

## International Peace Bureau

Newsletter June 26th, 2014

# NEWSLETTER



**SARAJEVO 2014**  
PEACE EVENT



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izgradnju mira

### **Report on IPB activities at Peace Event Sarajevo**

The Peace Event Sarajevo was an intense experience for all the IPB participants. Apart from a wealth of valuable informal networking, we organised or participated in several sessions, notably on the issue of Military Spending and Disarmament for Development.

### **After the Peace Event Sarajevo : summary, photo gallery, new website map**

Over 2500 participants at the international Peace Event Sarajevo 2014, 6-9 June. We have to counter the threat of war in the world more intensely and commonly and we have to interfere in the mankind question about "war and peace" with much more energy and more international actions. This was the unique vote of all participants of the largest Peace Event in 2014, which took place on Pentecost with more than 190 workshops and many cultural events as well as a large youth camp in Sarajevo.

## DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

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\*Views expressed in summarized articles are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views of IPB\*

### **Latest: Iraq Conflict - Peace Movement Reactions**

**As the crisis in Iraq intensifies, protest against plans for military intervention is spreading. Various demonstrations and press conferences have been held during the last week. IPB is preparing a deeper analysis including reports on Peace Movement reactions. Please send us your reports so we can include them:** [mailbox\[at\]ipb.org](mailto:mailbox[at]ipb.org)

### **US and UK peace movements react to risk of yet more western intervention.**

Demonstrations against yet another intervention in Iraq took place in London in a joint effort of various peace movement



organizations.

The development of a conflict which already involves Iran and Saudi Arabia, could foreshadow a full scale Middle Eastern war, with incalculable consequences for Israel and the Palestinians. A comment by Lindsey German.

#### **Protests around the United States**

Margaret Flowers and Kevin Zeese provide a solid overview on latest events on the subject of US intervention in the Iraq and background info on politics and resistance.

#### **Veterans For Peace Organizes Nationwide**

#### **Protests Against War**

Iraq War veterans are sending a message to President Obama: Don't intervene in Iraq, it will only result in more lost lives, both U.S. and Iraqi.

### **Military Spending**

#### **USA: House Panel approves massive Pentagon spending**

A US House panel approved \$570 billion in Pentagon spending for 2015, but became the first committee to support retiring the A-10 fleet.

#### **Hagel's statement on defense budget request**

The President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget submission for the Department of Defense fully reflects the historic transition taking place as America winds down the longest war in its history. This is a defining budget that will begin adapting and reshaping our defense enterprise for years to come.

#### **Swiss Government moves money from the military!**

800 million francs, which should have gone to the purchase of Gripen fighter aircraft (rejected by the Swiss people in a referendum on May 18) will go to other projects. The Federal Council has decided not to allocate these funds to the army, contrary to the wishes of Defence chief Ueli Maurer.

#### **OCO to fund Obama's new security initiatives, busting budgetary restraint**

President Obama called for support of new counterterrorism initiatives, while being unspecific where the funding for these programmes will be coming from. The Reset Defense Bulletin now reports that the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) budget will be used for it.

See also: **Obama administration says goodbye to 'war on terror'**

#### **China: Harmony vs. power**

While some see China's increased military spending as a sign of aggression, others believe that China is increasing its spending for cultural as well as historical reasons—including a desire not to be subjugated by outside powers, a belief in the importance of accumulating both wealth and power, and a Confucian preference for harmony. From this point of view, China wants to boost its international prestige with a greater military presence in the Asia-Pacific not for aggressive purposes but as a defense against bullying and intervention, which it experienced frequently during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

See also: **Fearing China: Gaps, assumptions and military spending**

#### **Indonesia flags military build-up to protect presence in South China Sea**

China's intensifying move to assert claims over the South China Sea has given fresh impetus to a military build-up in Indonesia that will see its forces deployed with greater focus on external risks.

#### **Pakistan: Defence spending jacked up by 11.1%**

Pakistan has raised its defence spending by 11.1 per cent for the coming fiscal year amid reports that the army is preparing for the final push against Taliban militants holed up in the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

#### **Dutch auditors ask where NATO budget is spent**

Dutch auditors claim NATO member states – which contribute to the organization's budget from a combined \$1 trillion in defense spending – are largely unaware of how these funds are being spent, as most of the alliance's expenditures remain classified.

