



IPB
International
Peace Bureau

Newsletter

January 2018



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The New Year has just started and we already have many things to do.

We would like to remind you how successful the past year was – the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty was adopted. Also, IPB had two very successful awarding ceremonies (MacBride Peace Prize) in Barcelona (All Okinawa Coalition Against New Henoko Base) and later in Geneva (Jeremy Corbyn). We summarized the even in Geneva.

This year marks the 175th birthday of Bertha von Suttner, the founder of the first permanent International Peace Bureau in Bern in 1891. We invite all of you to celebrate with us by making your own contribution – a video, a play, a poem, a photo...

But this is not the only call for participation in this issue. We would like you to be part of our new edition “VOICES OF IPB”. You will find more information on page 9.

Also, the Global Campaign on Military Spending starts this year on April 15th and ends on May 3rd. Get involved in it!

Last but not least, our statement “Diplomacy, no to war on the Korean Peninsula” can be endorsed.

We want our members and friends to be more engaged, to make this year more interactive. That is why we invite you to actively participate in all these actions. Together we can achieve more!

With our warmest regards,

Amela Skiljan





SEAN MACBRIDE PRIZE 2017 - A BIG INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS!

On December 8, 2017, the International Peace Bureau awarded [M. Jeremy Corbyn*](#) with the Sean [MacBride Peace Prize](#), in the City Hall of Geneva.

Despite the freezing snow that kept falling all day long, over 150 invitees joined the ceremony in the solemn Palais Eynard, a 19th century palace with marble, columns and red curtains that is now hosting the Geneva City ceremonies. Beside all IPB friends - some coming from very far abroad - many of the participants were representatives of the rich landscape of Geneva politics. The international Geneva was there as well with diplomats from several international Missions, UN agencies and NGOs. The crowd was also quite young, as universities, which are close, especially the Political Studies students and their teachers wanted to take part in this unique event. Of course, almost all Geneva media were represented and the journalists seized this opportunity to meet with the organizers and the UK Labour leader for a press conference in one of the salon of the Palais Eynard briefly after the ceremony.

This event has been very special in many ways. Much more than just a regular award ceremony, it has been an impressive political meeting. The International Peace Bureau had chosen a unique panel of speakers and together with Jeremy Corbyn, they gave the crowd a rich vision of the world tensions, dangers and opportunities.

The host, Rémy Pagany, the Mayor of Geneva, has been for long a trade unionist and a left activist and he gave the tune in warm congratulations to Mr Corbyn's courage for his strong positions on social and peace issues. He also used this tribune to call the Swiss government to join the newly concluded Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

IPB Co-Presidents Lisa Clark and Reiner Braun warmly expressed their gratitude to 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". Mr Braun recalled the impressive demonstration in London where Mr Corbyn delivered a speech against the war in Iraq in front of one million demonstrators on February 15th, 2003.

Equality, humanity and peace first

The honour of holding the laudation was given to a very inspiring speaker, Mrs Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Unions Confederation-ITUC. She came straight from ITUC office in Brussels to salute the crowd and deliver a strong presentation, linking peace and social issues and calling for people's mobilization. She said that for Mr Corbyn, "peace was in his DNA and that he offered a beacon of hope for working people trapped in low wage, insecure and often unsafe work or even modern slavery". She congratulated him for his pledge that "the next Labour government is committed to support the efforts of the United Nations for a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and human rights (that would) indeed deepen the possibility of a more just world."

During the whole evening, it was impressive to witness how popular is Jeremy Corbyn, including in a City like Geneva which is used to important international events! The 68-years Labour Leader has a very long story of friendship with activists all over the world and although he is considered as the possible next UK Prime Minister, his faithfulness to peace and justice, his warmth and friendly attitude attracted everyone for a chat or a selfie, and he hardly had time to enjoy the nice cocktail that Geneva City had provided. Great moments were captured on [photos](#) with old friends like former IPB General Secretary Colin Archer, or well known feminist activist Edyth Ballantyne.

