



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

31st August 2007 edition

Disarmament for Development Programme

In 2005 IPB launched a major new programme, designed to reflect widespread public concern at the rapid rise in global military spending (now totalling \$1204 billion); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development. Post 9-11, the failure of military solutions should be obvious to all. IPB advocates reductions in defence budgets and the adoption of a 'human security' approach. Activities organised in pursuit of these goals include: seminars, publications, website, e-newsletter, exhibitions and a short film. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

IPB ANNUAL SEMINAR, ALEXANDRIA (NOV. 07) - TIME TO REGISTER!

Registrations are now coming in for the seminar *Books or Bombs?* to be held at the Alexandria Library (Egypt) on Nov. 11 and 12. The meeting is co-organised by the Institute for Peace Studies. This will be followed by the 2007 IPB Council meeting on Nov. 13. The 2007 Sean MacBride Peace Prize will also be awarded at this gathering. The draft programme with initial speakers list, information about co-sponsors, and other details can be found in the seminar brochure - click [HERE](#) for pdf version. The registration form can be downloaded [HERE](#). Paper copies are available on request. A *Practical Information Guide*, including details of travel and hotel arrangements, will be published in the next few days. Many foreign participants are considering taking extra days to visit Egypt. Please forward this information to your contacts and colleagues. Further details: mailbox@ipb.org.

Small Arms Survey 2007: 650 Million Small Arms in the Hands of Civilians

A new annual survey done by the Small Arms Survey in Geneva, shows that 650 million of the 875 million small arms in circulation are in the possession of civilians. What concerns the researchers most is the changing relationship between society and weapons, especially in big cities. In the vast urban centres of Africa, Asia and Latin America, wealthy citizens are buying guns to protect themselves, while outside the gated communities in which they live, drug-related crime and gang warfare are on the increase. Article <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/europe/6967099.stm>. Survey <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/files/sas/publications/yearb2007.html>.

Lack of Investment In UN Conflict Prevention

The United Nations spent \$18 billion on peacekeeping missions around the globe in the past five years — mainly in Africa — but not enough on preventing conflicts from erupting in the first place. That was a key conclusion of a daylong meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday which called for stepped up efforts to address the root causes of conflict.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the meeting that there has been a 40 percent decline in armed conflict around the world since the 1990s by some estimates, with recent research crediting U.N. peacemaking, peacekeeping and conflict prevention as a major factor, "but it is not good enough." See http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070829/ap_on_re_us/un_conflict_prevention_1.

India Is Stocking a Modern Arsenal

Over the next five years, military analysts expect the country to spend as much as \$40 billion on weapons procurement alone, more than its entire annual armaments budget today. More...<http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/08/31/business/31indiaarms.php>.

SGR Press Release: Distorted Relation between Military Research and Social Spending

The Scientists for Global Responsibility briefing shows 'how government funding for military R&D dwarfs that spent on social and environmental programmes across the industrialised world. For example, in 2004, governments in industrialised countries spent a total of \$85 billion on military R&D, but only \$50 billion on R&D for health and environmental protection, and less than \$1 billion on R&D for renewable energy technologies essential for tackling climate change. A similar imbalance can be seen in UK spending.' Press release: <http://www.sgr.org.uk/>. See also the new 'More Soldiers in the Laboratory' report.

UN Video on the Creative Use of Old Weaponry

The video Transformer: AK-47s into guitars video, was produced by UN TV, with the support of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Colombia. It is the story of an artist who is helping people imagine how they can transform a history of violence by transforming AK-47 assault rifles into guitars, called escopetarras. The video: <http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/21century/21century8.rm?start=00:17:30>.

Leading UK Institutions are Withdrawing Financial Support from Cluster Bomb Producers

Leading UK institutions have announced that they are about to withdraw hundreds of millions of pounds from firms linked to the manufacture of controversial cluster bombs. The move will be seen as a major breakthrough for campaigners such as Handicap International, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Human Rights Watch. This implies further success following the AXA announcement to withdraw support last month. Article: <http://observer.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,,2151537,00.html>.

