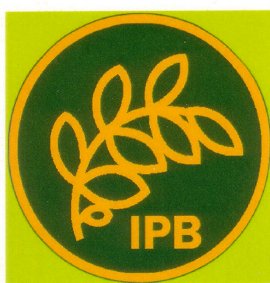


# INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

## ACTIVITY REPORT 2008



# IPB ACTIVITY REPORT 2008

## INTRODUCTION

Much of this year's news was depressingly negative, with wars involving western powers continuing in Iraq and Afghanistan, US incursions into Pakistan and Syria, and threats to Iran; many violent conflicts in other regions giving rise to increasing refugee populations; a worsening financial crisis; and ever-more alarming reports on the dramas of climate change, food price hikes, fossil fuel depletion, and more.

And yet...November 4 brought an extraordinary reversal for the tide, with the hopeful new era announced by the election of Barack Obama as the new US President. Like everyone around the world, IPB members are hoping for better times. We know, however, that these problems cannot be left to governments and commercial interests; resolving them will require enormous amounts of hard work on the part of civil society.

The following text outlines briefly the areas in which IPB has been endeavouring to make a difference over the last 10 months.

## DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT (DFD)

IPB has worked hard to consolidate its main programme – *Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development* – which we believe has a message of hope and change that is very relevant to the difficult times we find ourselves in. Global military budgets continue to rise at an alarming rate (now over \$1300 billion per year), and the needs in fields like climate change and sustainable development are growing even faster, so it is vital that civil society finds new and more effective ways to raise its voice.

We have endeavoured to extend the range of our message to many new countries, and new constituencies.

## OUTREACH WORK – people, places, networks

### COPENHAGEN SEMINAR

This year's big event is the **seminar taking place in Copenhagen** next week **Nov 15-17** – linking some IPB history (centenary of the Nobel Prize awarded to our first President Fredrik Bajer) to contemporary challenges such as militarism, development, human rights and terrorism. It is also the occasion for the annual **Council meeting** and the **award of the MacBride Prize**.

### OTHER CONFERENCES AND GATHERINGS

IPB representatives have spoken on the DFD theme on numerous occasions, including:

**Dar-es-Salaam** – Final session of the Helsinki Process meetings (Dec 2007) (T. Magnusson)

**Paris** – Frères des Hommes assembly (C. Archer)

**Tokyo** – several IPB members participated in the huge conference held in Tokyo to promote the **Global Article 9 Campaign**. This then gave rise to a programme of joint outreach work, together with our member organisation Peace Boat. (C.Weiss. F. Durand...)

**Barcelona:** Sept Fundacio per la Pau 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference (C.Archer)

**Oslo** : June 6-8 Eur. Network Against Arms Trade (C.Archer)

**Beijing:** Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF) (T. Magnusson)

**Yaoundé, Cameroon:** Youth Peace Week (message) – 10 Oct.

**Geneva:** once again this year the SG as spoken twice to groups of students from the School for International Training and supported them with their study projects. He also made a presentation to a group of international relations students from Exeter University.

**Geneva:** Women's annual seminar on Disarmament (WILPF). IPB staff participated in this year's seminar, which focused in part on military spending – and was addressed by IPB's UN Representative, Cora Weiss.

*UPCOMING* Secretariat visits before the year end include: **Dijon** (60th anniversary of the Mouvement de la Paix), **London, Paris** (advertising agencies), **Brussels** (NATO mtg), **Gernika** (Peace Museum), **Oslo** (Cluster Munitions Convention signing)

### **SUPPORT FOR MAJOR NETWORKS**

All during the year IPB has given support and publicity to various international networks working **on specific weapon systems**, notably: International Action Network on Small Arms, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Cluster Munitions Campaign, International Campaign to Ban Uranium Weapons, and the European Network Against Arms Trade.