#### **Germany may raise its below-average defense budget**

Germany may have to lift defense spending to counter future threats by Russia as Europe's biggest economy faces U.S. pressure to build up its military, an ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

#### **Report on the future of the Danish defense industry published**

The Future of the Danish Defense Industry - Market Attractiveness, Competitive Landscape and Forecasts to 2018 offers the reader an insight into the market opportunities and entry strategies adopted by foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to gain market share in the Danish defense industry. This report is the result of SDI's extensive market and company research covering the Danish defense industry, and provides detailed analysis of both historic and forecast defense industry values including key growth stimulators, analysis of the leading companies in the industry, and key news.

### **Military Spending - Commentary**

#### **MIT scientist speaks out: "We need the dissolution of NATO – It has no mission"**

In an interview with IPS, Subrata Ghoshroy, an engineer of Indian descent, describes how sophisticated weapon systems are being used as dominant instruments of U.S. foreign policy. Ghoshroy himself had worked in the field of high-energy laser before he turned defence analyst and whistleblower against faked 'Star Wars' missile defence tests by U.S. government contractors. In this interview he discusses the role of NATO, too.

#### **India's military spending responsible for poor health indicators**

In a student exchange programme held in Government Medical College, Srinagar, Organising Secretary, Dr Arun Mitra of 'Indian Doctors for Peace and Development,' said while on one hand India has a huge military budget on the other hand its health indicators are one of the poorest in the world.

### **What would Afghan spending buy at home?**

Most of the stories headlining how President Obama plans to cut troops in Afghanistan as part of his planned exit from that country have not bothered to provide numbers on U.S. military spending there. Here's one thing to consider: \$20 billion is about one-third to one-half of what the United States Department of Education spends on elementary, secondary and vocational education, and comparable to what it spends on higher education. A commentary by Russ Baker.



## **Focus: East Europe Military Expenditure**

### **Russian, NATO arms race takes shape**

The crisis in Ukraine is continuing to spur increased military efforts by both Russia and NATO's Eastern European member states, with the former recently adding to its procurement list, and countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Latvia unveiling plans to expand their defense budgets.

### **Military affairs: U.S. deploys B-52s to Europe**

The U.S. Air Force plans to temporarily deploy heavy bombers capable of delivering nuclear weapons to Europe, one day after President Obama announced he would increase the U.S. military presence in the region.

### **Ukraine boosts defense budget amid eastern unrest**

Ukraine has increased its defense spending for 2014 by 22 percent in response to the tensions in the eastern part of the country, a senior military official said.

## **Arms Trade**

### **ATT: Eight more states ratify Arms Trade Treaty at event commemorating its opening for signature in 2013**

On 3 June 2014, eight of the signatories, namely Australia, Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Samoa jointly deposited their respective instruments of ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty at an event held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, which also marked the one-year anniversary of the Treaty's opening for signature. That joint deposit brought the number of ratifications to 40, just 10 short of the 50 needed for the Treaty to enter into force 90 days later.

### **Germany eyes arms export changes after backlash**

Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet will agree on Wednesday to make the approval process for politically-sensitive arms exports more transparent, coalition sources said, following a domestic backlash against rising German sales to problem regions.

### **Asia's bigger defence budget creates sales opportunities**

Developing countries, especially those in South-east Asia, are leading the increase in military spending, opening up many business opportunities for firms in the defence industry to expand their footprint here.

## **Impacts of Weapons**

### **Choose Life Without Weapons: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Argentina meet both on and off the pitch**

On the occasion of the Football World Cup match between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Argentina, a coalition of organisations launches a dialogue between both nations on reducing gun violence.

See also this interesting collection at Aljazeera: **Football Rebels**

### **Pollution Politics: power, accountability and toxic remnants of war, new report**

REPORT LAUNCH: **Toxic Remnant of War Project**'s latest report examines where responsibility lies for reducing the health and environmental risks from military and conflict pollution. It highlights existing gaps within international law, the limited capacity of affected states to deal with environmental contamination, casualty assistance and the unequal nature of current assistance for TRW.





