



Newsletter



February 2019

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Even though it has fewer days than any other month in the year, February has been a remarkably eventful period in international politics. Trump officially suspended the INF Treaty with Russia, the humanitarian crisis and tensions in and with Venezuela dramatically intensified, Brexit approaches, and just a few days ago the protracted conflict between India and Pakistan began to erupt once again. Reflecting on these events, which have been continuously destabilizing peaceful relations between countries and citizens, is crucial. But it is also important to go beyond, turning our attention to the numerous inspiring initiatives which are carried out by peace-minded individuals and organisations around the world.

The PyeongChang Global Peace Forum, held in South Korea in early February was attended by two of our wholeheartedly committed Board members, Corazon Fabros and our Co-President Lisa Clark. Moreover, Lisa was given the honour of being a keynote speaker during the opening ceremony. Secondly, IPB's "Global Campaign on Military Spending" (GCOMS) has announced the dates of this year's "Global Days of Action on Military Spending" (GDAMS). Under this umbrella, there will be numerous events and activities around the globe to raise awareness about the horrendous amount of financial resources allocated to the military, instead of being used for the well-being of citizens. Additionally, the "Bike for Peace" World Tour has launched its tour with an event in London, and IPB's Vice-President, Joseph Gerson, spoke at the Gensuikyō International Forum as part of the 2019 Bikini Day Commemorative Program in Japan.

Editorial:

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This and much more happened in February and we hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter!



Natalia Carrusca is our new intern at the IPB office since the beginning of February.

She is passionate about human rights and especially interested in the work of civil society organizations and movements. Currently working on a dissertation on civil society participation within the EU's trade policy, Natalia will soon conclude her master's studies in "Peace, Security and Development" at the University of Coimbra (Portugal). Originally from Brazil, she also holds a degree in International Relations from the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais. Natalia has worked with different NGOs in Europe and Latin America, including the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (Brussels) and the Jesuit Refugees and Migrants Service (Belo Horizonte). At IPB, she wants to learn about the international peace movement and the internal dynamics of such a wide and varied global network of individuals and organizations.

In her free time, she cultivates her love for Netflix, attempts to cook Brazilian food and challenges herself with learning German.



INF Treaty at threat: Prevent a 21st century nuclear arms race

[PDF version](#)

Berlin, 05.02.201

On February 2nd, President Trump announced the unilateral suspension of the US from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. After several months of verbal escalation, the United States rejected the Russian offer to inspect a suspected missile (Novator 9M729) and declared that it would announce its decision on February 2nd.

Russia accused the United States of violating the Treaty by deploying a component of a missile defence system — the Mark 41 Vertical Launch System (VLS) — that is capable of launching offensive missiles.

By suspending its compliance with the Treaty, the United States will then be able to deploy prohibited missiles in Europe. In reaction of the unlawful behaviour of the US, Russia withdrew from the treaty as a reaction to the US actions. These attacks against this significant nuclear arms treaty are almost inevitably setting off a new arms race. Meanwhile, the US is renewing the nuclear weapons based in five European countries.

The INF treaty led to the elimination and renunciation of deployments of all US and Russian nuclear and conventional ground-launched cruise and ballistic missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,000 km. Signed in 1987, after millions of people had fought to stop the nuclear arms race, it has dramatically reduced the danger of Europe becoming the primary theatre for a nuclear war and thus marked the end of the Cold War.

IPB calls for a massive and united mobilization of all the forces opposed to this project of mass

destruction to work together, nationally and internationally, to avert a new nuclear arms race.

We urgently appeal for negotiations to preserve and reinforce the INF Treaty and associate all other nuclear-armed states. In addition, NATO governments are called upon to take a clear stance of against the usage of Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces and support bilateral and international negotiations. The global population depends on a new coalition of sensibility and reasonability.

