



Newsletter

October 2017



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

What great news we have received at the beginning of this month. ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its “work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons”. This decision is a way to express appreciation and to honour the work done by the entire international anti-nuclear weapons movement, which started with the Hibakusha and spread throughout the world.

In this issue, we will present the winners of this year’s Séan MacBride Peace Prize. Every year, the IPB awards a person or an organisation for its outstanding work for disarmament, peace or human rights. As it is extremely hard to choose only one, we have three winners this year.

We hope to welcome many of you to the Ceremony in Barcelona, on 24th of November. The program will be published very soon.

Our annual Council Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Ceremony. It will also take place in Barcelona on November 25-26.

In addition, we have included a report from very successful activities and news from our offices.

We hope you enjoy,

With our warmest regards,

Amela Skiljan



NOBEL PEACE PRIZE TO ICAN

“A tribute to millions of campaigners”

By Arielle Denis

What fabulous news for all nuclear disarmament activists around the world: The Nobel Committee has awarded International Campaign to abolish nuclear weapons for the Nobel Peace Prize 2017! As ICAN said in strongly associating to this award the survivors of the nuclear bombings and the nuclear tests, “this prize is a tribute to the tireless efforts of many millions of campaigners and concerned citizens worldwide who, ever since the dawn of the atomic age, have loudly protested nuclear weapons, insisting that they can serve no legitimate purpose and must be forever banished from the face of our earth”.

Indeed, generations of activists have tirelessly worked to raise awareness on the dangers of nuclear weapons and seek the right angle to end the nuclear madness. In focussing on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons ICAN has revitalized a very simple and strong narrative: there is no national or international organisation capable

to cope with a single nuclear explosion and the consequences will affect people and the environment beyond borders and generations. This permanent danger needs to be always recalled: our world will not be secure until the last nuclear arm is destroyed. But how to get there?

In awarding ICAN, the Nobel Committee has also highlighted this new international instrument that is on the table since July 7th, the Treaty to Prohibit nuclear weapons for which ICAN has worked in the last years, as nuclear weapons, the worst weapons of mass destruction ever, were the only one no yet prohibited.

This Treaty does not only prohibit possession, testing, production, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons but it is also a road map toward their elimination.

In his congratulatory statement, “at a time when nuclear anxieties are at the highest level

since the Cold War” the UN Secretary General called “on all countries to show vision and greater commitment for a world free of nuclear weapons”. The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize reflects the growing global recognition that a ban on nuclear weapons is an important part of the normative framework necessary to advance toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Building the critical mass

The split in the nuclear weapons debate is more than ever clear between international law and human security concerns and geostrategic hard power and so called political realism. While the UN, International Organizations, Civil society organizations and the vast majority of governments welcome the Treaty and the Nobel Peace prize to ICAN, the nuclear weapons possessors reaffirmed their

faith in their nuclear arsenals and big media echoed it “ Nuclear weapons are illegal, yes but it doesn’t matter” said Newsweek in their comment on the Nobel Peace Prize and The Economist called this award “nice but pointless”.

The path to elimination is still long, but we have never been so closed to achieve the critical mass that will lead to it! The Ban Treaty provides governments and civil society a strong tool toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. It will be key to delegitimize their role and impose a new norm. The Nobel Peace Prize highlighted people’s involvement and everywhere in the world antinuclear activists are celebrating it. No doubt that they will keep this strong encouragement to strengthen their efforts toward the victory.



24 November 2017

Barcelona

City Council building, Salo de Cròniques

SÉAN MACBRIDE PEACE PRIZE 2017

The International Peace Bureau awards the Séan MacBride Peace Prize every year to a person, or organisation, or movement in recognition of its outstanding work for peace, disarmament, human rights.

