

International Peace Bureau  
Newsletter 26th August, 2014

# NEWSLETTER



## DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

### In this issue

Military Spending  
Arms Trade  
Impacts of Weapons  
Nuclear Weapons  
Miscellaneous

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

### IPB News



#### **Marshall Islands wins IPB Peace Prize**

IPB announced on 6<sup>th</sup> August that it will award its annual [Sean MacBride Peace Prize](#) for 2014 to the people and government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, RMI, for courageously taking the nine nuclear weapons-possessing countries to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to enforce compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and international customary law. Read the press release in [English](#) or in [German](#).

### Military Spending

#### **NATO to strengthen military exercises after Russian 'aggression'**

NATO Chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen said in an interview on 4<sup>th</sup> August that NATO will strengthen military exercises and draw up new defence plans following Russia's "aggression" in Ukraine. Rasmussen drew attention to the defence-spending discrepancies between Russia and NATO members, arguing for a reversal of the trend: while Russia had increased its defence spending by 50% over the past five years, NATO countries have, on average, reduced theirs by 20%.

#### **Poland puts on biggest military parade in years**

Poland put on its biggest military parade on the 15<sup>th</sup> August to mark its annual armed forces holiday that honours a Polish victory against Russian Bolsheviks in 1920. President Komorowski said the violence in Ukraine shows that conflict is still a "brutal reality" in Eastern Europe and Poland must be able to defend itself. More than 1,000 Polish soldiers marched, joined by dozens of U.S. and Canadian troops who are in Poland for NATO exercises.



#### **Gaza: The economic cost of war**

Israel's month-long offensive against the Gaza Strip has killed almost 2,000 people, destroyed large parts of the Strip, and caused untold damage to an already besieged economy. This report counts the economic cost of a military campaign that as well as claiming lives has made everyday life an extraordinary struggle.

See also: [Israel's 2014 budget can absorb cost of Gaza conflict](#)

### **Obama directs \$10 million in defence spending for 'unforeseen emergency' in Northern Africa**

Citing an 'unforeseen emergency' that 'requires immediate military assistance,' President Barack Obama is sending \$10 million to France to help fight terrorism in Mali, Niger and Chad. The announcement comes just days after Obama pledged to strengthen US security partnerships in Africa during the first-ever US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington D.C. last week.

### **Golden Hammer: US Congress loads military budget with \$20 billion in pet projects**

For failing to cut its pet projects from the already bloated military budget, Congress earned the Golden Hammer, a distinction given by The Washington Times to examples of fiscal waste, fraud, abuse or mismanagement. An analysis by the [Taxpayers Protection Alliance](#) says Congress added nearly \$20 billion in projects that the Pentagon did not request but that lawmakers included in their versions of the defense spending bills.

### **UK arms programmes face funding revival**

The UK expects to revive funding in arms programs after struggling with a straitened budget, with submarines, armoured vehicles, helicopters and the two new aircraft carriers seen as the beneficiaries. "The last army redundancies were last month and we are able now – because the budget is settled – to invest for the future," an army official said.

### **Japan highlights arms build-up in region as key security concern in annual defence report**

The Defence Ministry's annual defence white paper, released this month after approval by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet, states that Japan finds itself in a worsening security environment as North Korea pushes ahead with missile development and China and Russia step up military activity in the region. Japan also justified increases in defence spending as necessary to combat the "military threat" of China.

### **Commission proposes military research programme**

The European Commission is to "prepare the ground" for an EU military research programme by launching a 'Preparatory Action' that will "illustrate the value added of an EU contribution in new research" and complement research being undertaken under the Horizon 2020 programme. The aim is to "prepare the ground for a possible CSDP-related [Common Security and Defence Policy] research theme which could be funded under the next multi-annual financial framework", which will run from 2021 onwards.

### **Czech Republic defence expenditure registered a growth rate of -4.37%, to reach US\$2.10 billion in 2014.**

[Future of the Czech Republic Defense Industry](#) is a new market research publication providing readers with a detailed analysis of both historic and forecast Czech Republic defense industry values, factors influencing demand, the challenges faced by industry participants, analysis of industry leading companies, and key news. Czech Republic's military expenditure, valued at US\$2.10 billion in 2014, is expected to increase to US\$2.55 billion by 2019.

### **Philippines proposes 29% defence budget increase**

Philippine President Benigno Aquino has proposed a 2015 defence budget of PHP115.5 billion (USD2.6 billion), which according to official figures is a 29% increase over military spending in 2014. A government statement said the proposed budget – announced on 30 July – amounts to 4.4% of total government spending for 2015 and 0.8% of GDP.

