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Newsletter

November 2016

U.S. elections, Sean MacBride Peace Prize and more...

Causes and implications of Trump's election victory:

Joseph Gerson, IPB Vice-President. (AFSC, USA)

Shortly after the election, I was asked to brief the Board of the International Peace Bureau about the causes and implications of Trump's election victory. The grim picture I painted for them follows. Missing from this briefing is an encouraging report about the resistance that people across the country are demonstrating and organizing for the longer term. It is time for each of us to step up what we have already been doing in support of social and economic justice, peace, the climate and – most of all – for democracy. It is time for us to honor and draw strength from the spirits of people in our history and across the world who have struggled and sacrificed for freedom and survival.....

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IPB activities

IPB Round Table "Moving the Military Money" - presentations:



On 11 November 2016, as part of the Geneva Peace Week, IPB held a Round Table discussion in Geneva entitled: "*Moving the Military Money: to climate, development, humanitarian action and peacemaking*". At this meeting 4 presentations were made on how to secure additional funding for vital social programmes by reducing the financial and intellectual resources devoted to the military system. See below for links to the presentations:

Colin Archer, IPB Secretary-General: [Introduction to the Global Campaign on Military Spending](#)

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[**Sean MacBride Peace Prize 2016: awarded to Secretary-General Colin Archer**](#)



IPB is pleased to report that the Sean MacBride Peace Prize was awarded this year to our own Secretary-General Colin Archer, who since 1990 has served the organization with outstanding commitment and competence. Colin Archer, who will retire next year and return home from Geneva to the UK, has spared no efforts over the last 26 years in the service of peace and of the IPB community in particular...

Read the full announcement [here](#) and if you want to know more about the MacBride Peace Prize and its connection to IPB, follow this [link](#).

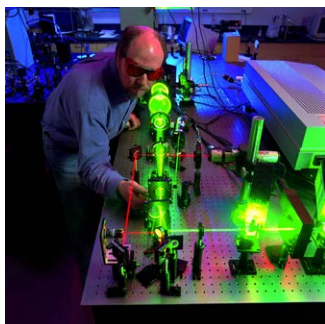
See PHOTOS at: <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/ipb-awarded-sean-macbride-peace-prize-2016-to-colin-archer/>

[**Berlin Congress follow-up**](#)

A wide range of documents/pictures/videos from the Congress are available at: <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/>

The IPB Board and staff are working on a number of follow-up proposals, including a Youth Peace Summit in 2018, a new coordination for the Global Campaign on Military Spending, several projects and events in the field of nuclear disarmament, and more. See further announcements in the coming weeks!

MILITARY SPENDING



MEPs voted in favor of multi-million euro military research budget

Investment in defence research has been decreasing in the EU over the last 10 years. But **on October 26**, MEPs voted largely in favor of a proposal seeking to fund "innovative defence technology" from 2017 over three years under a so-called Preparatory Action for Defence Research. This action is expected to have a budget of €90 million. And if successful, the Commission plans to establish an EU-defence research programme for the 2021-2027 period. This new fund was subject to strong criticisms. Scientists for Global Responsibility and the European Network Against Arms Trade, for instance, campaigned against it. They view the plan as providing "subsidies to preserve the competitiveness of the arms industry and its capacity to export abroad." This could boost arms sales to countries with poor human rights records and will result in "drastic cuts" to other spending priorities. (Photo: ThyssenKrupp)

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Opinion: The fatal expense of American imperialism

The scale of US military operations is remarkable. The US Department of Defense has (as of a 2010 inventory) 4,999 military facilities, of which 662 are in 36 foreign countries and foreign territories. The cost of running these military operations and the wars they support is extraordinary, around \$900 billion per year. US wars of regime change have rarely served America's security needs and are costly to the United States, and often devastating to the countries involved. Two major studies have measured the costs of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Over a 15-year period, the \$4.7 trillion amounts to roughly \$300 billion per year, and is more than the combined total outlays from 2001 to 2016 for the federal departments of education, energy, labor, interior, and transportation, and the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

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More on Military Spending

U.N. votes for resolution slamming North Korea for diverting dire food funds to arms programs

Lithuania's New Prime Minister Pledges to Increase Military Spending

NUCLEAR



Ban treaty - US position

On October 27, the United Nations took an historic step towards global elimination of nuclear weapons, in voting to begin negotiations next year on a treaty to ban nukes. The U.S. and its allies lobbied hard to defeat it. On this occasion, the U.S. statement was full of contradictions. For instance, the U.S. Ambassador Robert Wood stated that the ban treaty could undermine security. But other countries increasingly rely on nuclear weapons mainly as a counterweight to the U.S. conventional advantage. With its huge conventional military superiority, the U.S. would be therefore much more secure in a world free of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, no one should forget that the U.S. is legally obliged under article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to pursue negotiations towards nuclear disarmament.

