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# Newsletter

May 2015

## IPB activities

### GDAMS 2015 was a worldwide success !



The International Peace Bureau, as the coordinator of the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, would like to thank you all for your solidarity.

From kite-flying, to leaf-letting, film-showing, blocking the gates of military establishments, supporting Thunderclap, street meditation... We greatly appreciate your commitment and courage in leading numerous actions in more than 20 countries and in social media.

Feel free to take a look at [our Flickr page](#) or [our website](#) to see the pictures and read the reports of the many events. A full report about it will be released soon.

**IPB at Ypres 100 : Centenary of first use of chemicals weapons**

The city of Ypres/Ieper (Belgium) is famous for 2 tragic events: its complete destruction in WWI (and its astonishing reconstruction) and the first use of gas in warfare, which occurred on 22 April 1915. Exactly 100 years later the city organised an important [programme of events](#), to which IPB was invited to contribute. These included speeches in the brand new conference centre and ceremonies led by King Philippe at some of the many cemeteries in the area. This was followed by a 2-day conference, co-organised by Mayors for Peace, on the theme:

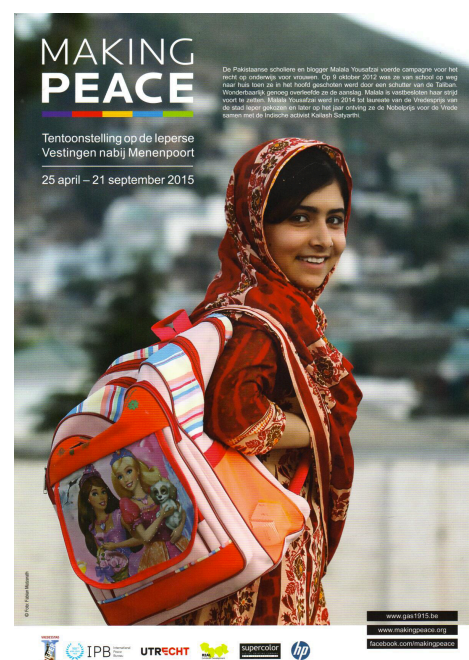
[‘A Century of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Enough!’](#)

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## Making Peace photo-exhibition opens at Ypres

April 25 saw the official opening of [IPB’s photo-exhibition ‘Making Peace’](#), which has been hired by the City of Ypres as a public education tool to enlarge the perspectives of the centenary of the first use of chemical weapons. Both Colin Archer and curator Ashley Woods spoke at the outdoor and indoor ceremonies to inaugurate the show.

It will be visible until Sept 21, on the city ramparts near the Menin Gate. Over this period it will be seen by thousands of visitors, including school parties. Many thanks to our colleagues at the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision campaign office! Ypres is the 9th city in which the exhibition has been shown.



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## IPB at the Hague : 100 years since the founding of WILPF



Among the many centenary commemorations of events during WWI, the gathering of over 1200 women at The Hague in April 1915 to protest the war is perhaps the most positive and inspiring. [The Centenary conference, organised by WILPF](#) at the World Forum in The Hague, featured a wide range of speeches and cultural presentations by women from all continents, including several Nobel laureates.

[READ OUR FULL REPORT](#)

Read also [the Guardian's report](#).



# Military Spending



## USA - Republicans : The cocaine monkeys of defense spending

Now that Republicans have complete control of Congress, the hawks have seized upon the party leadership's strong desire to pass a unified budget resolution as an opportunity to lard up Uncle Sam's war machine. It appears that once again they are more interested in showering the Pentagon with taxpayer dollars while refusing to ever resist the lure of war.

