

NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

The crisis in the Ukraine has focused attention in the region and far beyond on the risks of war. For IPB, it is yet another reminder – as if it were needed! - that massive arsenals of destructive weapons and aggressive posturing make for an explosive combination. Whether we are entering a new 'Cold War' is a matter for debate. Like peace movements everywhere, we have been arguing for an urgent diplomatic settlement, if possible through structures such as the OSCE. Meanwhile the arms dealers and hawkish government administrations have lost no time in using the crisis to justify yet more investments in dangerous military tools and programmes. As we enter the final weeks of preparations for the annual **Global Day of Action on Military Spending**, we report on a range of related issues.

We value your feedback! Please don't hesitate to forward this newsletter to colleagues who you think may find it of use.

Good luck in your efforts for peace,

Colin Archer
IPB Secretary-General
25 March 2014

DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

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GDAMS 2014



Preparations are well under way for this year's events. In Geneva we will hold a festival to link the Day with the campaign against the proposed purchase of Gripen jets by the Swiss military. The Secretariat is also holding a seminar with UN officials and experts on the global military spending challenge. In Brussels there will be a die-in; in Rajasthan villages rallies and workshops are planned; in Nairobi a peace march. Activists are using all the techniques of campaigning to get the message across: leafleting train stations, meetings in Parliament buildings, street theatre and flash mobs; electronic petitions and 'Thunderclap' actions. Don't forget to send in the details of your actions so they can be shared with others via social media, websites etc.

Ukraine



The rapidly unfolding crisis over the Ukraine has gripped the attention of the world over the last few weeks. Rather than attempt to summarise reactions, we present here only the IPB statement and a couple of communications received from member organisations.

IPB statement on Ukraine: "Dialogue and East-West Cooperation are the key."

"March 11, 2014. The events of the last few days and weeks only serve to confirm what the IPB and others in the disarmament wing of the international peace movement have been asserting for years: that in times of political tension, military force solves nothing. It provokes only more military force from the other side, and risks pushing both parties up and around an infernal spiral of violence. This is an especially dangerous course when there are nuclear weapons in the background. (...)"

IPB member Gensuikyo sent a letter of protest to President Putin on March 4th, 2014

"Against the decision of the Russian Government to make military intervention in Ukraine on the grounds of protecting Russian Ukrainians, voices of criticism are heightening around the world. Making unilateral military intervention into another country without its consent or any U.N. Security Council resolutions is an act of aggression in violation of the country's sovereignty and the Charter of the United Nations. Clearly, the problems within Ukraine should be settled peacefully by the hands of the Ukrainian people without outside intervention. We urge your government to immediately stop military intervention in Ukraine and work for the resolution of the problems in a peaceful manner."

Preventing war in Ukraine through civil and political efforts, Statement by IPB Member SPAS on Ukraine

"The Russian military intervention in Ukraine and Crimea is deeply disturbing and a violation of international law and must be condemned. The situation must be dealt with promptly with diplomacy and international civil and political efforts to prevent violence breaking out. There is still a high risk of civil war and Russia to act militarily in Eastern Ukraine . Kharkiv , which traditionally had close ties to Russia, is another danger zone with ongoing Russian aggression. Instead of further escalating the situation by military means , as advocated both in Russia and in the West , there are better , more peaceful and long-term tools for both Sweden and international actors to resolve the conflict in Ukraine."

Military Spending

Mattea Kramer, Is the Pentagon Doomed - To Be Flush Forever?

"Washington is pushing the panic button, claiming austerity is hollowing out our armed forces and our national security is at risk. That was the message Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel delivered last week when he announced that the Army would shrink to levels not seen since before World War II. **Headlines** about this crisis followed in papers like the New York Times and members of Congress issued statements swearing that they would never allow our security to be held hostage

to the budget-cutting process. (...)”

See also [the research piece](#) behind the article.

