



**IPB**  
International  
Peace Bureau

# *Newsletter*

September 2017



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Introduced by the German Trade Union, today and since 1957, the 1<sup>st</sup> of September is celebrated as “anti-war day” in Germany. Marking the beginning of World War II, the 1<sup>st</sup> of September was the day Germany invaded Poland in 1939.

Over 160 different actions are taking place today across the country - wide to remember what began 78 years ago. All actions taken – regardless of its form and amount of people participating – hold one common message: “No more war”.

Soon, we shall celebrate the International Day for Peace on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, an occasion we hope, for us to stand once more together and fight for a world without war.



© Flickr, Kevin Dooley

In this September’s newsletter, we have wanted to inform you more about the World Conference Against A and H Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki that took place last August. Our Co-President Lisa Clark was present and reports here about her wonderful experience.

From the adoption of the Nuclear Ban Treaty last July, we are one more step forward towards a world without nuclear weapons. However, the importance of remembering the catastrophic consequences of atomic bombing and of honouring the victims of these attacks is still so prominent. Now is the time for us to put all of our efforts together and achieve that as many states as possible sign and ratify the Treaty.

Furthermore, this month, the world-spread anti-nuclear weapons movement lost two of its most brilliant activists: Tony de Brum and Taniguchi Sumiteru. Both will be deeply missed but in their names, we shall follow their mission and continue to strive for a world free of nuclear weapons.

You will find in this newsletter a short presentation of a wonderful success story of how students have helped other student refugees to join their institution.

Finally, this newsletter will also serve as an invitation from us to many several important upcoming events.

We hope you enjoy,

With our warmest regards,

Amela Skiljan



## **THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST A AND H BOMBS**

*Organized By Ipb Member Organization Gensuikyo In Hiroshima And Nagasaki  
From 1 To 9 August 2017*

*By Lisa Clark*

*(IPB Co-President; attended the conference)*

Ten thousand people, activists from every Prefecture in Japan, attended the World Conference against A and H bombs this year in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. What enthusiasm, what incredible participation! Not just a conference, with delegates, speeches and final declarations, but a heart-warming happening, that filled us all with new energy. Very serious scholarship, in-depth political analyses and a wealth of proposals for action, but in a setting of shared commitment, of profound solidarity and common responsibilities. Thank you, Gensuikyo!

In Hiroshima, the three days of the International Meeting – that brought together 96 overseas delegates from 21 countries – offered us the perfect opportunity to look in detail at every aspect of the Ban Treaty, as well as to exchange all our different opinions on the consequences that its approval will have for the world movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons we all contribute to. In my speech (which I had been asked to prepare well in advance, <http://www.ipb.org/yesterdays-news/hiroshima-world-conference-speech/>) I underscored the main elements I found most interesting in the process leading to the

negotiating conference and in the actual text: the role of civil society acting in alliance with governments, on an equal footing; the relaunching of the unique role of the United Nations and its main interest in negotiating disarmament agreements, breaking the current stalemate, and going back to its original mission. But I also pointed out that the Ban Treaty does not – on its own - eliminate nuclear weapons: if we are to properly reap the benefits of the treaty we need to get to work right away, encouraging States to sign and ratify, informing citizens of umbrella States so that they can exercise pressure on their governments to join the Ban Treaty process; and ultimately create a sufficient groundswell in nuclear-armed countries to force them to take action along the lines demanded by their citizens. Most of these points were of course also stressed by many other speakers in the three main sessions. All speeches can be read at [http://www.antiatom.org/english/world\\_conference/](http://www.antiatom.org/english/world_conference/)



[news/1724/](#)), building on our collective analysis of the treaty's content and taking into consideration the many proposals that came out of the discussion in our plenary sessions. The one that most urgently requires our combined effort is the Global Peace Wave, a week of simultaneous actions between 20 and 26 September. (<http://bit.ly/2x0fRqy>)

