb.org) or as hard copies by post from IPB secretariat (please send contribution to cover costs, such as 50 CHF/30 Euro for 10 copies). Please distribute this information widely.

### Launch of "Banning Cluster Munitions"

A new report released detailing how the policy ban on cluster mines, through the 2006 "Oslo Process", was successful through cooperative efforts of committed States, NGOs, international organizations and civil society. The [report](#), released on May 29, 2009 also serves to show the evolution of cluster munitions policy in 150 countries.

### Housmans World Peace Database - now on line

The website of the long-established Housmans Peace Resource Project houses an on-line version of the Housmans World Peace Database. It has over 3000 addresses - a vital resource for all peace workers! More information on <http://housmans.info/wpd/>

### Silent Bombs for the Motherland documentary

A documentary made by Gerald Sperling entitled *Silent Bombs: All for the Motherland* shows devastating and long lasting consequences of nuclear testing on population of the town of Semey in Kazakhstan and many generations to come. It also discusses the denial and lack of responsibility by the Russian government. The film can be watched at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aUVQiKVKJQ&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fenglish.aljazeera.net%2Fprogrammes%2Fwitness%2F2009%2F08%2F20098273257926312.html&feature=player\\_embedded#t=7](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aUVQiKVKJQ&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fenglish.aljazeera.net%2Fprogrammes%2Fwitness%2F2009%2F08%2F20098273257926312.html&feature=player_embedded#t=7)  
[2http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/witness/2009/08/20098273257926312.html](http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/witness/2009/08/20098273257926312.html)

### Disarmament: Basic Guide

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs has a new publication *Disarmament: Basic Guide* that is available in English and Spanish and can be accessed at:

<http://www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/AdhocPublications/>

### NATO's new policy on combating WMD proliferation

On August 31, 2009 NATO published a new policy to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The document, supported by Heads of State and Government at the Summit in Strasbourg/Kehl in April 2009, is the new foundation for NATO's activities related to weapons of mass destruction. To read the policy, please go to: [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-0BBBB2E4-573A5588/natolive/official\\_texts\\_57218.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-0BBBB2E4-573A5588/natolive/official_texts_57218.htm)

### ICBL Newsletter

International Campaign to Ban Landmines has published the September issue of their newsletter, which appears quarterly. The latest issue focuses on the Cartagena Summit, which will be an opportunity for states to show their commitment to Mine Ban Treaty. It also contains a report about the situation of landmine survivors titled *Voices from the ground* and articles on the landmine situation worldwide. The newsletter has a colourful format and abounds in photographs related to the discussed topics. Please visit [www.icbl.org](http://www.icbl.org)

### Calendar

Click [here](#) for IPB's international events calendar. For disarmament events, go to the comprehensive Disarmament Calendars of UN and other inter-governmental, grassroots and civil society events in key cities compiled by the [Geneva Forum](#) and by [Reaching Critical Will](#).

*If you have reports of activities that are relevant to this newsletter please email them to the Secretariat.*

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