



IPB News

25 November, 2011

INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

Working for a world without war

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The **Calendar of Events** is available as a separate document.

IPB has 7 websites!

MAIN SITE: <http://www.ipb.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ipb1910>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/IntlPeaceBureau>

Global Day of Action on Military Spending : <http://www.demilitarize.org>

+ Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_100733129991763

+ Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/globalday412>

'Making Peace' Photo-exhibition <http://www.makingpeace.org>

1- DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

- *In 2005 IPB launched a major new programme, designed to reflect widespread public concern at the rapid rise in global military spending (totaling \$1630 billion in 2010); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development.*

A- MILITARY SPENDING

UNITED STATES

The Pentagon Flunks Another Audit

Nov. 24, 2011 – With automatic spending cuts looming after the Supercommittee's failure to forge a deficit reduction deal, the DoD is 'acting like Armageddon is just around the corner'. This article calls attention to the fact that US defense spending is at record levels, and that the cuts would merely return spending to 2007 levels, itself a post-WWII high. It also addresses DoD's failure to keep track of its own finances: 'it is still an absurd truth that the DoD cannot pass a fiscal audit'.

UNITED STATES

Peace Action: Move the Money Campaign – Honoring the Other 1%

IPB member organization Peace Action's Move the Money campaign aims to divert resources from military spending to critical human needs. By using resources from the wasteful Pentagon budget, adequate care and assistance to veterans could be provided. By addressing the crisis of employment and care affecting veterans, the needs of the other 1% -service members and veterans- would be

honored.

UNITED STATES

US Spending on Nuclear Weapons



1) Pentagon Weighs Cuts to Nuclear Arsenal

Under pressure to trim the massive US defense budget, the Pentagon is considering cuts to the country's formidable nuclear arsenal. However, there is disagreement over how many atomic bombs the United States requires in the post-Cold War era as well as debate over the estimated price tag of the atomic weapons. Because of the government's

complicated accounting for the nuclear budget, it is not even clear what the precise cost of the arsenal is.

2) The US Nuclear Weapons 'Triad'

Nuclear-armed submarines, intercontinental missiles and strategic bombers make up the US atomic "triad" created during the Cold War, which the Pentagon is considering scaling back under budget cuts. In total, the United States currently has 1,790 deployed warheads, while the START treaty signed with Russia imposes a ceiling of 1,550 warheads for each country.

3) Does the USA Really Need to Spend \$700 billion on Nuclear Weapons?

Nov. 22, 2011 - Washington is planning to spend over \$700 billion on nuclear weapons and related programs over the next ten years. Some programs are necessary, some are questionable and some are simply 'turkeys' gobbling up defense dollars. These nuclear turkeys offer lawmakers a way to reduce spending without any harm to national security. Joe Cirincione of Ploughshares Fund presents four programs that are such bad ideas they have no place in a national security budget.

Meet the 0.01%: The Warprofiteers

While the Occupy Wall Street movement targets the 1%, [this video](#) targets the 0.01%, the elite among the gang of super rich: the war profiteers. War industry CEOs make tens of millions of dollars a year, putting them in the top 0.01 percent of income earners in the U.S. The interview with Brave New Foundation's Derrick Crowe shows how this super-elite receives massive incomes by lobbying for ever higher military spending at the expense of other kinds of spending that actually create more jobs. More information on the **War Costs Campaign** is available [here](#).

FRANCE

Dec. 16: Assembly to Demand a Reduction of the Military Budget in Rennes

The French government has placed a €40 billion military budget before Parliament. This represents an increase of 2.4%, despite cuts to spending in other areas. On Dec. 16th, citizens will assemble in Rennes, to demand an immediate retreat of French troops from Afghanistan, a stop to the modernization of France's nuclear weapons system, and the reallocation of the €10 billion thus saved to social expenditure.

B IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

UN Humanitarian, Development and Human Rights Chiefs Call on States not to Undermine the International Ban on Cluster Bombs

Nov. 23, 2011 - A [statement](#) issued on behalf of Valerie Amos, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, and Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights calls on States to immediately stop using cluster munitions pending the agreement of an international treaty. It also expressed extreme concern at the ongoing efforts of States, currently meeting in Geneva, to agree on a new treaty on cluster munitions in the form of a new protocol to the Convention on

Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). This would lower the standard set by the Convention on Cluster Munitions and fail to address the well-documented humanitarian and development threats posed by cluster munitions. The outcome of the CCW conflict should be known on November 26th.

Landmine Monitor 2011: [Landmine Use 'Highest Since 2004' Despite Record Clearances](#)

More countries deployed anti-personnel mines last year than in any year since 2004, an international survey of landmines has found. The [Annual Landmine Monitor](#) report says use of the weapons increased despite record areas of land being cleared of them. Four countries which have not signed the international treaty outlawing the devices - Syria, Libya, Burma and Israel - laid new mines this year. However, the Monitor's latest report also says funding to clear mines, and to help victims of them, reached an all-time high of \$637m in 2010. Another [report](#) further details these findings.

INDIA



[From Arms to Farms: Indian State Plans Gun Meltdown](#)

Nov. 9, 2011 - In an exemplary and literal application of the Disarmament for Development principle, which IPB promotes, police in the northern Indian state of Bihar have decided to melt seized illegal firearms down into farming and gardening tools. "[...] Instead of simply destroying the firearms I thought it would be better to recycle

them into farming and gardening tools to help rural people earn their livelihoods," police chief Abhyanand said.

INDIA

[Weaving Disarmament: Indian Women 'Gun Survivors' Call for Disarmament](#)

Nov. 23, 2011 - Manipuri women are bearing the brunt of five decades of armed violence in the state that has claimed thousands of lives. At a discussion organized by the Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network on November 22 in New Delhi, activists urged India to push for disarmament. The discussion was held amidst a three day art and craft exhibition organized by Manipuri women, to spread the message of peace and disarmament amid growing conflict.

SOUTH KOREA

Update: [Save Jeju Island](#)

Jeju island's Gangjeong Village, a community of approximately 1,500 farmers and fishermen, is in the midst of a struggle against the South Korean government's attempt to build a major naval base right in the middle of their village.

A small victory was achieved on November 18th, when the South Korean Navy's decision to blast Gureombi, a volcanic rock along the coastline of Gangjeong, was averted. However, this decision may be reversed. [Help the islanders](#) and send emails to the Jeju Governor and the South Korean Ministry of Defense urging them to avert any blasting as well as the construction of the base.

FINLAND

[Finland to Join Land Mine Ban - True Finns Only Holdout](#)

Nov. 16, 2011 - The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Finnish Parliament gave its approval on Tuesday to Finland joining the Ottawa Treaty banning land mines. The True Finns party plans to vote against joining the treaty when the full Parliament votes on the measure next week. All other parties are in favor of the move. The Ottawa Treaty came into force in 1999, and 158 countries have signed it so far. UPDATE: On Nov. 25th, the parliament of Finland voted on accession to the Landmine Ban Treaty with 110 in favor and 47 against (43 participated not in the vote)

Toxic Remnants of War

IPB staff attended a roundtable discussion at the UN on Nov. 17th on the topic of [toxic remnants of war](#) (TRW). [The International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons](#) and [IKV Pax Christi](#) are currently exploring the possibility of widening the discussion about post-conflict management of hazardous substances, from depleted uranium to TRW. Toxic materials used in warfare are often left behind, causing grave health and environmental problems in affected states, but are as yet still employed in warfare. Nevertheless, the recent successes on achieving bans on landmines and cluster munitions show that bans on certain weapons are possible. The hope is that the same will be possible for TRW.