Once we moved to Nagasaki, I was able to get a clearer picture of the Japanese people's enthusiastic participation in the Conference organized by Gensuikyo. Thousands and thousands of delegates, families, schools, trade unions, local peace committees, all travelling to be together at such an important event: it is organized every year, but in this 2017 there was a very special reason to be even more excited! And also more determined. The approval of the Ban Treaty on 7 July was indeed a historic event for the citizens of the only A-bombed country. Nevertheless, the dismay at the lack of participation in the process of the Japanese government was just as strong! Speaker after speaker said we must convince the Japanese government to join this process; and if this government will not be convinced, then we have no choice, we must put all our efforts into changing the government!

The organizers did a great job in inviting international representatives: Martin Kruger, Deputy head of the Disarmament department of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, was with us the entire time, to remind us not only of the role that Austria played throughout the Humanitarian Initiative process that led to the treaty negotiating conference, but also to pledge the support of Austria in our future steps. I was personally moved by Nakamitsu Izumi, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs: at the opening plenary in Nagasaki she told us that she felt very emotional at being able to talk about steps towards total nuclear disarmament in her native country and in her native language!

On the morning of the closing plenary in Nagasaki on 9 August, the news had just reached us of Trump's "Fire and Fury" declaration against North Korea. Those of us who were most immediately involved (US and Korean citizens) took to the stage and Joseph Gerson read a statement harshly criticizing this reckless provocative posturing by the US President (<http://bit.ly/2vom0Ns>).

Throughout the great experience of this World Conference, and the events before and after, the role of the Hibakusha was stressed and underscored time and again: it has been thanks to their untiring efforts that we have achieved the approval of the Ban Treaty, adopted by 122 States. The Hibakushas are getting older, yet remain an inspiration for us all, with their energy and determination. We heard also from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Hibakushas, as well as from a small group of very active 72-year-olds that I had never come across before: the Hibakushas *in utero*, and several of them accompanied the entire Conference, sharing their testimonies with us. The other group that was held in high esteem throughout the Conference, constantly shown respect and support by all, were the displaced people from Fukushima: the entire Conference pledged to work towards the elimination of nuclear power as well. We heard testimonies from survivors and witnesses of nuclear testing, especially from the Marshall Islands and Australia. One further group was ever present and given the solidarity and support of the entire Conference: the social movements from Okinawa who have long campaigned and mobilized against the US bases on that island. A full-day parallel Special Solidarity Meeting was held on 8 August, where Joseph Gerson was one of the main speakers, but I shall write more about Okinawa in another article, since after Nagasaki both Joe and I travelled to Okinawa to meet with some of the activists and anti-bases movements that have been struggling for years against the militarization of that island.



I had been asked to speak as the last member of the overseas delegations in the closing plenary in Nagasaki on actions for a nuclear weapon free world. In my speech (<http://www.ipb.org/yesterdays-news/2017-world-conference-against-a-and-h-bombs-nagasaki-closing-plenary/>) I tried to summarize the richness of the experience and the proposals that had come out of the seven days of plenaries, workshops, meetings ... and parties! One point we all agreed on is that our work has just begun: as Joseph said, "Let's congratulate ourselves for the approval of the Ban Treaty and get straight back to work!" You will find the list of actions we have undertaken to work towards in the Hiroshima Joint Declaration (<http://www.ipb.org/yesterdays-news/1724/>), and let me urgently point out that our first commitment is towards the week of action which some of us have called the Global Peace Wave, starting on 20 September when the Ban Treaty is opened for signature at the UN, and through to the 26 September, the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Gensuikyo is going to lead in launching the actions, but each one of us must participate with projects in our own countries. The IPB has pledged to assist in the networking among all organizations and movements promoting actions leading to a Nuclear Weapon Free World! (<http://bit.ly/2x0fRqy>)



## STRATEGY MEETING ON GCOMS 2018

Dear colleagues, dear friends

The Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) is an international campaign that was founded in December 2014 and has since been widely promoted by the International Peace Bureau. Its main aim is to reduce global military spending thanks to the cooperative works of organisations of civil society. To this day, more than 100 organizations from 35 different nations have joined the campaign.