### **GENEVA DECLARATION**

In our field, one of the important developments this year at the diplomatic level was the consolidation of the inter-governmental process known as the ***Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development***. Endorsed by more than 90 states, it commits them to supporting 'initiatives to prevent and reduce human, social and economic costs of armed violence, to assess risks and vulnerabilities, to evaluate the effectiveness of armed violence reduction programmes, and to disseminate knowledge of best practices'. The Declaration calls upon states to strive to achieve demonstrable reductions in the global burden of armed violence and improvements in human security by 2015. Even though it appears that the question of the economic resources invested in armed violence and the military in general has not yet been tackled, the issues that are dealt with within this process are close to IPB's concerns and the evolution of the process merits close attention.

A review summit of the Geneva Declaration was hosted by the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations Development Programme on 12 September 2008. Some 86 states and more than 35 NGOs attended the event, including IPB.

### **NATO ANNIVERSARY**

Among the most important engines of growth in military spending is the NATO alliance. Not only does it encourage its member states to increase the proportion of their budgets to the military sector, but by its actions it stimulates spending among its opponents. This August the world saw this dynamic in action with the Georgian attack on the S. Ossetia enclave, the Russian invasion of Georgia, the agreement to install US missile defences in Poland and Czech Republic, and the heightened tension between the two sides reminiscent of the worst days of the Cold War. The danger of a nuclear war between NATO and Russia is a terrifying prospect, which is once again breathing life into the nuclear disarmament movement (see below).

IPB is therefore actively engaged in preparations for action in protest at the celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NATO, to be held in April 2009 in Strasbourg and Baden-Baden. A series of planning meetings and conferences have been held at which IPB has been represented by the President and/or Board members: at the Afghanistan conference in Hannover (June), at the European Social Forum in Malmö in Sept, at the Stuttgart

follow up meeting (oct.) and (*UPCOMING*) at the Dec 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in Brussels, at the World Social Forum in Belem, Brazil in January, and an international activity conference (Strasbourg, February 14th / 15th 2009).

## **OUTREACH WORK – tools**

### **WEBSITE**

Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers and members, we now have a lot of new material at the **website** [www.ipb.org](http://www.ipb.org), which focuses particularly on the **Disarmament for Development** programme. A new, more dynamic website is now being actively planned.

### **IPB NEWS**

We hope all members are receiving our twice-monthly electronic **newsletter** *IPB NEWS*, which features all types of news, reports, publications, actions and events on themes related to IPB's work.

### **BOOKS**

Over the last 3 years IPB Secretariat has devoted large amounts of time to writing, publishing, translating and distributing two main volumes that sketch out the basis of the DFD campaign : *Warfare or Welfare?* and *Whose Priorities?*. The first analyses the problems in the broad area encompassed by DFD, and the second offers some solutions by way of focusing on campaign strategies and giving 18 short accounts of campaigns against military spending and arms trade around the world. *Warfare or Welfare?* is now available in French and German editions, and *Whose Priorities?* in German, as well as English. (see website). See below for details of the new IPB book published this year on ***the cost of nuclear weapons***.

### **CALL FOR ACTION**

IPB has recently launched a major worldwide Call for Action on military and social spending, entitled *Time for New Priorities!* We hope all IPB member groups will endorse this Call, and distribute it widely within their own countries and sectors. We are hopeful that it will gradually attract support from sectors far beyond the peace movement itself. Given the topic, it is especially important to garner support from the development and environment sectors, and this is now starting to happen. The list of endorsements is growing rapidly, and we will be using this to build a more comprehensive worldwide network of groups interested in working together to make an impact on the spending issue.

