

International Peace Bureau
Newsletter December 2013

NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

As we approach the height of the festive season, we all have to juggle our finances, deciding how much to devote to family and friends, and how much to contribute to good causes. Governments too, have to decide on their priorities, and in IPB's view, usually get it wrong - spending vast amounts on military toys and gadgets, when investing in ways to overcome poverty and cope with climate change would be wiser. As usual, the bulk of our Newsletter focuses on such matters. You can read about our Crowdfunding initiative, to raise money for next year's Global Day of Action on Military Spending. There are reports from a range of NGOs and research bodies on different weapons systems, from nuclear to cyber war. We have stories of warships and war games, and the toll that war is taking on the children of Syria. Plenty of challenges ahead in 2014 - the year we commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. Join us - support us - work with us!

Wishing happiness during the festive season and a peaceful New Year to all readers.

Colin Archer
IPB Secretary-General
12 December 2013

DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Military Spending



EU - European council on security and defence

The European council on security and defence (19-20 December) is shaping up to be an early opportunity for the new German government to demonstrate its emerging commitment to developing European Union defence policy. The Agenda of EU council will include the discussion of EU security missions abroad, the strengthening of European defence industry, and the co-operation to develop defence equipment.

MOROCCO - Moroccan defence spending to reach US\$4.5 billion by 2018

Moroccan defence spending will rise from US\$3.8 billion in 2014 to US\$4.5 billion in 2018 driven by the procurement of military

aircraft, armored vehicles, radar systems, diesel-electric submarines and patrol ships to boost border security and fight trans-national terrorism.

SWITZERLAND - Swiss referendum on Gripen fighter jets

5 December 2013 - Just six weeks before the deadline, the Gripen opponents have collected 80,000 signatures. The vote will probably take place on 18 May. "The rush at the signature collection was impressive", said Brigitte Marti, who belongs to the left referendum committee "alliance against new combat aircraft."

New Transparency International report

5 November 2013 - SIPRI hosted a lecture by Mark Pyman, Director of Transparency International's Defence and Security Programme, entitled 'Transparency in the military sector: the role of parliaments'. Pyman presented a new Transparency International report covering 82 countries, which surveys the role of parliaments in monitoring and overseeing defense policy and military budgets, expenditure and procurement. He explained that only two countries — Australia and Germany — scored an 'A' in the report's Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index, while nine countries scored an 'F': Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Syria and Yemen. The Watchdogs report's recommendations focus on the need for diverse and bipartisan oversight of government military spending.

Si vis pacem, para bellum? Science, War and Responsibility

Latest disclosure of NSA revealed that in the last 13 years the US Ministry of Defense invested about 10.000.000 \$ in German scientific research institutions. Most of the funded projects concern military usable topics such as research in drones-related projects. Yet, since some of these German academic institutions bound themselves to so called "civil clause"- Papers or "Zivilklausel", the recent NSA revelations open up the opportunity for discussing questions of responsibility and science and, of course, getting peace discourses back on the agenda.

Arms Trade



ANGOLA - Why does one of the world's smallest navies want one of the world's biggest warships?

3 December 2013 - Angola is in the process of acquiring the recently decommissioned Spanish aircraft carrier Principe de Asturias, according to one news report. The entire Angolan navy has just 1,000 sailors. The 643-foot-long Principe de Asturias needs 830 sailors to fully function.

BRUSSELS - Vredesactie and Agir pour la Paix are launching a campaign to challenge the arm and defence lobbies who are gathering in Brussels the 19th and 20th of December. Check their video and website. Don't hesitate to join them.

Impacts of Weapons



Oxford Research Group (ORG) Press Release: Major new report shows 11,420 children killed in Syrian conflict: 7 out of 10 by explosives, 1 in 4 by bullets

24 November 2013 - Releasing new figures based on an analysis of 11,420 recorded child deaths in Syria, the ORG published a new report highlighting the major ways in which boys and girls across all age groups are being killed in the conflict. The report, *Stolen Futures: The Hidden Toll of Child Casualties in Syria*, reveals that explosive weapons have been the cause of more than 7 out of every 10 child deaths in Syria since the conflict began in March 2011, while small arms fire accounts for more than one quarter of the total. This includes children caught in cross fire, as well as others targeted by snipers, summarily executed and in some cases, tortured.

US plans to expand war games in ecologically rich Mariana Islands

22 November 2013 - United States military assumed control the Mariana Islands during World War II and has been waging war on the environment there ever since. Recent proposals to expand the range for Navy training exercises in this archipelago in the northwestern Pacific Ocean represent the latest frontier in this battle, and could be devastating to local communities as well as wildlife.

Landmine monitor 2013 press release and major findings

28 November 2013 - Records were set in 2012 for the lowest number of new reported casualties, largest amount of landmine-contaminated land cleared, and highest level of global funding for mine action, according to Landmine Monitor 2013, the latest annual report of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, released today in Geneva.

New Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) policy paper on Africa and the global market in natural uranium

November 2013 - Little attention has been paid to the limited, but not negligible, nuclear proliferation risks associated with the mining of uranium. As the global market for uranium changes and as more African countries become uranium suppliers, there is a need for them to be vigilant about those risks. This is the first study to look at the proliferation risks associated with uranium extraction in Africa and to suggest practical ways in which African states can act to mitigate them. The authors argue that, as countries of proliferation concern achieve proficiency in uranium conversion and enrichment, restricting easy access to uranium could be one part of a comprehensive and integrated approach to non-proliferation across the nuclear fuel cycle.