### **Rearmament of Bulgarian army to cost BGN 1 billion by 2020**

Defence Minister Velizar Shalamanov stated on 15<sup>th</sup> August that the rearmament of the Bulgarian army will cost BGN 1 billion by 2020, explaining that the reduction of the country's dependence on Russia is a key goal of the rearmament. Although NATO demands defence spending of no less than 1.5% of GDP of its member states, Bulgaria's defence spending currently amounts to around 1.3% of GDP.

## **Arms Trade**



### **Amnesty International claim Britain has sanctioned £12 billion worth of arms deals with countries with poor human rights records**

The UK Government has come under pressure for selling arms to Israel as the Gaza assault continues and now experts and campaigners have revealed that Whitehall has sanctioned £12 billion worth of arms exports to 27 countries with poor human rights records.

### **Japan gives Vietnam six navy ships amid regional tension**

Japan says it will give Vietnam six naval ships for patrols in the South China Sea, amid regional tension with China over competing maritime claims. The offer, worth 500 million yen (\$5 million) was announced during a visit by Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida to Hanoi.

### **Germany cancels defence contract with Russia**

Germany cancelled a contract to supply Russia with a €120 million combat simulation centre on 4<sup>th</sup> August amid an escalating row among European partners about arms sales to Moscow, including France's €1.2 billion warship contract. In Russia the decision by Germany to withdraw authorisation for the three-year contract is expected to accelerate moves to cut dependence on imported military technology.

### **UN prepares for overhaul of arms trade reporting**

The [Arms Trade Treaty](#) is about to provide the biggest shake-up to conventional arms trade transparency since the end of the Cold War. UN officials and civil society experts expect the quality and quantity of reports on the international arms trade to increase as the current platform, the [UN Register of Conventional Arms](#), is augmented by the forthcoming Arms Trade Treaty.

### **Israel and the international arms trade, companies involved**

During the decade of 2004 to 2014, Israel was the eleventh biggest arms exporter in the world, and the thirteenth biggest arms importer. [Stop Wapenhandel](#) writes a [short overview](#) of the Israeli and international companies connected to the most important arms transfers to the Israeli Defence Forces in recent years.

### **New focus on arms industry expansion in Southeast Asia**

Driven by tensions with China, Southeast Asian nations are building up their own military contractors to develop local expertise and reduce their dependence on big American and European arms suppliers. With regional military spending forecast to rise to \$40 billion in 2016, 10% above last year's level, some countries are already developing their own exports.

### **The new merchants of death**



stance and promotion of disarmament in international forums and that "there is now an opportunity for New Zealand to play a crucial leadership role in the international community by supporting ongoing progress towards a nuclear weapons-free world"

# MAKING PEACE

**Latest news - Making Peace exhibition opens in Basel**

Only weeks after the [Making Peace photo exhibition](#) opened in Sarajevo - which thanks to huge international media coverage has so far recorded a 'captured audience' of almost 7 million people - Making Peace opened in Basel on 15th August along the River Rhine.

[Media coverage](#) (Euronews TV) Sarajevo (in English)

[Media coverage](#) (20 Mins) Basel (in German)

The Basel presentation of Making Peace is the highlight of a [programme](#) being organised by Swiss Peace to mark Switzerland's 2014 Chairmanship of the OSCE. Photos from the opening can be seen on the [Making Peace Facebook](#) which we invite you to "Like" and "Share" with others.

The exhibition will remain along the River Rhine (Oberer Rheinweg) until 18 September. It will then be moved to a more central position in Basel city center (Theatre platz) where it will remain until mid-December. In the meantime, Making Peace curator Ashley Woods is now in Cape Town in preparation for the Nobel Peace laureates' Summit, overlooking production of what will be the 4th presentation of Making Peace this year (**Strasbourg-Sarajevo-Basel-Cape Town**). Making Peace remains on-show at the Lieu d'Europe (European Centre), Strasbourg until 31 November. More photos and news to come.

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

Manning was awarded the 2013 Sean MacBride Peace Prize by IPB.

## **Museums for Peace - INMP Newsletter 8**

The [International Network of Museums for Peace](#) (INMP) has released their latest [newsletter](#): a special issue on Women and Peace, with stories about Bertha von Suttner and women in Fukushima.



## **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 global network dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. We are a Nobel Peace Laureate (1910), and over the years 13 of our officers have also been recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Our 300 member organisations in 70 countries, and individual members, form a worldwide community of experts and campaigners working together in a common cause. IPB has UN Consultative Status since 1977 and is the Secretariat of the NGO Committee for Disarmament (Geneva). Our current main programme centres on **Disarmament for Sustainable Development**, of which the **Global Day of Action on Military Spending** is a key part. 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.



Making Peace curator Ashley Woods explains the concept of the 5 Elements of Peace to the Swiss media.

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

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*26th August 2014, International Peace Bureau*

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