USA: **Markey and Merkley Introduce Legislation to Cut Bloated Nuclear Weapons Budget**

As the discussion of reducing the Pentagon’s budget continues, alternative approaches are being brought into discourse. One of them being Senator Edward Markey’s concept of cutting the nuclear weapons budget, reducing the numbers of active nuclear weapons and bringing down costs by US\$100 billion in the next ten years.

Nuclear Budget News: The Good, Bad & Really Ugly

US Campaigners at [Tri-Valley CAREs](#) analyze the Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration’s budget request each year. Here are three recent insights:

Dispatch #1 celebrates a major victory as the “top line” budget request documents reveal that the mixed oxide plutonium fuel (MOX) boondoggle is being placed in “cold standby.”

Dispatch #2 reveals that an “interoperable warhead” currently under development by weapons designers at Livermore Lab will be placed on hold for 5 years. Our report outlines why this deferral is tantamount to cancellation of the program and is a huge win for both nuclear and budgetary restraint.

Dispatch #3 offers an overview of the nuclear weapons, nonproliferation and cleanup funding request documents released so far. We reveal the shocking rise in the funding request for nuclear weapons activities and the related decrease in funding requested for programs to secure vulnerable nuclear materials and clean up the mess from past nuclear programs.

New Obama Budget Slashes Nonproliferation

In its Fiscal Year 2015 [budget request](#) for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the Obama administration made it resoundingly clear that it is in a full-on retreat from accelerating the security of nuclear and radiological materials around the globe.



U.S. Foreign Assistance: More Guns than Butter

Aid to foreign militaries is quickly eclipsing development assistance in the U.S. foreign aid budget. “In this year’s budget, Congress authorized the Pentagon and the State Department to spend almost the same amount on foreign military and police assistance (\$19.1 billion) as it did for State and USAID to use for non-security purposes such as health, education, and food security programs (\$21.5 billion). While the Pentagon’s spending is difficult to track because of its opaque reporting process, it is possible to isolate several troubling trends.”

“The People Who Think We Don’t Spend Enough On Defense Are Dead Wrong”

Those who think the USA don’t spend enough on defense [are dead wrong](#), according to a new poll. In conjunction [with Foreign Policy](#), the Snap Poll of the Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) Project at the College of William & Mary [released a survey](#) Friday showing what 909 international scholars think about the Obama administration’s 2015 defense spending plan, among other topics. The poll found that, when it comes to defense spending, 27 percent believe the proposal would enhance U.S. security, while another 53 percent see it having no effect.

See also this link:

[New York Times Letter to the Editor on Pentagon spending by Lt. General Robert Gard.](#)

China to raise its defence budget by 12.2%

China announced a growth target of 7.5% and revealed plans to raise its defense budget by 12.2%, as it opened its annual parliament session in Beijing. When asked by a US journalist about China’s military spending during a press conference on Tuesday, a spokeswoman [Fu Ying replied](#) with a question: “If China’s defense is weak, will that mean there will be peace?” Ms Fu’s response has been widely quoted in the media. [A commentary in Hong Kong-based pro-Beijing Ta Kung Pao](#) praises and supports Ms Fu’s response. “The US annual defense report is always concerned about China’s military spending, and Japan will also act accordingly to play up the China threat.”



Ukraine’s parliament approves Hr 6.7 billion for defense, mobilization of armed forces

Ukraine’s parliament approved emergency funding of Hr 6.7 billion (more than \$600 million) for military spending and agreed to mobilize military and National Guard units -- a significant amount in a national budget that doesn’t exceed \$50 billion a year.

Events in Ukraine are taken to boost discussions on increasing Swedish defense spending and push demands to join NATO

Swedish liberals and conservatives are using recent events in Ukraine to bloat fear of military intervention on their own national territory by Russia and to push demands to join NATO and to rethink national defense strategy. This debate occurs parallel to a cross-party coalition proposal to boost capital spending on the Navy’s submarine fleet. After significant

cutbacks in military spending in recent years geographical proximity to Russia is now used to legitimise heavy investments in military structures.