This year the IPB Board has chosen the following three winners of the prize:

All Okinawa Coalition to Prevent Construction of a New Base in Henoko

Noam Chomsky

Jeremy Corbyn

All Okinawa Coalition to Prevent Construction of a New Base in Henoko - for its unflagging commitment to win the closure of the Futemna Marine Air Base, which is widely seen as one of the world's most dangerous military bases, and for its unremitting nonviolent opposition to the construction of a massive new air, land and sea base in Henoko. The Council has assembled all Okinawan forces – grassroots, political, and intellectual – opposed to these bases, building on decades of democratic and nonviolent struggle for peace and opposing the social, environmental, political violations that accompany foreign military bases, never giving up. Engaging in a wide variety of actions. The Council's steadfastness and exceptional range of nonviolent actions, the broad popular support it enjoys, and the spirit and dedication that characterize this exceptional anti-bases

movement make it a model for peace and justice struggles and deserving of support and solidarity.

Noam Chomsky – for his tireless commitment to peace, his strong critiques to U.S. foreign policy, and his anti-imperialism. Professor Chomsky has been properly described as “a genuine people's hero, an inspiration for struggles all over the world for that basic decency known as freedom”, as “one of the greatest and most radical public thinkers of our time”, “one of the most significant challengers of unjust power and delusions”, and as a ‘guru’ for the world's anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist movement. In recent years, in addition to his continuing contributions to the fields of linguistics, philosophy and cognitive science, his critiques have focused on the U.S. post-9-11 “War on Terror” which has provided cover for a continuation of U.S. imperial policies, and the imperative of addressing the dangers posed by nuclear weapons and climate change.

Jeremy Corbyn – for his sustained and powerful political work for disarmament and peace. As an active member, vice-chair and now vice-president of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in the UK he has for many years worked to further the political message of nuclear disarmament. As the past chair of the Stop the War Campaign in the UK he has worked for peace and alternatives to war. As a member of parliament in the UK he has, for 34 years continually taken that work

for justice, peace and disarmament to the political arena both in and outside of Parliament. He has ceaselessly stood by the principles, which he has held for so long, to ensure true security and well-being for all – for his constituents, for the citizens of the UK and for the people of the world. Now, as leader of the Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition he continues to carry his personal principles into his political life – stating openly that he could not press the nuclear button and arguing

strongly for a re-orientation of priorities - to cut military spending and spend instead on health, welfare and education.

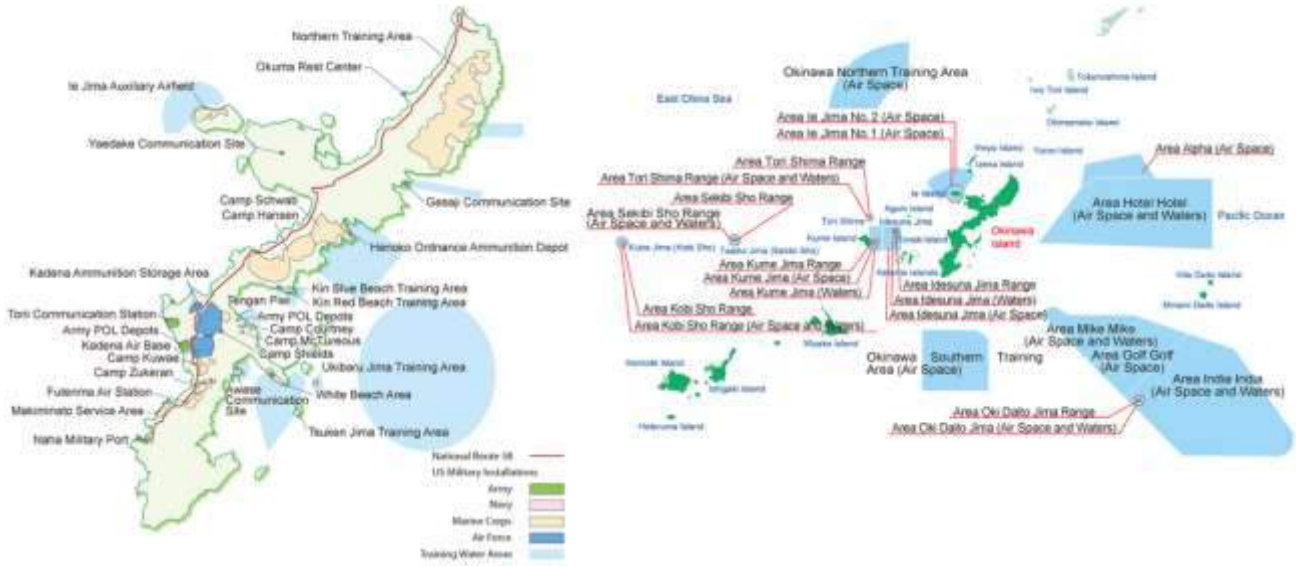
The prize ceremony will be held on Friday, 24th November in Barcelona. Please note that there will be a press conference on the same day at 11 am.