Launch of the 2012 War Report

IPB staff attended the launch of the War Report on 10 December in Geneva. This initiative is interesting because it highlights some ongoing armed conflicts and occupations that could fall under the international humanitarian law (IHL) if labelled as war. It could be a useful tool for those who want to know which conflicts fall under IHL, according to lawyers and academics, because it automatically triggers a whole juridical arsenal. Hopefully this book will help prevent some atrocities by reinforcing war crimes prosecutions.



NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Nuclear abolition resource launched at assembly of 600 religious leaders

25 November 2013 - Nuclear weapons pose an existential threat to humanity, say religious leaders. Religious believers must act to bridge the political divides that fuel the nuclear arms race, Religions for Peace, at its annual assembly in Vienna 20-22 Nov 2013, declared the use of nuclear weapons and other



MISCELLANEOUS

Tribute to former IPB President - Elimination of violence against women

25 November 2013 - When in his Nobel Peace Prize address (1974), Sean MacBride (1904-1988) cited torture along with the development and acceptance of indiscriminate nuclear weapons, the use of chemical weapons, and political assassination as signs of a "near total collapse of public and private morality in

weapons of mass destruction as immoral and launched a [Nuclear Disarmament Resource Guide for Religious Leaders and Communities](#).

[Nobel laureate warns two billion at risk from nuclear famine](#)

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), the 1985 Nobel Peace Laureate, and its US affiliate Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) have released a new report concluding that more than two billion people (a quarter of the world's population) would be at risk of starvation in the event of a limited, regional nuclear exchange, such as one that could occur between India and Pakistan.

RESOURCES



[New report from NOVACT-International Institute for Nonviolent Action: Corporate Private Armies in Afghanistan](#)

26 November 2013 - Corporate private armies in Afghanistan. Regulation of Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) in a 'Territorial State' is an analysis based on a case study on the use and activities of PMSCs in a conflict situation and, in particular, is focused on how territorial states where these companies operate, as Afghanistan, are responding to the challenge of the regulation and control of these armed groups. This new publication is a new effort to crystallize the impact of PMSCs in conflict situations, stressing the importance of developing international and national regulations to limit the privatization of war.

[Museums for Peace newsletter no. 6](#)

The newsletter for Museum for Peace is out. Inside this month: a new Kenyan travelling exhibition, the 8th international conference of museums for peace, celebrations at Tehran Peace Museum and much more.

[SIPRI's new macroeconomics of security programme: How much security can a dollar buy?](#)

It is easy to measure how much food or fuel a dollar can buy, but how much security can a dollar buy? This deceptively simple question is a difficult one for even the most advanced economies in the world. SIPRI's new Macroeconomics of Security Programme seeks to understand how policymakers, particularly in developing countries, balance their spending on security and defence against other public goods, including development, governance, health and education.

practically every sector of human relationship", he stressed his central theme: the necessity of nongovernmental actions to ensure survival.

[ICBL-CMC Executive director awarded French legion of honor for disarmament work](#)

27 November 2013 - Sylvie Brigot-Vilain, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC), was presented with the French Legion of Honor award yesterday. The order, established in 1802, is the highest decoration in France and was created specifically to recognize contributions by civilians, as well as military.

[Asia-Pacific Working Group - Weekly Asia-Pacific](#)

Asian Pacific Initiative proposes each week a review of several international relations, defense and military articles revealing the tensions and movements that can take place in the Asian-Pacific region. Very helpful if you want to stay informed on this topic. You can register for this weekly review by sending a mail to jterson@afsc.org.

[Cyber war technology to be controlled in same way as arms](#)

4 December 2013 - Western governments are close to an agreement that would put sensitive [cyber security technologies](#) on the same footing as regular armaments under one of the world's main agreements on weaponry export control.

[Drones: statement of the Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations](#)

14 November 2013 - "Consideration has to be given, however, in addition to international law and the law of war, to the humanitarian and ethical implications of the use of weaponised drones as well as to other questions related to Human Rights law. Armed drones like any other weapon are and should always be subject to the rules and moral principles these juridical instruments impose. (...) As we enter this new era of technology in warfare, it is essential that all actors stop to consider all relevant questions related to the use of drones. Respect for life, respect for human rights and avoiding dehumanisation are our collective challenge."

[Global Campaign for Peace Education Newsletter](#)

December 2013 - The Global Campaign for Peace Education (GCPE) e-newsletter provides a monthly bulletin of news, events, action alerts and reports of peace education activities and developments from around the world. This edition contains interesting material about the El-Hibri Peace Education Prize which was awarded to Dr Betty Reardon, who already received IPB's Sean MacBride Peace Prize in 2009. In addition there is a wealth of other information about peace education initiatives.



MAKING PEACE



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

Join the crows and help us fund GDAMS!

Help us to persuade governments to cut military spending and fund human needs instead. GDAMS is powered and run largely by the goodwill of volunteers and their determination to improve people's lives by rolling back the system of militarism. We are crowdfunding to cover the costs of the 2014 edition and to broaden the ongoing GDAMS campaign.



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.



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

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