Namibia Defence Force to build new military bases

According to The Namibian Daily the government published a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the Namibian Defense Forces (NDF) that includes about N\$5 billion for upgrading existing and setting up five new army bases around the country. "The project is to provide a modern, well-trained and well-developed defence force. The primary beneficiary is the NDF," says the project description according to The Namibian. The Minister of Finance, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, has defended the massive defence allocation of N\$6,6 billion in the 2014-15 national budget, saying the government was not "expanding the size of the military or preparing for war". Defence spending jumped by 66% from N\$3,9 billion in the last budget. The Gender Equality and Child Welfare Ministry is one of the ministries that received the least financial backing; it is set to receive just N\$250 million over the next three years in order to build infrastructures.

Comment: Global military spending is now an integral part of capitalism

Militarisation could be seen as an integral part of capitalism since this system relies on globalized markets, while units of capital still rely on national states as they are based and often concentrated on a national level and expect them to guarantee affordable infrastructure, labour etc. Additional national states accompany the competitive battles of companies etc. on a global level. Maintaining a military advantage is a crucial and intrinsic part of this concept. But why should geo-economic competition lead to massive defense spending? What is the role of civil society in combatting the culture of militarism? A Guardian Comment by Richard Seymour.

Report: Institute for Economics and Peace estimates global violence containment cost at US\$9,46 trillion

A new report, The Economic Cost of Violence Containment, calculates the cost of violence containment in over 150 countries according to 13 different types of violence-related spending. The numbers are comprised of US\$4,73 trillion for direct and indirect costs as well as another estimated US\$4,73 trillion of economic activity that would flow from reinvesting these costs in more fruitful economic activities. The research group developed a method of measurement, containing ten indicators from the Global Peace Index (GPI) and three additional indicators as well as the concept of 'violence containment spending'. Violence containment spending is defined as "economic activity that is related to the consequences or prevention of violence where the violence is directed against people or property".

Colin Archer, IPB General-Secretary, comments: "While some of us have trouble conceiving of military spending as 'violence containment', rather than violence preparation, this is nevertheless an interesting and informative report."

Arms Trade



Swiss and Netherlands allow arms exports to countries with human rights problems

Swiss lawmakers voted to ease a ban on arms exports to countries with poor human rights records, in a bid to boost the country's weapons industry. Lawmakers voted 94 to 93 to amend the legal provision to apply only in cases where there is a high risk of the weapons being used in human rights abuses. In a debate on the vote, parliament heard that the current blanket ban on such exports puts Swiss jobs at risk and arms makers at a disadvantage over competitors in countries such as Sweden or Austria. Switzerland ranks eighth in arms exports per capita. Major countries who export weapons to highly destabilized regions include USA, Russia, Germany, China, UK and France.

UN experts say Libyan arms are fueling conflict on several continents

In a report to the U.N. Security Council obtained Wednesday, the panel of experts said it is investigating the alleged transfer of weapons to 14 countries in violation of a U.N. arms embargo. The experts said they have documented the transfer of Libyan shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles to terrorist groups in Mali and Tunisia, and to others in Chad, Lebanon and "potentially" the Central African Republic. They said Lebanon's seizure of a Syria-bound ship in April 2012 proved that there were attempts to transfer these shoulder-fired missiles, as well as short-range surface-to-air missiles, to the Syrian opposition from Libya.

UK to review arms sales to Russia

NATO will continue to meet Russian government officials but will halt all other cooperation to send a "very clear message to Russia", said Secretary General of the alliance, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, in Brussels last week. Moves that have been stopped included a proposed joint mission with Russia involving the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. **But what about the sale of conventional weapons by the west to Russia?** More than £80m of licences for arms to Russia were granted last year alone, for a wide range of equipment. They included ammunition, and equipment for military aircraft and helicopters, according to official figures. One licence was for an unlimited number of parts for military aircraft, including helicopters. Britain has sold more than £400m worth of arms to Russia since 2008, compared to just £24m to Ukraine, official figures show. Millions of pounds of arms export licences to Russia may be scrapped after the government announced a review following the recent violence in Ukraine.