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the Ceremony.



2017 Council Meeting Barcelona, Spain

25.11 10 AM - 4 PM	Council Meeting <i>Marti Codolar meeting room Centre Delàs premises (Erasme de Janer St.,8,08001)</i>
6 PM	Military Spending GCOMS session and webinar <i>"La Fede", Federation of Organizations for Global Justice (C.Tàpies, 1-3, 08001)</i>
26.11 10 AM - 1 PM	Council Meeting <i>Marti Codolar meeting room Centre Delàs premises (Erasme de Janer St.,8,08001)</i>



Map above left: Map of U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa, above right: Map of Air Spaces and Water Areas for U.S. Military Training

© Military Base Affairs Division Okinawa Prefectural Government/地図提供 沖縄県基地対策課

Source: <http://libguides.gwu.edu/okinawa/militarybase/maps>

MILITARY BASES IN OKINAWA

a brief overview

by Tamao Matsukawa

History

Okinawa Prefecture (formerly known as the Ryukyu Kingdom) is a sub-tropical island that is situated around 640 km south of mainland Japan and only encompasses 0.6% surface area of the entire country. April 1, 1945 marked the beginning of a long and gruesome battle on Okinawa that was fought between Japan and the United States. The aftermath of the battle resulted in an estimated 100,000 Okinawan citizen casualties in addition to several thousand casualties who fought in the battle. When the Japanese Imperial Army surrendered, the American-led Allies gained control of Japan until its sovereignty in 1952, which was ratified by the San Francisco Peace Treaty. Japan's regained independence came at the cost of complete U.S. control over Okinawa. Additionally, the United States and Japan reached an agreement that meant that Japan would rely on the United States for its defence

and security. As a result, the U.S. began constructing its own military bases throughout the island and confiscated privately owned lands in the process. The United States took advantage of the island's strategic location by deploying troops as well as storing lethal weapons during its involvement in both the Korean and Vietnam wars.¹

Since the 1971 Reversion

The Japanese government and the United States negotiated a reversion agreement which came into effect in 1972. Many Okinawan citizens believed that once the exchange of control was returned to the hands of the Japanese government, the number of U.S.

¹ Chanlett-Avery, E, and Rinehart, I. (2016). The U.S. Military Presence In Okinawa And The Futenma Base Controversy. Washington D.C.: Congressional Research Service, 8
<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R42645.pdf>.

military bases would subsequently decrease and the longstanding discontentment voiced by the citizens would therefore be validated. However, this agreement was implemented on the basis that the United States maintained its military facilities in the region. Eventually, 75% of all U.S. military bases in Japan were built on Okinawa, taking up 20 percent of its surface area. Although a few local businesses and individuals have expressed positive (mainly economical) attitudes towards hosting U.S. military bases, this has not been the case with most Okinawans, who have accumulated anti-base sentiments over the years. The reasons for the longstanding resentment are grounded in anti-militarism attitudes and include military accidents, noise, pollution, crimes against women, and so on.

The amalgamation of anti-base sentiments saw things come to a boiling point after an incident in 1995, when a 12-year-old girl was raped by U.S. military servicemen. This perpetuated a massive prefectural-wide protest that called for the attention of the Japanese government to respond to the Okinawan citizens. In response to this egregious crime, both the Japanese and United States governments initiated the “Special Action Committee on Okinawa” (SACO) to reduce the burden on the citizens.

Futenma to Henoko

One of the agreements implemented by SACO was the removal of the large Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma from the densely populated city of Ginowan. In 2006, the air station was proposed to be relocated to a more remote area in Henoko, Nago City. Since the initial proposal, this has been a contested issue due to disagreements between the Japanese and prefectural government; Japan strives to ensure its commitment to the United States, while the governors seek to address the issues voiced by the people in Okinawa. The majority of Okinawans do not want relocation as a solution, but an end to the expansion of U.S. military bases.

