



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

29th October 2007 edition

NEW IPB-WEBSITE !

Our new website is available at the normal address www.ipb.org

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you have visited the old site in the recent past, you may now need to REFRESH your browser, and/or EMPTY THE CACHE. *This site is best viewed with Safari or Firefox. Users of Internet Explorer may experience a few formatting problems. We are working to fix these.*

We hope you like the new site. It is not yet 100% complete and there will be many changes, additions and improvements as we go along. We plan to put frequent new stories on 'front page' so that it is more lively than the old one. There will also be an archive which can be perused with the search engine. The new site is intended as a tool to promote the whole range of IPB's work and that of its members and partners. It also should be very valuable in fundraising efforts. Your feedback will be welcome. Please pass the word on to your colleagues to encourage them to make an electronic visit.

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.

Military Spending

Cost of Bush's War(s): 1'000'000'000'000 US dollars

By the time President Bush will leave office at the end of next year, the US will have spent \$US 1 trillion on war, more than the entire amount spent on the Korean and the Vietnam wars combined. Click [here](#) for the Canberra Times article.

Pentagon seeks funding for massive bunker busting bombs

The Pentagon is seeking funds to modify B-2 stealth bombers to deliver an experimental 13.6 tonne (30'000 pound), satellite-guided bunker busting bomb. This is part of a \$42 billion request by the Bush administration to fund the "war on terror". It so remains deeply unclear what this all would

be used for, but according to experts the likely purpose of the new weapon is to strike Iran's underground nuclear facilities and the funds could be used to finance a war on this country. Full article at http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Pentagon_seeks_urgent_funding_for_massive_bunker_busting_bomb_999.html and Truthout article at http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/102407A.shtml

Approval ratings at lowest - military spending at highest

Looking at military spending both in Canada and the US, Don Ayre analyses why, with whose approval and for which purpose these countries are upgrading their military. Making the case for Departments of Peace, he shows the opportunity they would present as an alternative to war by supporting welfare and development. Click [here](#) to read full article

Weapons and their effects

Circle of impact: The fatal footprint of cluster munitions on people and communities - Handicap International

This Handicap international (HI) report documents the impact of cluster munitions in 25 countries and areas through casualty data and socio economic profiles. Click here to read press release with link to the full report

<http://en.handicapinternational.be/index.php?action=article&numero=467>

European Parliament supports cluster bomb ban treaty

There has been a very interesting debate at the European Parliament on cluster bombs. In their will to strengthen International Humanitarian Law, member states agreed on 25th October on a resolution calling for an immediate moratorium on using, investing in, stockpiling, producing, transferring or exporting cluster munitions until a binding international treaty has been negotiated. This is a strong support to the Oslo Process launched in February 2007. Read more on CMC website at

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news.asp?id=96>

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Parliamentarians for Nuclear Disarmament - all women leadership

Following the appointment of five leading women legislators from around the world to lead the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament (PNND), supermodel Christie Brinkley spoke at the UN on the need to abolish nuclear weapons. She was part of a panel hosted by PNND and the Global Security institute where other leading women such as Cora Weiss, IPB UN representative, took part. Read full story at

<http://www.gsainstitute.org/gsi/archives/000303.html>

Call to remove nuclear weapons from high Alert Status

New Zealand is leading calls at the United Nations General Assembly for thousands of nuclear weapons to be removed from high alert status. Along with Sweden, Switzerland, Nigeria and Chile, they introduced a resolution at

UNGA on 18th October which aims to encourage concrete steps to tackle this risk to global security. Full article at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=31010>

Resources

The hidden human cost of Trident

In this new Abolition 2000 UK Blackaby Paper, the authors document all the costs (not just the financial ones) involved in the eventual replacement of the UK Trident missile armed submarine fleet. Arguing on one hand that the financial cost of this programme will be much higher than the one presented by the government in 2006, they demonstrate a wide variety of human costs that should also be considered when debating the programme. Read resume and full report at

<http://www.abolition2000uk.org/The%20Blackaby%20Papers.htm>

Global Campaign for Peace Education Newsletter

In this new newsletter you can find lots of interesting information about actions, events, conferences, workshops and publications from around the world. The Hague Appeal for Peace Global Campaign for Peace Education promotes peace education among schools, communities and families to establish a culture of peace. More at

<http://www.tc.edu/PeaceEd/newsletter/>

Sexual violence in armed conflicts - DCAF publication

The Geneva-based Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) has released a publication about the scope and magnitude of sexual violence in armed conflicts. The report also explores strategies for security and justice actors to prevent and respond to it in armed conflicts and post conflict situations. Abstract and pdf version at

<http://www.dcaf.ch/publications/kms/details.cfm?lng=en&id=43991&nav1=4>

Others

Thousands in US protests to end the war in Iraq

On 27th October, United for Peace & Justice (UFPJ) organised demonstrations against the war in Iraq in a dozen cities across the US. The protests were also a call for no war on Iran. It is regrettable to notice little media coverage of the event, although according to UFPJ at least 100 000 people took part in these demonstrations. See reports and videos from the regional demonstrations at

<http://www2.oct27.org/> and read BBC article at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7065975.stm>

Report of the 3rd summit for Ministries and departments of Peace

The third global summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace (MFP) has just taken place in Japan. Number of participants and participating countries has increased. MFP works together with national campaigns and alliances in order to establish ministries or departments of peace in every

country dedicated to create a culture of peace within and between countries. More at

<http://www.ministryforpeace.org/content/view/112/20/>

Retirement of Etienne De Jonghe from Pax Christi International

After 29 years of dedicated service as Secretary General of Pax Christi International, Etienne de Jonghe will be retiring at the end of this year.

Claudette Werleigh from Haiti will take over this function officially on 3rd November. <http://www.paxchristi.net/>

In Memoriam: Randall Forsberg

Randall Forsberg, a key figure in US nuclear disarmament movement died on 19th October. She was the initiator of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign and later dedicated herself to the Institute for Defence and Disarmament Studies. Read full article at

http://www.boston.com/news/globe/obituaries/articles/2007/10/21/randall_forsberg_fought_against_nuclear_arms/

Newsletters

IPB receives many e-newsletters, both from our members and non-member organisations. Click [here](#) for a list with hyperlinks.

Calendar

Click [here](#) for IPB's international events calendar.

Message to IPB members: if you have reports of activities that are relevant to this newsletter please email them to the Secretariat.

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from this newsletter please email:

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