Control Arms Coalition: Update on Launch of the Speak Out Campaign

The [Speak Out: Control Arms Now](#) campaign will be launched in early December 2011 by the Control Arms Coalition, of which IPB is a member. The campaign aims to expand the Coalition's base of support and to draw greater attention to the need for a robust Arms Trade Treaty in the months leading up to the July 2012 negotiations. Please support it and circulate news of the campaign widely to help build support for an Arms Trade Treaty.

2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

British American Security Information Council (BASIC): Getting to Zero Update

Basic has compiled an extensive [list](#) of summaries and links related to recent developments in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. These include the upswing in news on the Iran and North Korea programs during recent weeks, including the release of the more detailed IAEA report on Iran's alleged nuclear weaponization efforts. The list includes reports on its own activities, such as the BASIC Trident Commission, commitments to arms control and disarmament, country reports, news on missile defense, and related resources.

JAPAN

Global Conference for a Nuclear Power Free World



IPB member organization Peace Boat is now working together with a coalition of Japan-based organizations to hold the Global Conference for a Nuclear Power Free World in Yokohama, Japan on January 14-15, 2012. The conference will be a venue for people from all around the world to gather in Japan and respond to the reality of Fukushima. At the same time, it will bring together the voices of people who suffer from radiation exposure all around the world, whether from nuclear power or nuclear weapons, to learn from each other's experiences. More information [here](#).

New Asian Network Seeks Nuke-Free World

The [Asia-Pacific Leadership Network](#) (APLN) comprises thirty former senior political, diplomatic and military leaders from thirteen countries around the region, including nuclear weapons possessing states China, India and Pakistan. The objective of the group, convened by former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, is to inform and energize public opinion, especially high-level policymakers, to take seriously the very real threats posed by nuclear weapons, and do everything possible to achieve a world in which they are contained, diminished and ultimately eliminated.

Special Issue of The Spokesman 'From Hiroshima to Fukushima': Articles by IPB Representatives in Japan

Terumi Tanaka, IPB Vice-President and Secretary-General of the Japan Confederation of Atomic and

Hydrogen Bomb Sufferers (Nihon Hidankyo) wrote the article '[Hibakusha and Fukushima](#)' for the Special Issue, which looks at the radiation victims both from WWII and the recent Fukushima catastrophe. Hiroshi Taka, a former IPB Vice-President and until recently Secretary-General of the Japan Council against A & H Bombs (Gensuikyo), wrote an article titled '[A World Without Nuclear Weapons](#)', which conveys Gensuikyo's determination to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

[Request for Assistance in Building Parliamentary Support for a Middle East Free of Nuclear Weapons and WMD](#)

Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) is seeking assistance in building parliamentary support for a Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and other WMD. PNND, at its Annual Assembly in Bern, agreed to circulate a [Joint Parliamentary Statement for a Middle East Zone Free from Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction](#). It is based primarily on the UN resolution adopted by consensus on a Middle East NWFZ (i.e. supported by Israel, Iran and the Arab states as well as all other countries). Please circulate the Statement to parliamentarians in your country with an encouragement to endorse it.

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN): [New Video](#)



[ICAN](#) Norway has made a lively new video to spread the message that the time is right to abolish nuclear weapons. Please help to promote it by sharing it widely, especially to youth.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

[Leave a Legacy - Support IPB](#)

All of us who believe in the possibility of world peace know the importance of long term work carried out by dedicated peaceworkers. As a very old-established organisation, the IPB understands the importance of long-range planning and support. When thinking about your estate, you may wish to consider including the IPB among the beneficiaries. For our work to flourish, a firm financial base is essential. Your donations and sponsorship are therefore most welcome. Any suggestions of potential funding sources or methods will likewise be most gratefully received.