Israeli Arms Manufacturer Showing Massive Presence on Asian Expos

Israeli arms manufacturers, both state-owned and private sector enterprises, seem to be focusing on Asian-Israeli

relations, with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yalon, and several other military officials and dignitaries from various defense industries joining the Defexpo. Not only did they show off their state-of-the-art weapons systems; they were also able to clinch a few important deals with countries in the region, building on last year's success. For instance, major players such as Israel Military Industries reportedly secured contracts with several Asian countries worth \$500 million during 2013, mostly for upgrades of military platforms, sales of heavy munitions, and a variety of military systems. Several important joint-ventures are also under way.

Impacts of Weapons

Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Castle Bravo Nuclear Test - Arms Control Essay Looks Back on U.S. Testing in the Marshall Islands

"March 1 is the anniversary of one of the most controversial and harmful of the United States' 1,030 nuclear weapons test explosions: the 15-megaton atmospheric thermonuclear shot code-named "Castle Bravo" over Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Six decades later, the Castle Bravo test and the other U.S. nuclear test detonations conducted in the Marshall Islands from 1946 to 1958 have cast a long shadow over the Marshallese people, according to April L. Brown in her article in the March issue of Arms Control Today, "No Promised Land: The Shared Legacy of the Castle Bravo Nuclear Test."



NUCLEAR WEAPONS



MISCELLANEOUS

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) advocates recall of British nuclear submarines

IPB member organisation CND today slammed the government for 'ratcheting up expenditure' on nuclear weapons, while calling for nuclear armed subs to be recalled from service in the wake of revelations over new safety issues. Defence Secretary Hammond announced that £120 million would be spent replacing the reactor core of HMS Vanguard, while a further £150 million would have to be spent at Raynesway and Devonport construction and refitting facilities. In response, Kate Hudson, CND General Secretary, commented that "The recent failure of flood defences across Southern England did not see a commensurate increase in spending, yet we all expect it to be repeated. With budgets under pressure, it is time we scrapped Trident and put the money where it is needed,"

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2014 World Conference against A and H

Call for Spring Days of Action on Drones

www.warisacrime.org has issued an international call for Spring Days of Action – 2014, a coordinated campaign in April and May to: End Drone Killing, Drone Surveillance and Global Militarization! The campaign will focus on drone bases, drone research facilities and test sites and drone manufacturers.

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICES - 2014 Public Peace Prize

The laureates for the first Public Peace Prize have now been announced. They were chosen from among 28 candidates proposed by the public in honour of the World Day of Peace on January 1st. 4,450 people voted between February 18th and 28th, 2014 to choose a candidate in each of the three established categories. See the results here.

IPB member appointed to UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group + Call to Action

IPB congratulates Patricia Perez, President of the International Community of Women living with HIV/AIDS, (IPB member), on her appointment to the prestigious UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group. Also available in Spanish and French.

New European Institute of Peace Prepares for Debut

In times of slow economic recovery, and historically low levels of political trust, the creation of a new (official) peacebuilding organization in Europe offers a rare and unexpected opportunity for optimism. On February 18, seven countries signed the charter establishing a European Institute of Peace, or EIP, based in Brussels. The founding members that have

Bombs, Japan

Gensuikyo (IPB member organisation) write: "We will soon mark the 69th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In these two cities, we will hold the **2014 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs on August 2 to 9**, under the title: *"For a Nuclear Weapon-free, Peaceful and Just World"*. This year's Conference is being held on the eve of 2015, year of the next NPT Review Conference and the 70th anniversary of the A-bombings. In order to realize the Hibakusha's earnest wish for "a nuclear weapon-free world within their lifetime", this year's World Conference must play a significant role. We invite you all to participate and take actions in solidarity."

RESOURCES

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons: Campaigners kit now out!