### **MEDIA CAMPAIGN**

Following meetings and presentations at previous Council meetings, the secretariat is developing further our in-depth work to create a **media campaign based on a photo-exhibition** on the D for D theme. This is being carried out in association with Ashley Woods, of the Paris-based Real Exhibition Development. The plan is to build a web-based gallery of high quality photographs taken by renowned photographers, combined with audio, video, text, artwork and other material. This gallery will be advertised via a billboard-and-magazine campaign, organized with the help of a major advertising agency and sponsored by progressive companies. The plan is to launch this effort in 2010. A **50pp powerpoint presentation** is now close to completion – this will be a useful tool for a variety of purposes, including demonstrating to PR agencies and funders the power and relevance of IPB's message.

**FOLLOW UP OF THE CONFERENCE *BOOKS OR BOMBS?*** - held at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt, in Nov. 2007 – the **conference report** was published this year in **English and Arabic editions** (available from Secretariat on request). Following the success of that conference, the IPB's Peace Education working group is developing a plan for a **Teachers workshop** to explore the potential of the DFD issue for work with educators. We hope to be able to carry out this plan in mid-2009.

**BROCHURES:** a number of brochures have been developed during the year, including French and English editions of the *introductory IPB flyer*, and an *outreach leaflet* devised jointly by IPB and Peace Boat on behalf of the Article 9 campaign. Also available: *IPB Membership*, and *IPB Publications Catalogue*.

**RELEASE OF SIPRI MILITARY SPENDING FIGURES.** IPB once again issued a communiqué, commenting on the increasing level of spending highlighted in the annual yearbook of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (June 2008).

## **NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

IPB's work to promote the elimination of nuclear weapons has deep roots in our post WW2 history. We continue to find ways to stimulate, support and report on activities in this field in many parts of the world:

### **Non-Proliferation Treaty**

The NPT is coming up for review in spring 2010. This year's PrepComm was held in Geneva from **April 28-May 9**, and IPB was among the NGOs accredited to this event. Among IPB's contributions to a very varied programme was an **IPB-organised meeting** held on the fringe of the conference on April 28 on the topic: ***Nuclear weapons at what price? An economic, moral and political assessment.*** Speakers included Stephen Schwartz, author of the celebrated reference work *Atomic Audit*, and Sister Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International. The meeting also served as the launch of a preliminary version of a new IPB book *Nuclear Weapons: At What Cost?* written by IPB Council member Ben Cramer. This event proved to be a useful opportunity to link together our two main programme areas.

**Other events** in which the Secretariat and others were involved were:

The **World Court Project** (of which IPB is a founder member) held a day-conference on May 1st at the Warwick Hotel Geneva. The purpose was to explore the possibilities of a return to the International Court of Justice on the question of the legal status of nuclear weapons – in particular the issue of whether states are negotiating 'in good faith'. Among the distinguished speakers at this important event was Judge Bedjaoui (Algeria), former President of the ICJ, who gave an inspired presentation.

An important **exhibition** organized by Real Exhibition Development, entitled ***In-Security: the Nuclear Dilemma***, opened at the Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva, in late Feb., and ran on through the NPT PrepComm period until the end of July. This presentation looks critically at both aspects of the nuclear industry, military and civil. It has attracted thousands of visitors, and has been especially appreciated by school groups. It is now touring Europe, beginning at the Gernika Peace Museum in Spain. IPB has supported this project from the early days, and the SG spoke at the Press Conference on the opening day.

**BANG: Ban All Nukes Generation** is a European group of young people (based in Germany) working on nuclear disarmament issues. A group of some 80-90 students and others came to Geneva for the NPT PrepComm and organised a whole series of activities there, including a vigil, lobbying work and a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention negotiation, held at the International School. IPB assisted with logistics and other forms of support.

**UPCOMING:** IPB also plans to take part as usual in the **next PrepComm**, due to take place in spring 2009 in **New York**. Planning is already under way among the Abolition 2000 network for a major public action at the time of the NPT Review in 2010.