In accepting the Award, Mr Corbyn gave a strong speech reiterating the four major threats to a common humanity he had highlighted at the UN earlier that day: climate

change; the refugee crisis, the 'bomb first, think later' approach to conflict; and the growing concentration of unaccountable wealth and power in the hands of a tiny corporate elite. "We have a common responsibility and a common destiny. I urge all of you to do everything within your means to create a new reality in which the values of equality, humanity and peace are uppermost," he concluded.

As a comment, another trade unionist, Mr Philip Jennings, General Secretary of UNI-Global Union said: "It's fitting that Jeremy Corbyn has been given this award, just two days before ICAN, the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons receives the Nobel Peace Prize. On behalf of all our UK affiliates and all of our 20 million affiliates around the world, we congratulate him. Peace and unions go hand-in-hand – they are as Reiner Braun, IPB Co-President put it 'two-sides of the same coin'.

IPB organised this event in partnership with an IPB partner organisation in Geneva, the World Democratic Forum and is deeply grateful to the partners and the Mayor of Geneva and the City Staff to have given this 2017 Sean MacBride Prize ceremony such a high profile. Many media reported the event which is now available [here](#) on IPB website, and IPB expects more fruitful cooperation in Geneva in the coming months.

*This was the last award ceremony of the year, as in 2017, IPB had decided to award three people and organisations. The two other recipients have been [All Okinawa Coalition Against the New Construction of Henoko Base](#), for its commitment to win the closure of the Futemna Marine Air Base and for its unremitting nonviolent opposition to the construction of a massive new base in Henoko, and [M. Noam Chomsky](#) in recognition of his tireless commitment to peace, his strong critiques to U.S. foreign policy, and his anti-imperialism.



BERTHA-VON-SUTTNER

175TH BIRTHDAY

Let us celebrate together!

Call to all our members and friends to contribute

Bertha von Suttner will celebrate her 175th birthday on June 9th.

We want to remember this courageous woman and her significant work.

We would like to invite you to **join us!** Show us how you as an organisation or an individual continue to work for Bertha's ideal of a peaceful world. Let us do simultaneously.

We will organize a **Birthday Party on June 7th** in our **office in Berlin.**

We want you to be part in events all over the world.

We are looking forward to receiving your pictures and reports and will be happy to share them online and in our newsletter.

As a peace activist and writer Bertha von Suttner was responsible for the founding of the first permanent International Peace Bureau in Bern in 1891.



She was born Countess Kinsky in Prague on June 9, 1843. While working as a secretary and housekeeper to Alfred Nobel in 1876 in Paris they established a lasting friendship. Besides her disarmament publication *Inventarium einer Seele* ("Inventory of the Soul") of 1882, her Publication of the pacifist novel *Die Waffen nieder!* ("Lay Down Your Arms!") in 1889 made her a leading figure in the peace movement.

In 1905 Bertha von Suttner received the Nobel Peace Prize as the first woman being solely awarded.

Bertha dies of suspected cancer on June 21, 1914.

In the second half of her life Bertha von Suttner was working to "be of service to the Peace League..." dedicating her work to pacifist organisations, journals and Peace Conferences.



BE A PART OF GCOMS 2018

The Global Campaign on Military Spending starts this year on **April 15th** and ends on **May 3rd**. The slogan for 2018 is

"Reducing 10% of military assets will help saving our planet. Take action!"

The main aim of this campaign is to reduce the global military spending thanks to the cooperative works made by the organisations of civil society. The overall goal of the GCOMS Campaign is to push governments to achieve major re-allocation of military expenditures (especially in high-spending countries) to 5 broad alternative areas:

Peace: disarmament, conflict prevention and resolution, human security;

Sustainable development and anti-poverty programs;

Climate change and biodiversity loss – for their mitigation and adaptation;

Public services/social justice, human rights, gender equality and green job-creation;

Humanitarian programs to support the most vulnerable groups.

Become a part of the events

Now is the right time to join. Both, individuals and organisations – there is a way to contribute for all. To see the various possibilities to get involved please visit our website [here](#).