The GCOMS is run by a steering group of activists from around the world, and is coordinated by the Centre of Peace Studies J.M.Delàs in Barcelona, a decentralized office of the IPB.

For your information, a list of GCOMS 2017 activities and achievements is available here: <http://demilitarize.org/gdams-2017/>

Recent decisions related to military spending such as the push at the last NATO Summit in

Brussels for each member state to apply 2% of their GDP on military spending, or the US's decision to increase its military budget by \$54 Billion, are urging us to reflect and take action. We therefore are aiming to make the GCOMS' activities in 2018 greater in quantity and quality.

We would like to invite you to our Strategic Meeting on GCOMS's activities in 2018 that will take place on September 12th 2017 in Brussels. Below you will find the programme.

The goal of the meeting will be to discuss recent developments concerning military spending on one hand, and on the other to coercively decide what next steps we could and should take. It will be a great opportunity to meet each other in person again and to unite around common activities.

Our aims are not only raising awareness about military spending, but also encourage individuals and organisations to take actions

against it. Let's make sure our voices and arguments against military spending are heard.

Feel free to forward this invitation to all colleagues and friends, who might be interested in the topic and event. We are

looking forward to meeting you and putting together all of our brilliant ideas!

Kind Regards,  
Reiner Braun, *IPB Co-President*  
Lisa Clark, *IPB Co-President*  
Jordi Calvo, *GCOMS Coordinator*

<p><b>PROGRAMME</b></p> <p><b>Welcome by Reiner Braun (IPB)</b></p> <p><b>Welcome by the host (Pax Christi International)</b></p> <p><b>"The actual challenges of military spending"</b> by <b>Aude Fleurant (SIPRI)</b> via video</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><b>GCOMS successes and future planes</b> by <b>Jordi Calvo (IPB)</b></p> <p><b>Inputs from the participating organisations/individuals</b></p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p><b>DATE</b>                        <b>12 Sept 2017</b></p> <p><b>VENUE</b>                        <b>MIRRE Zaal Pax Christi International Rue du Progrès 323 1030 Brussels, Belgium</b></p> <p><b>TIME</b>                             <b>11 am – 5 pm</b></p> <p><b>REGISTRATION</b>            <b><a href="mailto:info@ipb-office.berlin">info@ipb-office.berlin</a></b></p>
--	---





## **SMALL STORIES OF SUCCESS**

### ***Colchester and the University of Essex decide to provide more support for refugees***

*By Nele Schuldt*

The University of Essex ('UoE') had, despite its prestigious history as one of the most distinguished human rights centers in the UK, been reluctant to speedily adapt to educational demands due to world politics. Whilst other universities had soon decided on a strategy to offer scholarships to refugee students in dire need for support to provide future generations with a chance to rebuild their country, it took 1.5 years of combined action for the UoE to provide three scholarships worth 10,000 Pounds each directed to refugees living locally.

The 'refugee working group' consisting of concerned students, student groups and local community members had started off petitioning for these scholarships from January 2016. Along with 'STAR', a London-based network that aids in lobbying universities offering support to student refugees, communications with the executive board of the university commenced. Initially these talks

led to supportive statements, but the financial possibilities to offer more scholarships were allegedly exhausted and any demands were met with evasive responses. This changed once Tola Atkin and Selin Sivis, two LLM students combined forces again to engage the student's Union, societies such as Amnesty International society, the Islamic society, staff members and academics. An open letter was released in which concrete demands and the overwhelming support from student and local society was expressed. Finally, the UoE has been proud to announce its 3 scholarships offered to Syrian students for the upcoming academic year. The recipients are two Syrian Master students and a young Syrian mother recommending her undergraduate studies. Whilst this is only a drop in the ocean, it is important to recognize that efforts from student movements and local community can have endearing impacts on entire families that are striving hard to become part of a proactive, peaceful society.