This campaigners kit is a toolbox for use in different elements of international and national campaigning on nuclear abolition: changing the discourse; building coalitions; handling the media and more. We hope that their hands-on experience will be useful in your daily work.

New SIPRI publication on measuring Turkey's military expenditure

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has announced the publication of *'Measuring Turkey's Military Expenditure'*. Estimating how much Turkey spends on its military requires a detailed study to determine which government spending is for military-related activities and to trace its source. While details of some of Turkey's military expenditure is available online—such as the budgets of the Ministry of National Defence—access to information about other elements is limited or, in some cases, impossible.

New book on Lebanon: Towards Achieving a Transparent and Accountable National Budget

The fact that Lebanon has not had a national budget since 2005 is only the tip of the iceberg of our public finance problems. The deeper challenge is that the country lacks the two major pillars of strong institutions – accountability and transparency – that ensure that the budget can be spent effectively and efficiently. The book goes beyond the issue of data accuracy and examines the comprehensiveness of the budget, its accounting rules as well as the budgetary appropriations and specifications.

Tony Benn 1925-2014: tireless, inspirational fighter for peace, justice and equality

Many activists are mourning the loss of a great UK parliamentarian, socialist and peace campaigner. Tony Benn's legacy will be his undying commitment to the fight for justice and equality, and his opposition to the endless war and militarism that are such a blight on today's world. [Hear him speak!](#)

committed to funding the initiative for the first three years include Sweden, Finland and Belgium, and two of the "Visegrad Group", Hungary and Poland. The founders also include non-EU states, including Switzerland. The Institute is gearing up for its public launch in May 2014.

Peacebuilding Peace Prize - World Vision seeks nominations

World Vision International is seeking nominations for the World Vision International Peace Prize, whose purpose is to bring hidden stories of courage and excellence for peace to the global stage. We encourage you to nominate an organization of your choice by **April 7, 2014**. Nominations can be submitted in English, French or Spanish.

JOB Vacancy at International Alert, Head of Economy & Peacebuilding, Peacebuilding Issues Programme

The London-based NGO International Alert is recruiting a hands-on leader to join their Peacebuilding Issues Programme (PIP), which consists of a team of experts focusing on training, advocacy and research, and on specific issues such as environment and climate change, governance, the economic aspects of peace and gender, providing ideas and practical support on peacebuilding issues and methods.



After Geneva in 2010, Stockholm 2013 and Utrecht 2013, [Making Peace](#) will be held in Sarajevo in June. It should also be exhibited in Manchester and Strasbourg next year. If you or your organisation would like to get involved in the US tour of Making Peace or can help the [IPB](#) in presenting Making Peace elsewhere in the world, please do let us know. You can contact us at help@makingpeace.org



IPB in need of support, please consider:

Leaving us a legacy or making an endowment or a simple donation. In this way you can enable IPB to plan its work more effectively and thus help to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". For more information, please contact: Víctor de



la Barrera, Treasurer - victor@ipb.org - Tel: +41 (22) 731 6429



The International Peace Bureau is a non-profit association founded in 1891, the oldest international peace organization, dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. Our network includes 300 member organisations in 70 countries. Our current main programme centres on Disarmament for Sustainable Development and we campaign mainly on the reduction of military expenditure. We depend on your support to continue working on this and a range of other topics, including nuclear and conventional disarmament, arms trade, peace education, culture of peace and peace history.

New DGAMS SELFIE Campaign launched!

At the International Peace Bureau (IPB), the GDAMS team has launched **a 'selfie' campaign** to create public awareness about what the money currently invested in the military sector could be used for instead.

So tell us what you think; should governments move the money from the military sector to help fight climate change? To provide education for everyone? Take a selfie and tell us where you think the \$1.75 trillion should be moved to, using the line "If I had \$1.75 trillion, I would #movethemoney! to...".

This Newsletter was edited by Malte Albrecht. If you have feedback or material for the next edition please send to: nletter@ipb.org

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