The Missing U.S. Weapons in Iraq Are Fueling Violence

In the last edition of the IPB newsletter we reported that some 190,000 U.S. purchased guns, destined for the Iraqi police, had gone missing. These weapons are believed to be part of a vast black market increasing violence in Iraq and abroad. As a telling example, two of the weapons used in the attack on four justices of the Turkish Supreme Court in May 2006, were traced back to U.S. mission in Iraq. (NEWSWEEK, August 20, 2007, p.5)

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Statement: 'US-India Nuclear Energy Agreement: A Bad Deal for Global Security and for Energy Security'

'Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD) and Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)— — have grave concerns about the negotiated accord between US President George W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, which, in return for India's agreement to put its civilian reactors under international inspections, effectively removes the ban on the sale of fuel and civilian nuclear technology to India enacted by the US Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 and erodes the bulwark against the further spread of nuclear weapons established in the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).' For the entire statement click [here](#).

Hans Blix: Is Peace that Difficult?

In a speech made in Melbourne on August 28, Hans Blix pronounced: "If all can agree that we need international co-operation and multilateral solutions to protect the earth against climate change and the destruction of our environment, to keep the world economy in balance and moving, and to prevent terrorism and organised crime, then should it be so difficult to conclude that we also need to co-operate to stop shooting at each other?" Full speech <http://www.theage.com.au/news/opinion/is-peace-that-difficult/2007/08/27/1188067029813.html#>.

New UN Group to Curb Biological Weapons Launched

The UN inaugurated a new unit, The Implementation Support Unit (ISU), at the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva, on August 20, to further bolster its efforts to reduce the threat to the international community posed by biological weapons. More... <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2007/dc3079.doc.htm>.

International Crisis Group President Proposes alternative Solutions in Speech on WMDs

Gareth Evans, former Australian Prime Minister and President of the International Crisis Group, made an interesting speech at the Dr John Gee Memorial lecture, in Canberra on 16 August 2007. 'What should ultimately concern Israel, Iran's neighbours, and a world deeply anxious to avoid further nuclear breakout, is not whether Iran has the capacity to make weapons-grade uranium, but whether it actually makes it and puts it into deliverable bombs.' <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=5006>.

World Conference on A+H Bombs 2007 Successfully Held in Japan

The annual World Conference urged all governments to make bold decision at the UN General Assembly to honour their "Unequivocal Undertaking" to eliminate nuclear weapons. One of the outstanding features of this year's World Conference was the in unison emphasized urgency and significance of the abolition of nuclear weapons. More info coming: <http://www10.plala.or.jp/antiatom/html/e/e-index.htm>.

Other

Housmans Peace Diary 2008 Available Soon

The *Housmans Peace Diary & World Peace Directory 2008* will start being distributed at the beginning of October 2007. This 55th edition includes a World Peace Directory listing almost 2000 organisations in the field. <http://www.housmans.com/diary/index.htm>.

Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship Program - Washington, DC

The Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship Program invites college graduates to apply for full-time, six-to-nine month Fellowships in Washington, DC. Outstanding individuals will be selected to work with non-profit, public-interest organizations addressing peace and security issues. More... <http://www.scoville.org/apply.html>.

Peace and Collaborative Development Networking Website

This free professional networking site encourages interaction between individuals & organizations worldwide involved in development, peace, conflict resolution and related fields. Members are encouraged to dialogue and share resources. <http://internationalpeaceandconflict.ning.com/>.

Resources

'A Voice for Human Rights' by Mary Robinson

The former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and IPB nominee for the Nobel Peace prize 2007, has produced a monograph reflecting her years as the High Commissioner. More... <http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/toc/14200.html>.

Report: More Soldiers in the Laboratory: the Militarisation of Science and Technology – an Update

Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) provides an update to *Scientists In The Laboratory* (published in 2007). The report also argues that resources would be better directed towards supporting social justice and environmental protection, rather than towards the military. Found on <http://www.sgr.org.uk/>.

Men, Militarism and UN Peacekeeping: A Gendered Analysis

Sandra Whitworth, professor of political science and women's studies at York University, has produced a new publication, asking herself whether warriors make the best peacekeepers. More... <http://www.rienner.com/viewbook.cfm?BOOKID=1432&search=whitworth>.

'The History of Pacifist Movements in France and the United States'

A new bilingual book on pacifist movements in America and France has been published. An electronic version of this bilingual book will soon be available at The University of California. See <http://dimension.ucsd.edu/CEIMSA-IN-EXILE/>.

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Calendar

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Newsletter edited by Emma Henriksson - emma@ipb.org

International Peace Bureau, 41 Rue de Zurich, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: + 41 22 731 6429 / Fax + 41 22 738 9419

www.ipb.org