Despite the efforts made by local governments, negotiations between the local and national governments have been unsuccessful, partially due to the inability of the Okinawan government to keep its campaign promises in exchange for financial development incentives from the central government². The stubbornness surrounding this issue was also highlighted by Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama’s short-lived 2009 attempt to decrease the number of bases; at the end of the day, even the highest-ranking politician could not fulfil Okinawa’s wishes.

Current Situation

The current Governor of Okinawa, Takeshi Onaga, who was elected in the 2014 gubernatorial election, has led an active voice against the construction of the base in Henoko. He has also raised his concern at the international level, including in Washington and at the United Nations. Furthermore, there have been large peaceful protests from various groups fighting endlessly at the military base site. This has not only brought the citizens of Okinawa together, but also activists and supporters from all over the world. Unfortunately, the wishes of the Okinawans have been ignored by the central government, which continues to persist with the relocation plan and has deployed the police to forcibly remove protesters.

The military issue has consumed Okinawa since WWII, and this has been against the will of the people who subsequently became the victims of war and now are hosts to military bases which serve as facilitators to war. The fight against the expansion of military bases portrays Okinawans as peaceful citizens and sends a message to the rest of the world to strive towards attaining a peaceful society.

² In 2013, Governor Hirokazu Nakaima approved the landfill permit on certain conditions in exchange for compensation funds (Chanlett-Avery and Rinehart 2016: 2).



Tamao Matsukawa has been with the IPB's Berlin office since the beginning of October. She was born in Okinawa, Japan and raised in British Columbia, Canada. She recently completed her studies at the Free University of

Berlin in Germany, where she delved into a myriad of topics including peace and conflict studies with a focus on nonviolent resistance.

Her interest in peace-related issues however was piqued while focusing her final paper on U.S military bases in Okinawa. At the IPB, Tamao is dedicated to assisting with tasks that include translation and proofreading assignments, updating social media, communication and outreach, organizing members' lists, and more. She looks forward to expanding her knowledge and further engaging in the disarmament movement.

When Tamao is not spending her time at the office, she enjoys cooking and baking, going to various kind of concerts, and hosting dinners with friends.





Global Network Against Weapons
and Nuclear Power in Space

Report from Germany - Stopp Ramstein! and Anti-Bases Meeting

From: Dave Webb

September 8 - 10 2017

STOPP AIR BASE RAMSTEIN AND ANTI-BASES MEETING

by Dave Webb

I arrived at Frankfurt airport on the 7th September and took a train to Kaiserslautern where I was met by Amela from IPB and the organising team. After booking in to the hotel I went along to visit the peace camp site and met up with Konni who had visited us in Yorkshire for Keep Space for Peace Week last year. I was also told about a visit to Büchel Air Base the next day with the group "Atomwaffenfrei jetzt" (Nuclear Weapons Free Now) to blockade the entrance. So I signed up for that and the next day a coach full of protestors left the peace camp earlyish for the 2 hour journey to Büchel.

Büchel is the military air base near the city of Cochem and about 45 miles from Spangdahlem Air Base. It is now the only location in Germany with US/NATO nuclear weapons.

Blockade at Büchel

Büchel is home to the Tactical Air Force Wing 33 (TaktLwG 33) of the German Air Force and the 702 Munitions Support Squadron (702 MUNSS) of the United States Air Force (USAF). Since 1985, the TaktLwG 33 operates German Panavia Tornado airplanes, which are capable of delivering the twenty B61 nuclear bombs, which are stored and maintained by the 702 MUNSS of the USAF. Under the NATO agreement, these B61 bombs require a dual key system, with the simultaneous authorization of Germany and the US.

Stopp Ramstein!

The following day, Saturday 9th September, over 5,000 people gathered at the Ramstein US Air Force Base near Kaiserslautern in Germany for the climax of a week-long protest. The base has some 22,000 US military and defence personnel and, with family members, the number increases to 54,000, making it the largest concentration of US citizens outside of the US.

A peace camp had been building in numbers over the previous few days and on one evening campers had walked into town connected by a string of LED lights to let local people they were there - and why. Many of the protestors also marched against the Vietnam War in the 60s and 70s and the Pershing-2 nuclear missiles in the 80s but there was also a large, growing number of people too young to have experienced those times.

