

International Peace Bureau
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NEWSLETTER



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

IPB Statement on Gaza

Following protests by **tens of thousands around the world** against Israeli attacks on Gaza, IPB published a statement on July 25 calling for the immediate cessation of hostilities in Gaza and the resumption of peace talks. "IPB is deeply saddened and gravely concerned by the continued escalation of military operations in Gaza, the physical devastation, and the high number of Palestinian civilian casualties, including whole families. The entire Palestinian population in Gaza is again being subjected to collective punishment. As each day passes, more innocent civilians are being killed. We call for an immediate ceasefire. Israel has also lost people and the population is living in fear. The indiscriminate rocket attacks from Gaza against Israel must also stop. (...)" Read the full **IPB statement**.

IPB Geneva Office: highlights of recent summer events

In case you have missed out postings, here are some recent events: Visit from Code Pink co-founder Medea Benjamin...Opening of Making Peace exhibition in Sarajevo...Basel Forum on Nuclear Abolition...Action at Palais des Nations with the 'TEN' initiative on military spending - [MORE](#).



Climate Change and Military Spending: IPB publication forthcoming

Everyone's talking about climate change, but few commentators make the link with militarism, and especially the opportunity cost of spending billions of dollars on warfare rather than taking action on global warming! IPB hopes this issue will be raised at the upcoming UN Climate Change Summit in New York (Sept 23), the historic People's Climate March (Sept 21, also International Day of Peace!), the NYC Climate Convergence (Sept 19-20) and the InterFaith Summit on Climate Change (Sept 21-22) -- all events aimed at raising public and political awareness in the run-up to the crucial COP21 intergovernmental conference in Paris, Dec. 2015. To that end we will soon be publishing a **special IPB report** linking these issues. Watch this space! Click [here](#) for a full listing of the events in NY.

Military Spending

NATO allies agree to boost military budgets

NATO allies are boosting their military spending in Europe and are preparing to impose greater sanctions against Russia unless it withdraws its forces from the Ukrainian border and stops the flow of weapons to separatists.

Senate Panel approves Pentagon spending bill, but its fate remains uncertain

On 17th July, the US Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved legislation that would give the Pentagon \$489.6 billion in base spending and \$58.3 billion in war funding. The legislation bill must next be considered by the full Senate, but Senior members made it clear it may never see the Senate floor. See the full [report](#).

India raises military spending and eases foreign investment limits in arms industry

India boosted defence spending by 12% in 2014-15 over the previous year in a military budget of 2.29 trillion Indian rupees (\$38.35 billion) presented on 10th July, and further opened the domestic weapons industry to foreign investment to help rebuild the military and narrow the gap with China. India has been the world's top arms buyer for the last three years, trying to replace an ageing Soviet-era military with modern weapons as a deterrent to a rising China.

PM David Cameron announces extra £1.1 billion defence spending package

Speaking at the Farnborough International Air Show, David Cameron outlined investments of £800 million for a new surveillance package and £300 million for a new ice patrol ship and radar. This will pay for drones, UK special forces and intelligence gathering to tackle global terrorism.

\$100B defence spending plan laid out for industry by Canada's Department for National Defence

Canada's Conservative government is proposing more than \$100 billion in defence spending in a Defence Acquisition Guide; a list of more than 200 separate procurement projects the military hopes to undertake in the next 20 years. The list lays out a series of projects that would see the Department of National Defence get new fighter jets, rescue planes,



helicopters, drones, ships, satellites, uniforms and even rifles.

Queen Elizabeth names biggest warship ever amid Scotland defence budget uncertainty

Queen Elizabeth officially named the biggest warship Britain has ever built on Friday amid uncertainty over Scotland's upcoming independence referendum and future British defence spending. HMS Queen Elizabeth is the first of two new aircraft carriers worth £6.2 billion.

10,000 cops will police NATO protests

Police Federation documents revealed that a staggering 10,000 cops will be drafted from across Britain for NATO's Newport summit in Wales to shut out mass anti-war protests. Thousands of peace campaigners have pledged to descend on the summit to express their outrage at warmongering policies of nuclear alliance NATO. CND Secretary General Kate Hudson argues that spending millions on protecting NATO leaders from peaceful protesters is a shameful waste of public money.

Pentagon urged to focus on "Great Power Conflict" to save budget

According to a new study by the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), United States defence leaders should focus more on a "great power conflict" between a newly aggressive Russia and rapidly modernizing China. Doing so would force the Defense Department to modernize its existing force and invest significantly in maintaining technological advantages. Authors of the study wrote: "We believe that a 2021 affordable military that is focused on the growing conflict with China and Russia is the 'least bad' option for this punishing fiscal context of fewer and weaker defense dollars". Read the full "[Building the 2021 Affordable Military](#)" report.

First-ever Chinese ships join US-led RIMPAC exercises

The US has incorporated China into the world's biggest naval drills – involving 22 nations this year – for the first time. This year's proceedings, from June 26th to August 1st, involve some 48 ships, six submarines and 25,000 sailors.

EU research funding and defence

On June 24, the European Commission laid out plans on how to boost the EU's military and defence industries. It wants to create a single market on defence, make it more profitable, and intensify and merge research with the civil sector. The full European Commission Report: "[A new deal for European Defence](#)".