An organisation can also become a GCOMS partner. [Here](#) you can get more information about becoming a partner.

Last year, 116 GDAMS events took place in 30 countries. Let us put together our effort this year even more and make more successful events all around the world.

REACH HIGH FOR A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE WORLD

2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament

1. *Alarm* at the risks of nuclear weapons use by accident, miscalculation or intent, especially in these times of increasing conflict;
2. *Concern* at the catastrophic human, economic and environmental consequences the use of nuclear weapons would have, possibly ending civilization as we know it;
3. *Sorrow* at the extensive impact already caused by the production and testing of nuclear weapons on human health and the environment, and the fact that such impact will last for generations;
4. *Agreement* with the notion that ‘There are no right hands for wrong weapons’ and that nuclear weapons are wrong weapons as they could not be used without affecting civilians, the environment and future generations;
5. *Opposition* to the \$100 billion spent annually on nuclear weapons, when such funds are sorely needed for climate protection, to achieve the sustainable development goals, and for other social and economic need;
6. *Support* for efforts to slash nuclear weapons spending directly through budget allocations and indirectly through ending investments of public funds and banks in nuclear weapons corporations;
7. *Affirmation* that the goal of nuclear disarmament is a universal goal that transcends differences in politics, nationalities, religions, cultures and ages;
8. *Insistence* that nuclear weapon states and their allies fulfill their obligation to nuclear disarmament by replacing nuclear deterrence with common security approaches, such as those outlined in the UN Charter of diplomacy, negotiation, mediation, adjudication and application of international law;

9. *Highlight* the important role of civil society, including all ages from youth to seniors, in the promotion of nuclear disarmament and participation in international disarmament forums such as the 2018 UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament;

10. *Encourage* governments to work with civil society organisations to educate and engage public in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament as agreed by governments in the final report of the United Nations Study on Disarmament and Nonproliferation Education.

And in particular we call on:

1. All governments to participate at the highest level (Prime Minister, President, Foreign Minister or Minister for Disarmament) in the 2018 UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament;
2. Non-nuclear countries to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the 2018 UN High-Level Conference, if they have not already done so, in order to secure 100 signatories by the end of the conference;
3. Nuclear reliant countries (nuclear armed countries and their allies) to adopt a declaration at the conference to never use nuclear weapons first, and to ensure that all nuclear weapons systems are taken off high-readiness to use, and to commit to negotiations on phased nuclear disarmament.

* The Reaching High for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World conference, held at the Charles University in Prague, included university students, young academics, policy analysts and activists from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States. The conference was organised by the [Abolition 2000 Youth Network](#). Co-sponsored by the [Basel Peace Office](#), [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament \(PNND\)](#), [Prague Vision Institute for Sustainable Security](#), [Centre for Security Policy at Charles University \(SBP\)](#) and [UNFOLD ZERO](#).





Support in the Berlin Office

Our new intern is named Aurelia Donat and has been with us since mid-January. At the IPB Berlin office she will be assisting with translations and updating social media, communications, designing material and more.

Although she is German, her studies of social sciences with a specialisation in intercultural relations took her around the world. A semester abroad in Australia helped her shape her interest in international relations and the facets of peace and conflict, leading the way to IPB. Besides that, feminism, interreligious dialogue and especially the societies of West Asia and North Africa are her personal foci. Interning at IPB she is looking forward to experiencing the procedures in and interactions with NGOs working for a more just and peaceful world.

In her time off she enjoys doing sports and baking, as well as seeing and making art and spending time with friends.

Voices of IPB is going online

IPB is colourful, intercultural and multilingual and so are these short videos. The series on what IPB stands for is being published once a

week on our social media channels on YouTube, Facebook and twitter.

We want to invite you to be part of this shared experience and to send us your picture or video saying what IPB stands for in your words and language. Please add the language you speak and an English translation and let the video end with the completion of the sentence "IPB stands for...".

We are looking forward to hearing and seeing your thoughts on "What IPB stands for..."

Tune in and share our core values and objectives with your family and friends all over the world!



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