In Memoriam: Danielle Mitterrand

IPB has sent a message of sympathy to the Fondation France-Libertés in memory of Danielle Mitterrand (the widow of former French President Francois Mitterrand) who passed away on Nov. 22nd, at the age of 87. A decorated member of the French Resistance in World War 2, and a world-renowned humanitarian campaigner, Danielle Mitterrand was often an outspoken First Lady. After President Mitterrand's election in 1981, she devoted herself to human rights work and set up the Fondation France-Libertés. She campaigned on behalf of numerous causes, including the Kurds and the Tibetans, and for equitable access to water resources. [See photo-report](#).

[Arab Women Urged to Speak Up](#)

Nov. 6, 2011 - Women should voice demands for their rights during the popular uprisings sweeping the Arab world to avoid being short-changed by post-revolutionary governments, Iranian Nobel peace laureate Shirin Ebadi says. "If women cannot gain equality and the right to set their own destiny then that is not a real revolution and won't lead to democracy." "Women should raise their

egalitarian demands and the people should put forth their civic demands early on and oblige groups that are seeking power to answer,” said Ebadi.

Irina Gruschewaja: [Woman of Europe Award 2011](#)

Human rights activist and former IPB Council member Irina Gruschewaja is to receive the Woman of Europe Award 2011 in Berlin on Nov. 24th. She was awarded the prize for her many years of humanitarian efforts following the disaster at Chernobyl, and her commitment to the development of democracy in Belarus. In 1989, the German studies professor and her husband founded the Initiative '[For the Children of Chernobyl](#)', (IPB member) which helps children affected by radiation to travel to Western Europe for treatment and recovery.

Irina Gruschewaja's Homepage: <http://www.irina-gruschewaja.de/zur-person/> (german)

Woman of Europe Prize: [Information about the Ceremony](#) (german)

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Children of Chernobyl: <http://www.bag-tschnobyl.net/> (german)

4. RESOURCES

Small Arms Survey: [Small Arms Transfers: Importing States](#)

The 12th Research Note by the Small Arms Survey assesses the countries that import the greatest quantity of small arms. Since 2001 at least 15 countries have imported more than \$100 million worth of small arms in a single year. The US is the world's largest importer, receiving more than \$1 billion in small arms in 2007 and 2008. Five countries—Canada, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and the UK—also routinely imported more than \$100 million in small arms a year during the period 2001–08. However, imports by the United States average more than the *combined* averages of these five states.

[SIPRI: November 2011 Newsletter](#)



The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has issued its November 2011 [Newsletter](#). A first article looks at the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and asks whether it is still up to its primary task of preventing biological warfare. It also presents SIPRI news, events and activities, as well as SIPRI's own recent publications.

New PBS television series '[Women, War & Peace](#)'

Women, War & Peace, a five-part PBS special, premiered on Oct. 11th. The series challenges the conventional wisdom that war and peace are men's domain, showing how women are becoming primary targets and suffering unprecedented casualties. Yet, women are simultaneously emerging as necessary partners in brokering lasting peace and as leaders in forging new international laws governing conflict. *Women, War & Peace* spotlights the stories of women in conflict zones, placing women at the center of an urgent dialogue about conflict and security. Full episodes available [here](#).

International Humanitarian Law and the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons: 3 New Articles

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) governs the use of weaponry and force in war. For example, a weapon's inhumane and indiscriminate effects are a basis for its prohibition. The [Middle Powers Initiative](#) finds this legally and morally founded approach to advancing the elimination of nuclear weapons persuasive. [Read more](#) See: [IHL and Nuclear Weapons: Irreconcilable Differences](#), [Nuclear Weapons and Compliance with IHL and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#), and [Taking the Law Seriously: The Imperative Need for a Nuclear Weapons Convention](#)

SPAIN

[The Controversial Spanish Arms Trade. A Secret Business 2001-2010](#)

The [Centre d'Estudis per a la Pau JM Delàs](#) has now made its new report on the Spanish arms trade

available in [English](#). It shows the evolution and main trends of Spanish exports of arms and dual-use material. It finds that Spain, merely in 2010, has sold €1,128 million in arms, many to countries in armed conflict where human rights are routinely violated.

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