Protestors formed a human line which stretched for 5 kilometers between the Air Base, Ramstein and the monument erected in memory of the air show disaster in 1988 when Italian Air Force display team aircraft collided during a display, crashing into the crowd of about 300,000 people. There were 70 fatalities (67 spectators and 3 pilots); 346 spectators sustained serious injuries in the resulting explosion and fire, and hundreds more had minor injuries. At the time it was the deadliest air show accident.



After Pascal Luig, member of the coordination group, declared the chain complete and then closed, protestors gathered around two platforms from which they were addressed by speakers and entertained by musicians. Unfortunately, a downpour of rain brought a premature end to the event! It was the third week long Stop Air Base Ramstein protest in three years. The police kept the peaceful demonstrators from being too close to the base entrance.

The protest is growing stronger and louder every year and is always positive. The growing number of young participants also shows that the necessary rejuvenation of the peace movement is actually in full swing.

The Air Base Ramstein does not only have a role in the extrajudicial killing of several thousand suspects on foreign soil and is the HQ for the US and NATO missile defence system in Europe, which is causing much concern to Russia, it is also a major communications base through which the CIA controls its remotely piloted drone bombardment in Africa and the Middle East. In doing so, the US is violating international law and German constitutional law. The German government claims that no drones are being flown from Ramstein – however, although the drones are not flown from there, it is a major hub for relaying the signals and commands from the pilots in the US.



However, the former drone pilot turned whistleblower Brandon Bryant (who flew more than 1,000 operations from the US), has revealed how much the US global drone operations depend upon Ramstein. He described how signals sent from Creech Air Force Base in Nevada travel via transatlantic fibre optic cables to Ramstein, where they are then transmitted to satellites positioned above the Indian Ocean and from there to drones that strike targets in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. In addition, live pictures taken from the drone operations are analysed in Germany.

The International Congress on Military Bases

An International Congress was held on September 8th and 9th in the Versöhnungskirche in Kaiserslautern had over 300 participants. As well as many knowledgeable speakers from Germany, there was a video from Ann Wright, the former US Army Colonel and diplomat who resigned over the Gulf War and became a wonderful peace activist.

There were also reports from campaigns focussed on US bases around the world - Ikuko Ueno from the Okinawa Nago City Peace Committee; Okinawa; Hohyun Choi from South Korea People's United Party; John Lannon from Shannon Watch in Ireland; Kirill Kopp from Estonia; fellow GN board member Agneta Norberg from Sweden and I spoke about US/NATO bases and military exercises in our countries. I was also able to mention the various UK military bases around the world as

well! There were also workshops and plenty of time for discussion and meeting others.

Public Meeting

On the evening of the 8th there was also a public meeting at the Versöhnungskirche with a message from Ann Wright and some incredible speeches from Eugen Drewermann and Dr. Daniele Ganser. Ann was due to be there at the event but she was helping members of her family recover from the recent hurricane that had devastated much of the eastern coast of the U.S. So instead, she appeared by live video link.



Unfortunately I was separated from our translator who had helped so much in the conference earlier that day, so was not able to understand most of what was said by the German speakers. However, the reaction of the packed audience, who were either laughing loudly or widely applauding and gave standing ovations to both, told me quite plainly that they were saying things that resonated strongly with those present!

The Friedensfestival and More

On the 9th during the Friedensfestival, a wonderful music festival that was organised as a grand finale (with three stages and a wide range of music) a preliminary meeting was held as a first step to establishing a global campaign against military bases. This will be more firmly developed in the next few months.

Thanks to the fantastic team of Reiner Braun's that organised the few days of protest and festival. Led by Pascal Luig the handful of helpers worked incredibly hard to get us all in the right place at the right time. Tremendous organisation and planning - thanks so much.

Source:

<http://www.space4peace.org/reports/ramstein17.htm>



NEW ABOLITION 2000 SECRETARIAT

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are very happy to inform you that with the International Peace Bureau there is a new home for the Abolition 2000 network. After our successful Annual General Meeting in Vienna in May, the Coordinating Committee, approved transition of the Abolition 2000 Secretariat to the Berlin Office of the IPB. IPB has also designated a staff person, [Malte Albrecht](#), working in IPB's Berlin office, to help the network.