**Global Summit for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World:** laying the practical, technical and political groundwork. On Feb. 16-17, 2008, many IPB members participated in the conference held at City Hall in London, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

### **Geneva seminar and roundtable on the Nuclear Weapons Convention**

IPB secretariat has given assistance in recent months to Alyn Ware (IPB Vice-President) in organising an important seminar and round table for governments and experts, to explore steps to be taken at the national and international level to move more rapidly towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons using the framework of a Nuclear Weapons Convention. This meeting was held in Geneva 13 Sept.

### **Footprints for Peace - Anti nuclear walkers**

In late July IPB staff took part in welcoming a group of anti-nuclear walkers who had set off many weeks earlier from London and had held meetings and actions all along the way. IPB teamed up with local activists to organise a welcome programme including street theatre, social evening, media coverage and a visit to the US and other disarmament delegations, and to the Head of Disarmament Affairs at the UN.

### **World Conference against A & H bombs, Japan - Aug 6-9**

IPB was represented this year at the annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemorations by our former President Bruce Kent. The highlight of this large event drawing together many thousands of activists was the launch of a major signature drive promoting the abolition of nuclear weapons, to be submitted at the 2010 NPT conference.

### **Youth summer school on nuclear disarmament**

Two IPB speakers made presentations at the summer school on nuclear disarmament organised by the World Federation of UN Associations (president: Hans Blix), held at the Palais des Nations in August. This programme was designed as a prize for the winners of an international youth essay/poster design contest.

### **Sean MacBride Peace Prize**

This year's prize was awarded to **Jackie Cabasso**, Director of the Western States Legal Foundation, California, for her work in exposing new developments within the US nuclear weapons complex, and her role in promoting the global abolition movement.

### **Nobel Peace Prize nomination**

This year IPB nominated **Mayors for Peace** for the Nobel Prize.

### **Middle Powers Initiative (MPI), Global Security Institute (GSI), Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)**

IPB has close links with these three closely-connected groupings. IPB is a member of MPI, and GSI is a member of IPB. Alyn Ware, the Coordinator of PNND, is IPB Vice-President. IPB gives political, logistical and informational support to all three organisations.

### **NGO Committee for Disarmament**

This Committee of CONGO (conf. of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC) brings together NGOs working around the UN on disarmament. The Committee nowadays focuses mainly on nuclear issues. IPB acts as the Geneva Committee's secretariat.

The Committee assisted WILPF and others with the preparations for the NPT PrepComm.

A meeting of the Committee was held on March 5, following the Women's Day seminar, at which information was shared about activities in various networks. *UPCOMING:* The Committee will gather once again on **Dec 5**, combining discussion of future plans with participation in the unveiling of a memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt in front of the UN building in Geneva on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## PEACE HISTORY

Among IPB's more general roles is the promotion of **Peace History**, including some support for the network of Peace Museums, as well as for individual historians, archivists, educators and researchers.

### Oslo - Nobel Centenary

The **centenary of IPB's own Nobel Peace Prize** will take place in Oslo in 2010 and our Norwegian colleagues are busy developing an exciting programme. Preparations were advanced this year thanks partly to three visits to Norway by the SG:

- Oslo – S. Asia conference, April
- Oslo – European Network Against Arms trade meeting, June
- Stavanger – Point of Peace summit, 10-12 Sept.

It was possible to combine these visits with a tour of the new Nobel Centre (where we hope the IPB exhibit will be displayed); meetings with member organisations, DFD partners and officers; and opportunities to meet with the Foreign Affairs ministry, Nobel laureates and officials of the Nobel Committee.

### London - 2<sup>nd</sup> Peace History conference, March 28-29

This was co-organised (as in 2006) by the Movement for the Abolition of War, in collaboration with IPB. Many IPB members attended this successful event, which was once again held in the Imperial War Museum.

*UPCOMING:* A 3<sup>rd</sup> conference is planned for spring 2009.

One encouraging outcome was the **co-publication in booklet form** of a paper presented at the 2006 conference, outlining the life story of the great Muslim exponent of nonviolence, **Abdul Gaffar Khan**.