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### More articles on Military Spending :

- USA Budget fight; panel approves defense bill [>>](#)
- Big Winners and Big Losers in the House and Senate Republican Budgets [>>](#)



## Venezuela slashes military spending by 34%, but...

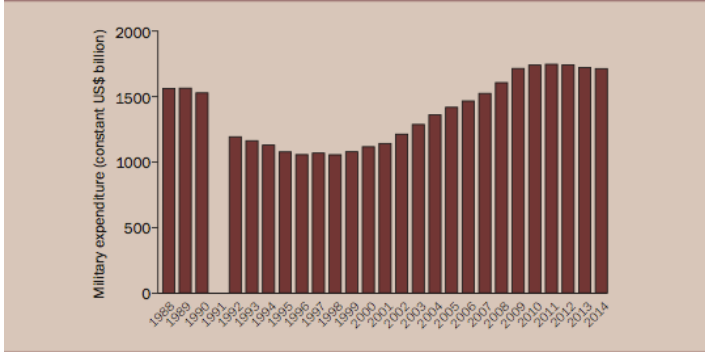
Venezuela last year slashed its defense budget by 34 percent. But the dramatic cut in a country with a history of military coups is unlikely to generate any audible grumbles among the army ranks because the top brass are too bought into the socialist country's system to contemplate a change in government, analysts say.

[READ MORE](#)

- 2016 GOP Budget Speaks Volumes [>>](#)
- Italy's White Paper Addresses Migrants, Budgeting [>>](#)
- Hollande Raises Defense Spending to Counter Terror Threat [>>](#)

### Other SIPRI related stories :

- Follow the Arms : The Top 5 Hidden Stories



## SIPRI data : Trends in world military expenditure, 2014

According to this data, world military expenditure totalled \$1.8 trillion in 2014, a fall of 0.4 per cent. While falling for the third year in a row, it has levelled off as reductions in the US and Western Europe were largely matched by increases in Asia and Oceania, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa.

[SEE THE FACT SHEET](#)

## Nuclear weapons



## IPB Statement - NPT Review Conference 2015

The fact that the NPT Review coincides with the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is both disturbing and inspiring. Disturbing because it reminds us how little progress has been made over these decades in bringing to an end the era of terror weapons. Inspiring since both events will see large mobilizations of citizens determined to achieve the definitive

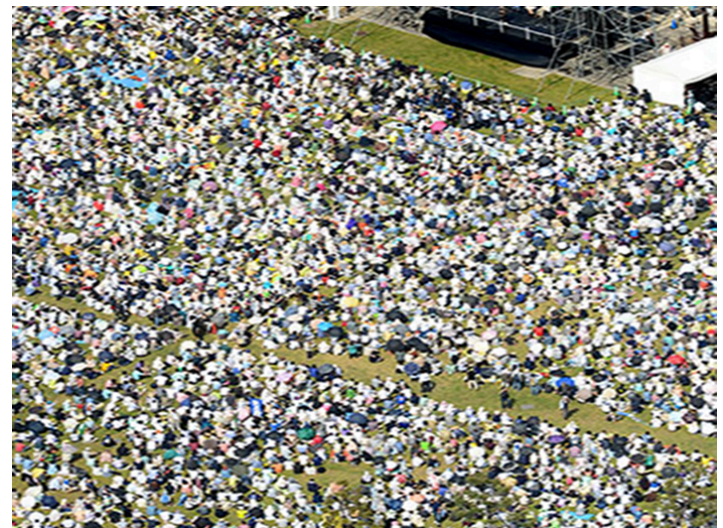
Revealed by the SIPRI report [>>](#)

- Germany falls behind on military spending [>>](#)

- Sweden raises defence budget amid Russia concerns [>>](#)

- US spending \$1 billion to reassure European allies [>>](#)

- Scared By Russia, Eastern European Countries Rush To Spend On Defense [>>](#)



## Abe's amendment push energizes Constitution Day rallies

An unprecedented sense of crisis as well as feelings of optimism engulfed rallies and other events around Japan on May 3, the 68th anniversary of the enforcement of the postwar Constitution. At Rinko Park in Yokohama's Minato-mirai district, about 30,000 people rallied in favor of preserving the Constitution, a turnout that surprised organizers of the event.

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elimination of weapons that "cannot co-exist with human beings" as the Hibakusha put it.

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### [More articles on Nuclear Weapons :](#)

- IALANA paper w/recommendations for NPT review [>>](#)

- Disarmament of Nuclear and 'Conventional' Weapons Urgent amid Mounting Global Violence [>>](#)

- 'Meteoric rise' of SNP shows forceful rejection of Trident in Scotland, says CND [>>](#)

## *Arms Trade*



### **Peace activists close down office of weapon lobby group**

The office of the weapon lobby group AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe was closed down on May 5, 2015 by peace activists. About twenty activists handed over letters of dismissal to the employees and took over the office. With this action they protest the influence of the arms industry on European policy making.