The renewed attention on our subject of abolishing nuclear weapons makes now an excellent time for us to redouble our efforts to make breakthroughs on all demands of the [abolition 2000 statement](#). With IPB and Abolition 2000 working closer together we are

better prepared than ever for this task. Therefor upcoming events will be documented and published online at <http://www.abolition2000.org>.

Our [Working Groups](#) are permanently open for new volunteers to help with the activities we undertake. If you would like to participate, either contact the individual(s) specified on our [working groups page](#), or contact the Secretariat through an e-mail to Malte.

We are looking forward to a renewed and deepened cooperation with the IPB network after many years of successful mutual actions.

Best regards from us all,

Abolition 2000 Coordinating Committee

Meet Malte Albrecht

Dear colleagues,

with the beginning of October, IPB has taken over the responsibility for abolition 2000, a global network of activists and scientists, founded in 1995 to achieve a world without nuclear arms. My name is Malte Albrecht. I would like to introduce myself shortly since I

have the honor to join these efforts to abolish nuclear weapons.

When I first joined the peace activists community I was an intern at the IPB office in Geneva and met Colin Archer for the first time. It was then that I realized that peace as a political agenda was something truly motivating and important at the same time. I

spent my years at the University studying political ideas and history of thoughts to understand why the world we live in is like it is. Yet I have never been someone drawn to pure academic knowledge but rather theory as praxis. During my time at the IPB I witnessed the great opportunities that arise from a deeply shared connection between research and activism, namely between the IPB and SIPRI. It was also at that time I spent more and more time diving into a subject that necessarily combines both scientific and activist-focused approaches: nuclear weapons. After I came back from Geneva I finished my master thesis and took the opportunity to continue my work in the peace movement by joining the Berlin Team that organized the IPB Peace Congress in 2016. It is since then that I got more and more engaged in peace research and activism, advocating peace as a member of the press team of the G20 protests in Hamburg or helping organize the protests against the Ramstein Air Base just this year at the

beginning of September. With great enthusiasm I am looking forward to join the Abolition 2000 Network with the beginning of October 2017 as secretary of the Coordinating Committee.



Malte Albrecht

Cut Milex Material



CutMilex

Global Campaign on Cutting
Military Spending

CUT MILITARY EXPENDITURE

According to April 2017 [SIPRI data](#), and stimulated by the war on terrorism, [military spending](#) has continued to increase. The World's military spending in 2016 amounted to USD 1686 billion compared to USD 1088 billion in 2001. The total military spending accounted for 2.2% of the global GDP in 2016, or USD 227 per person. The 15 largest spenders accounted for USD 1360 billion, which is the 81% of total global spending" in 2016. However, official [military spending data](#) from many governments is usually lower than SIPRI data. This is in part due to the fact that most reports on military expenditure – including those in specialist publications – tend to simply report the defence budget of individual countries. The consequence is that we face a lack of reliability, transparency and democratic scrutiny of military expenditure data. This is true for all countries, including those having open political and parliamentary systems. But it is especially dramatic in authoritarian and autocratic regimes, in which access to military data is drastically limited.

The **Cut Milex campaign** aims at introducing the military spending debate in Parliaments, with several main messages:

- To reduce military spending while redirecting its funds to social needs, cooperation, conflict mediation and peace building.
- To increase transparency and avoid opacity in official data on exports and military and defence industry.
- To introduce criteria for addressing military spending in national budgets in a comprehensive and rigorous way.
- To ensure that arms programs are audited and controlled by the nation's Parliament.

Please **visit the specific Cut Milex webpages:**

- [Objectives of the Cut Milex Campaign](#)
- [Cut Milex Material](#)
- [Cut Milex Events and News](#)
- [What is Military Spending?](#)

More than ever, we need new partners to work on the Global Campaign on Military Spending, to be active on lobbying politicians, and to ensure that the Cut Milex campaign becomes a great success!

The 2017 Cut Milex campaign [runs together with the United Nations disarmament week from 24-30 October 2017](#).