### *UPCOMING:* Paris - History colloquium

An example of our historical work is the contact made this year with the French historian, Paul-Henri Bourrelier, which has led to IPB being invited to speak at a conference in the Senate in Paris on 29 January 2009 on *Les combats républicains de la Revue Blanche*, among whom figures the IPB pioneer **Gaston Moch**.

## Archives

The SG is grateful for the assistance provided on a voluntary basis over the last few months by a trained archivist from the Univ of Br. Columbia, Adam Cowling, who has embarked on the task of establishing a simple catalogue/finding aid for the archives held at the Rue de Zurich (1945-). We hope to make this available online next year.

## GENERAL

### NOBEL SUMMITS

#### Stavanger

IPB has participated in all the Nobel Peace Laureates summits since they were established in 2000 by Mikhail Gorbachev and the City of Rome. The event in Norway this year was an additional event to the normal programme. While only a handful of laureates attended, the programme was enriched by a large collection of experts from many fields, and all manner of cultural activities. A special highlight was the launch of the new web-based TV project **Peace Channel.tv**, led by Bob Geldof.

The summit was organised by **Point of Peace** as part of Stavanger's programme as 2008 European Cultural Capital. IPB representatives spoke, chaired meetings, and contributed in other ways. In addition, the IPB Board was able to meet in Stavanger the following days.

*UPCOMING Nobel Peace Laureates summit* – Paris, December.

## OTHER NETWORKS

In addition to its participation in international campaigns on a variety of issues, IPB is a member of, and active participant in the following more general umbrella organisations:

- **Ubuntu** – World Forum of Civil Society Networks
- **Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC** (CONGO)
- **Federation of International Institutions in Geneva** (FIIG)

## MEDIA COVERAGE:

Among the highlights this year were two TV appearances:

**CNN-Japan** - interview with SG

**TSR/TV5 Géopolitis** – SG was special guest for a 30 min edition on Burma

## PLANS FOR 2009

(See *Calendar*)

The principal challenge for IPB in the coming year will be to expand the range of supporting communities for the **DFD campaign** and to deepen its impact in terms of pressure on decision makers.

We plan to do this by:

- building substantially the list of endorsing organisations, and working with them to create a viable and vibrant global network;
- engaging in dialogue with a) development and environment organisations, b) governments and their representatives, both in capitals and in UN centres, and c) experts and international agencies of various types;
- encouraging and sustaining efforts at national level to create coalitions and lobbying programmes, esp. on the spending issues;
- deepening our work on the media campaign/photo-gallery, and on educational efforts supporting the DFD message – esp. in the light of the upcoming IPB jubilee in 2010;
- reaching out specifically to members and partners in developing countries and helping them establish programmes within the frame of DFD.

Secondly, we need to explore systematically what are the best roles for IPB to play in the **nuclear disarmament field** – esp. in the light of the upcoming NPT conference and other activities in 2010 (eg launch of the proposed Decade for Disarmament).

In addition, IPB will endeavour to make strong and positive contributions to joint and collective projects such as the NATO anniversary, Nobel summits, Ubuntu Forum, CONGO etc.

In order to bolster IPB's political and administrative capacity, it is vital to build on the gains made this year in the funding field to move the organisation to a higher level of performance. This will require some intensive work throughout the year by the whole IPB team as well as the Secretariat.

## FUNDING

We are most grateful for funding support from :

- Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Rissho Kosei Kai, Japan
- Ferguson Trust, UK
- Dowell Trust, UK
- Tides Foundation, USA



plus:

IPB members, organisations (fees)

IPB members, individuals (fees)

Individual donors

Special thanks to Donald and Nicole King for a generous contribution.

**Fundraising efforts** continue throughout the year. We have a number of applications pending. All suggestions, contacts or donations of any size are most welcome.

**IPB's Accounts** are available as a separate document.

## **STAFF**

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### **Volunteers, interns, local consultants:**

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