- Rokkasho - Japanese plutonium [>>](#)

- East Asia NGOs push for no-nukes zone to engage North Korea [>>](#)

- U.S. and Russian Generals Call for Reducing the Risk of Inadvertent Nuclear War [>>](#)

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[www.bancaarmada.org](http://www.bancaarmada.org)

### **SPAIN - Stakeholders protest against "armed banks"**

The entities involved in Banca Armada campaign will participate to the general meetings of shareholders of CaixaBank and Banco Sabadell to report their investment policy in arms companies. The JM Delàs Center (IPB member), SETEM, Justícia i Pau, RETS and the ODG promote this initiative to raise awareness of and public condemnation for financial institutions which participate in the arms manufacture.

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- Have Spanish arms been used to kill civilians in the conflict in Yemen ? IPB-member analysis [»»](#)

### More articles on Arms Trade :

- The \$18bn arms race helping to fuel Middle East conflict [»»](#)

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## *Impacts*



### **How war and climate change are wired to the same engine**

Catastrophic climate change is imminent, as the world's rulers rearm for new wars and plunge the mass of humanity deeper into poverty. Climate change, poverty, and war are tearing our world apart. These are not separate issues ; They are connected. They are part of a system of rival states and corporations. The driver of the system is competition for profit.

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## *Resources*

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## *Miscellaneous*



### **Military-university collaborations in the U.K - An update**

After the end of the Cold War, the U.K government started to privatise its research laboratories, leading to a more commercial environment for military-university collaborations. Numerous new 'partnerships' were founded involving universities, MoD, and/or major arms corporations. These schemes have evolved, but official enthusiasm for collaboration continues, and some government advisors are actively pushing for it to be expanded.

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## Small Arms Survey : Launch of the Global Burden of Armed Violence 2015

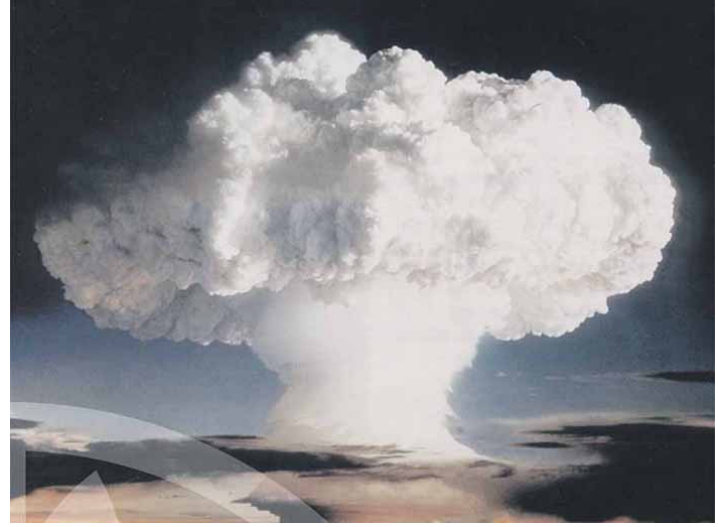
The *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2015: Every Body Counts* was launched on 11 May 2015. The event included presentation on the research findings, followed by a panel discussion. It provides a wealth of data relevant to security and the post-2015 sustainable development framework. It benefits from increased availability of disaggregated data enhancing knowledge of context and characteristics of lethal violence, especially incidents involving firearms.

[READ MORE](#)

### More Resources :

- Nuclear Weapons : The State of Play 2015 [>>](#)

- Join PCDN, the Go to hub for the Global Change-making Community ! [>>](#)



## Reaching Critical Will - Assuring destruction forever : 2015 edition

Reaching Critical Will of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has released its latest updated study exploring the ongoing and planned nuclear weapon modernisation programmes in China, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

[READ MORE](#)

- New publication by Article 36 and Reaching Critical Will - Filling the legal gap : The prohibition of nuclear weapons [>>](#)



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