## ONE WEEK TO GO!

If you are around, do not miss on the opportunity to join. There is a wide variety of actions taking place soon! Either the **protest camp** close to the Air Base (which already starts on 03.09.) or the **International Congress on Military Bases**. You can find the program of the congress at <http://www.ipb.org/events/international-congress-on-military-bases/>. It is a two-day congress (08.-09.09.) with many international guests attending, who will share their experience and their ideas with us. A wonderful occasion for networking and exchange of information and opinions. On the evening of the 08.09. a **public event** will be held, where Ann Wright, Daniele Ganser and Eugen Drewermann will be participating.

But this is not the end. On the 09.09. a **human chain** close to the Air Base is taking place, where all participants will stand hand in hand showing their disapproval of illegal drone strikes.

And to celebrate all these wonderful events, you can join the **Music Festival**. Here is a list of

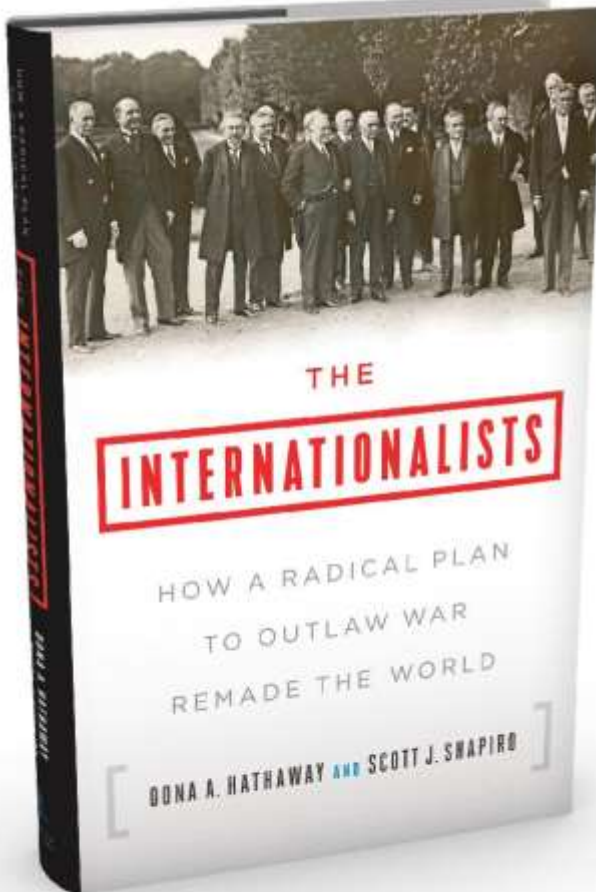
all participating artists. You are more than welcome to join to any or all of these actions.

**Patrice** **Leslie Clio**  
**Dieter Hallervorden**

Andreas Fillibeck & Hans Nauerz | Bermooda  
Jan Degenhardt | JATA | Kilez More  
Die Grauen Stars | Microphone Mafia  
Morgaine | Neufundland | PILZ  
Rebellische Saiten (Prinz Chaos II & Anna Katharina)  
Schneewittchen | Tin Pan Alley Band | Wamp  
Wehrkraftzersetzer

INFORMATIONEN UNTER:  
WWW.RAMSTEIN-KAMPAGNE.EU

For more information please visit:  
<http://www.ramstein-kampagne.eu>



A BOLD AND PROVOCATIVE  
HISTORY OF THOSE  
WHO FOUGHT TO OUTLAW WAR  
AND HOW AN OVERLOOKED  
TREATY OF 1928 WAS AMONG  
THE MOST TRANSFORMATIVE  
EVENTS IN MODERN HISTORY

“Like *The Clash of Civilizations* and *The End of History*, this brilliant book lays out a vision that makes sense of the world today in the context of centuries of history. Hathaway and Shapiro tell their story with literary flair, analytical depth, and historical meticulousness. It will change the way you remember the twentieth century and read the news in the twenty-first.”