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German lawmaker says Europe must consider own nuclear deterrence plan

Europe needs to think about developing its own nuclear deterrent strategy given concerns that U.S. President-elect Donald Trump could scale back U.S. military commitments in Europe, a senior member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives said. Roderich Kiesewetter, foreign policy spokesman for the conservative bloc in parliament, told Reuters that Germany could play an important role in convincing nuclear powers France and Britain to provide security guarantees for all of Europe.

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More on Nuclear

Nuclear weapon missing since 1950 "may have been found"

Let's Reduce the U.S. Nuclear Arsenal: How many nuclear warheads does the US need?

Join the Hibakusha Appeal for a Nuclear Ban Treaty

IMPACTS



20th Anniversary of the start of the Ottawa Process on Landmines

Last week in Toronto a conference was held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the launch of the Ottawa Process, which led to the successful Mine Ban Treaty. The conference looked at how this Treaty could be negotiated and signed, how much has been accomplished, what is needed to finish the job, and how the Ottawa Process might be relevant for other current issues such as climate change and displaced peoples.

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Military plans to dump 20.000 tons of heavy metals and explosives into the oceans

The US Navy has been conducting war-game exercises in US waters for decades, and in the process, it has left behind tons of bombs, heavy metals, missiles, sonar buoys, high explosives and depleted uranium munitions that are extremely harmful to both humans and marine life. Now, the Navy's own documents reveal that it also plans to use 20,000 tons of heavy metals, plastics and other highly toxic compounds over the next two decades in the oceans where it conducts its war games. The toxic legacy of this negligence will be passed down to generations far beyond our own.

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More on Impacts

Kenya sets fire to 5,000 illegal weapons in crime fight

Humanitarian disarmament forum

MISCELLANEOUS



UN General Assembly adopts the Declaration on the Right to Peace

On 18 November 2016, the third committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a Declaration on the Right to Peace by majority of its Member States. The Plenary of the General Assembly will ratify this resolution in December. It is the clear result of the important role played by some sectors of civil society and Universities for years.

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Britain's military exercises with Japan and US-South Korea

Jenny Clegg, newly-elected IPB Council member from UK, has written a strong critique of the UK's military engagement with US and NATO provocative moves in East Asia. Recently Britain sent four Eurofighter Typhoon jets to Japan for its first ever-joint military drill with the Japanese Air self-defence force — the first time Japanese pilots have flown alongside pilots from another country apart from the US. Any day now these same British planes will head to the Korean Peninsula to join, again for the first time, the large-scale US-South Korea Invincible Shield exercises. The participation is not militarily insignificant. Why on Earth is Britain returning so far to the "East of Suez" after nearly 50 years? This issue was the subject of an important workshop at the recent IPB Congress in Berlin.

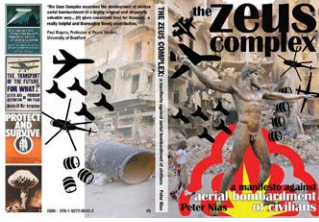
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More on Miscellaneous

Pax Christi International awards 2016 Peace Prize to Pakistani human rights institutions

In memoriam: John Ainslie, co-ordinator Scottish CND

RESOURCES



The Zeus Complex: a manifesto against aerial bombardment of civilians

This unusual book by Peter Nias concentrates on the aerial bombardment on civilians (deliberate or otherwise), in history and now, and what has been done to limit or prevent it. This volume is an attempt to help reduce civilian bombing by increasing such 'rights of humans', and by offering ideas accordingly, mainly for the long term.

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Rethinking General and Complete Disarmament in the Twenty-first Century

This publication examines historic, strategic, humanitarian and economic aspects of General and Complete Disarmament to elaborate and make the case for prohibiting conventional weapons systems as well as nuclear weapons. The featured articles were originally presented at a seminar held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 21 October 2015 entitled "Comprehensive Approaches for Disarmament in the Twenty-first Century: Rethinking General and Complete Disarmament".

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More on Resources

Peace Education News! (Monthly newsletter)

New study highlights challenges of monitoring UN arms embargoes

Global Terrorism Index 2016

For upcoming events see IPB Calendar



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