The Zimbabwean National Army feels the squeeze of shrinking defence budget

The Zimbabwean National Army has embarked on cost-saving measures which have seen military personnel being forced to take two weeks' leave every month and a reduction of spending on food and utility bills at barracks. The cash-strapped Zimbabwean government is devising more ways of cutting down on expenditure in the face of dwindling revenue inflows.

Peace Movement Actions:



IPB paper released on "The UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda: Peace and Disarmament"

As the intensive international debate on the Post-2015 Development Agenda continues, IPB has released a [Discussion Paper](#) highlighting the urgent need for the inclusion of a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on peace and for targets on worldwide disarmament and the reduction of excessive military spending.

Public Forum in Bath, USA, supports redirection of military spending

100 people turned up for a public forum on Maine's growing dependence on military spending. A three-woman panel of speakers examined the need for more local discussion across the state about how military spending is capital intensive and how putting tax money into building green technology, health care, education, rail systems, road and bridge repair would create more jobs.

Full study by the panel is available [here](#).

USA – Local groups gather in Fall River to protest Iraq involvement

As the United States ponders further involvement in Iraq, one small group of Americans questioned the wisdom of America's military expenditures. On 3 July, about a half-dozen protesters from groups such as Occupy Fall River, The Quequechan Alliance for Justice and Peace, Southcoast Progressive Alliance and the Budget for All Massachusetts Coalition took their places in front of Government Center.

Arms Trade

Franco-German joint arms venture with 'intended unification'

Nexter, a French government-owned weapons manufacturer, and Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW), a German manufacturer of highly protected wheeled and tracked vehicles, said on Tuesday their owners have agreed to set up an alliance with the creation of a 50:50 joint venture to house the French-German defence technology group, marking a major move in European cross-border consolidation in land armaments. A target date for completion of the deal is early 2015.

Hollande defies critics over warship sales to Russia

France is forging ahead with plans to supply Russia with at least one powerful warship despite objections from the U.S. and other allies, ahead of European talks on sanctions against Russia. President François Hollande made the statement, while dangling the possibility he might cancel the delivery of a second vessel.

UK arms export licences for Russia still in place despite claims of embargo

More than 200 licences to sell British weapons to Russia, including missile-launching equipment, are still in place despite David Cameron's claim in the Commons on 21st July that the government had imposed an absolute arms embargo against the country, according to a [report](#) by a cross-party group of MPs.



Pax Christi International Call for Action - Stop Arms Deliveries to Syria

In a recent [statement](#), Pax Christi International expressed its belief that the armed confrontation in Syria can be stopped if the international community focuses on promoting serious political negotiations and discouraging violence in all forms. Pax Christi International now calls on you to write your Government urging an end to the delivery of arms to all fighting parties.

Impacts of Weapons

Informal meeting of experts on explosive weapons

Recently in Oslo, experts from selected governments, international organizations, and civil society met to discuss the use of explosive weapons in populated areas as well as how to provide greater protection from civilians. Several members of the [International Network on Explosive Weapons \(INEW\)](#) were invited to attend. [INEW's call](#) is for immediate action to prevent human suffering from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

5th biennial meeting of states on small arms

The fifth biennial meeting of states to address the UN Programme of Action on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons took place from 16-20 June 2014 in New York. Reaching Critical Will, together with other civil society partners, provided advocacy and analysis through the daily Small Arms Monitor. For governmental statements and other primary documentation, plus RCW analysis, go to the [Reaching Critical Will Website](#).

Regional Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

On 8-9 July, the Regional Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development was held in Geneva, bringing together representatives from across Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to discuss how to effect measurable reductions in armed violence and improve development, both in the region and globally.

Still further to go on landmines

The international treaty outlawing land mines has turned into a success story, with 161 countries joining the pact. Nevertheless, the treaty will not reach its full effect if the United States does not also sign. President Obama has taken a [step](#) to reduce land mines and join the global treaty, but the New York Times Editorial Board argues that it is still not enough.

MAKING PEACE



Our Making Peace photo-exhibition opened in Sarajevo on 28th June as government representatives, citizens and the world's media gathered to commemorate the centenary of the assassination that led to World War I. The exhibition will be presented for 3 months (28 June - 21 Sept), along the Miljacka River. Speakers at the well-attended opening ceremony included Colin Archer (IPB Secretary General), Ambassador André Schaller (Switzerland), Ambassador Jurriaan Kraak (Netherlands), Hans Sackers (City of Utrecht), Mayor Ivo Komšić of Sarajevo and Vanessa Glođo, actress and 'Making Peace Ambassador for BiH'. Partnering-up with local NGO 'Youth Development Initiative KULT' we organized 5 workshops involving 100+ young people from 15 European countries. Both the exhibition text and the Educators' Guide were translated into Bosnian and Serbian languages and distributed electronically to 5000+ secondary schools in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Media coverage was really impressive, including EuroNews and Al Jazeera plus a large number of local media outlets.



together in 2014 are in Pakistan - India, Iran - Tunisia. These tours support the international campaign to ban nuclear weapons 2020.



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 - 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 Steketeer. If you have feedback or material for the next edition please send to: nletter@ipb.org