—STEVEN PINKER, Johnstone Professor, Harvard University,  
and author of *The Better Angels of Our Nature*

“In this timely, elegant and powerful book, Oona Hathaway and Scott Shapiro help us understand the momentous significance of the individuals who imagined an end to war. As the world stands on the cusp of a return to an earlier age, *The Internationalists* is a clarion call to maintain law and order across our planet.”

—PHILIPPE SANDS QC, Professor of Law, University College London  
and author of *East West Street*



GABRIEL IMPERIO

**OONA A. HATHAWAY** is the Gerard C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law at Yale Law School and the Director of the Center for Global Legal Challenges.



MIKALIS SHAPIRO

**SCOTT J. SHAPIRO** is the Charles F. Southmayd Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at Yale Law School and the Director of the Center for Law and Philosophy.



*The Internationalists* will be published on September 12, 2017 by Simon & Schuster in the US and Penguin Press in the UK.

**Available wherever books are sold.**

**For more information, please visit**  
[TheInternationalistsBook.com](http://TheInternationalistsBook.com)



## NEWS FROM THE IPB OFFICES

Greeting from our new office in Geneva in the Maison Internationale des Associations.

You may remember that we moved our Geneva office from rue de Zurich to rue des Savoises. On the photo above you see a part of the new office with the warmest regards from Khang Huynh Dac, our finance officer.

### **Have you kept your commitment to IPB?**

Dear IPB member organizations and members,  
Have you paid your **membership fees** for 2017? Yes/No. Big and small amounts count to carry out the important work that IPB has taken on for global peace through disarmament for sustainable development over several decades. We cannot give up this fight now, it

needs to continue till we arrive at our goal: *“A world without war”*.

We are sometimes unable to plan ahead, as the amount of membership fees we receive varies from year to year. This should not be the case! Estimates and budgets give an overview of what we expect, but the reality is something quite different!

Your membership fees are crucial, as they cover very basic operational costs for the offices. IPB offices must carry out this work and you, our member organizations, must continue to make this possible. During the last months several activities have been successfully realized by IPB thanks to small funds raised and to people working on a totally voluntary basis. (Their extraordinary dedication is invaluable and does not appear in our accounts!) The member organizations of IPB should shoulder their responsibility, pay their membership fee, and thereby enable IPB to continue its work and its important role as a relevant organization in this current global scenario.

This year we set a target of **20,000 CHF** as income from membership fees but – *alas!* – more than half the year has gone by, and we have only received **5,500 CHF** in membership fees (as of August 2017).

**Will you help us achieve our target amount?**

**I am sure you will. Thank you.**

**Donations, alongside your membership fees, are welcome.**

If you have problems transferring small amounts, ask a friend to settle the amount for you. When you attend meetings, do the payments through IPB staff. If you have difficulty in sending the money, send an email to: [info@ipb-office.berlin](mailto:info@ipb-office.berlin) We can advise you on how to make the payment.

A Big Big Thank You to all members and member organizations who have paid promptly; this is immensely appreciated and has helped us.

To those who are late in their payment: We count on you, please remember to pay as soon as possible.

Thanking you in advance.

Lohes Rajeswaran  
*IPB Treasurer*



  
**IPB**  
International  
Peace Bureau

# COUNCIL MEETING

2017

**25.11**  
**10 AM - 6 PM** council meeting  
special session on military  
spending (3.30-6pm)

**26.11**  
**10 AM - 1 PM** council meeting



**IPB MOURNS THE DEATHS OF:**

<b>Tony de Brum</b> 26.02.1945 - 22.08.17	<b>Taniguchi Sumiteru</b> 26.01.1929 - 30.08.2017
--	--



Our deepest condolences  
to their families and  
friends

  
**IPB**  
INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE BUREAU