## NUCLEAR WEAPONS

### Deploying Morals Against Weapons of Mass Destruction

At a recent panel discussion at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, interfaith leaders sat down with members of the IPB-Member Global Security Institute (GSI) and the Philippines mission to the U.N. to discuss the moral compass that could guide progress on disarmament and deterrents. IPB-Member

### World's nuclear arsenal reduction slows down says the Stockholm Institute

The number of nuclear weapons in the world continue to decline, but at a slower pace than in previous years, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) says in its new report.

See additional Report: [Nuclear powers talk up disarmament while modernizing arsenals](#)

### BIG NEWS! US Conference of Mayors Calls for Constructive Good Faith US Participation in International Nuclear Disarmament Forums

The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), a non-partisan association of America's big cities, unanimously adopted a sweeping new resolution **Calling for Constructive Good Faith U.S. Participation in International Nuclear Disarmament Forums** on 23rd June 2014 at its 82nd annual meeting in Dallas, Texas. According to USCM President Kevin Johnson, Mayor of Sacramento, California, "These resolutions, once adopted, become official USCM policy."

# MAKING PEACE

### **Making Peace: Strasbourg - Sarajevo – Basel**

Mayor Komsic of Sarajevo opens Making Peace exhibition on

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Upcoming events to move us beyond war

The US-based campaign 'World Beyond War' aims

- to create awareness of popular support for ending war
- to further develop that support, to advance the idea of not just preventing any particular war but abolishing the entire institution
- Replace a culture of war with one of peace in which nonviolent means of conflict resolution take the place of bloodshed

It now provides resources for events and promoting them all over the world. You can find existing events, or create an event that will be promoted to people in your area.

### PeaceJam launches "One Billion Acts of Peace" campaign

PeaceJam Foundation officially launched its One Billion Acts of Peace campaign at the Social Innovation Summit at the United Nations in New York today. PeaceJam Foundation is a U.S. based non-profit organization and global leader in developing young activists and community engagement. Led by thirteen Nobel Peace Laureates, including the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the campaign is designed to inspire average citizens around the world to work together to create one billion high quality projects that address the most important issues facing humanity.

### 2014 Global Peace Index

The 2014 Global Peace Index has just been released by the Vision of Humanity initiative of the Institute for Economics and Peace along with new groundbreaking research that identifies the countries most at risk of instability and violence. The 2014 Global Peace Index shows that since 2008, 111 countries have become less peaceful, while only 51 have become more peaceful. Read an analysis of the state of peace as well as new research on countries at risk.

Explore the Global Peace Index interactive map to see where the countries of the world rank.



Saturday 28 June, with Ambassador Jurriaan Kraak of The Netherlands, IPB Secretary General Colin Archer, and Making Peace curator Ashley Woods. **Vanessa Glodjo, who recently starred in Angelina Jolie's film 'In the Land of Blood and Honey'** accepted the role of Making Peace Ambassador for Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH). She will also participate in our youth workshops organized in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Special thanks to local BiH coordinators Aida Burnett-Cargill and Lejla Karovic who translated the entire exhibition into both Bosnian latin and cyrillic languages.

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcbmaY7StT0>**

While the scars of the past are still healing, we hope the presentation of Making Peace in BiH will help people (especially youth) understand how futile war is, and the immense effort that is necessary to rebuild and preserve peace, not only in the Balkans but in the rest of Europe and throughout the world. Sarajevo follows the successful opening of **Making Peace Strasbourg**. We now look forward to **Making Peace Basel** in August 2014 where the exhibition will be one of the main events being organized by Swiss Peace to mark Switzerland's 2014 Chairmanship of the OSCE.

**<http://makingpeace.org/en/venues/2014/strasbourg>**

**<http://makingpeace.org/en/venues/2014/basel>**

Take a minute to look at the opening in Geneva

**[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpMQ\\_6ownxo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpMQ_6ownxo)**

And / or follow Making Peace on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/makingpeace](http://www.facebook.com/makingpeace)**

If you / or your organization would like to see Making Peace presented in your town/city contact us today: [help@makingpeace.org](mailto:help@makingpeace.org)

**[www.makingpeace.org](http://www.makingpeace.org)**



**IPB is 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](mailto: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.

This Newsletter was edited by Eva Steketee and Malte Albrecht. If you have feedback or material for the next edition please send to: [nletter@ipb.org](mailto:nletter@ipb.org)