IPB calls on all countries to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by the UN in 2017, which offers a solid international framework for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

With peaceful wishes,

Reiner Braun & Lisa Clark
Co-Presidents of IPB

2018 Activity report



We have recently released a report with an overview of the activities undertaken by IPB and our network during the year of 2018. You can read and download it on our website through the link

<https://www.ipb.org/topics/activity-reports/>

IPB at the PyeongChang Global Peace Forum 2019



When the athletes from South and North Korea marched together at the Parade of Nations, under the Unification Flag, the world breathed a sigh of relief. A spectacular peace action, sending an unmistakable message from the people of this peninsula to their leaders and to the world. The reconciliation atmosphere created by this gesture was made possible by the citizen-led Candlelight nonviolent Revolution and the establishment of democratic government in South Korea in 2017. It was followed by a whole series of positive developments in inter-Korean dialogue throughout 2018, including the Panmunjom meeting of the two Korean leaders, in April, symbolically crossing the “border”, with President Moon and Chairman Kim holding each other’s hand, and agreeing on working together towards a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula. Internationally, this paved the way for the first US-DPRK summit in Singapore in June and the second, in Hanoi, last February 27.

No doubt, however, that all this developed out of the action of the social movements that launched the Candlelight Revolution.

A Korean Steering Committee of civil society organizations and local government institutions

decided to keep this momentum alive by organizing a Global Peace Forum on the first anniversary, 9 – 11 February 2019, of those “Unification” Games in PyeongChang, the ski resort that hosted the Winter Olympics. And the Steering Committee felt that the “PyeongChang Peace Spirit” could inspire not only action plans for peace in the Korean Peninsula, but all over the world, on the 20th anniversary of The Hague Peace Agenda. The Secretary General of The Hague Peace Conference, William Pace, and the President of The Hague Appeal for Peace, Cora Weiss, contributed to the planning and organization.

The programme that the Steering Committee drew up was very ambitious! A three-day Forum with about one hundred international participants and many more Koreans from a wide variety of civil society organizations. One of the ideas was to find the common ground for international NGOs working towards the SDGs and nonviolent peace and disarmament organizations, as well as moving forward the legacy of the PyeongChang Peace Spirit, while drafting all together a new Peace Agenda, 20 years after The Hague: the PyeongChang Peace Agenda. And to do this through plenary sessions and dozens of workshops and seminars on a wide variety of subjects.

The International Peace Bureau was present in the international drafting committee, through Co-President Lisa Clark and Vice-President Corazon Fabros. Cora was one of the 8 internationals who introduced the major issues to be addressed by forum, speaking in the first session; while Lisa was one of the keynote speakers in the Opening Session. They took part in a number of workshop-style meetings: on the North-East Asia Nuclear-weapon-free zone, on the Korean Peace Process, on the implementation of disarmament treaties, on military bases, on the role of local governments (Lisa also spoke on behalf of Mayors for Peace), on the UN Secretary General’s Disarmament Agenda, on the right to peace. And they worked, in collaboration with many others, on the drafting of the Peace Agenda and of a Resolution for Sustaining the Peace

Process in the Korean Peninsula and North-East Asia. Lisa and Cora ensured that our GCOMS, and the 2019 Global Days of Action on Military Spending from 13 April to 9 May became one of the points of the common Action Plan!

[Check our website](#) for the final resolution of the PyeongChang Global Peace Forum, the full transcript of Lisa Clark's speech at the event and the link to the full video of the Opening Session.

Launching the 2019 Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)

This year, the GDAMS will take place between April 13 and May 9. Below is the official statement from the organizers of the campaign, straight from our Barcelona office.



The current context of international relations shows an increase in militarism with an accompanying and significant rise in world military spending. According to data released by SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) in May 2018, annual military spending has continued to increase by 1.1% in real terms.

This expenditure has also increased in regions with a high level of conflict, such as the Middle East. According to SIPRI, 7 out of the 10 countries in the world with the highest military burden are in the Middle East. The rise in militarism both fuels and is fuelled by the arms trade, which continues the upward trend that began in the early 2000s as shown by the volume of international arms transfers during 2013-2017, which was 10% higher than during 2008-2012.

Moreover, the Trump government has increased military spending by US \$ 54,000 million; has launched attacks on Somalia, Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan, has renewed threats to North Korea and Venezuela, and has reinforced its military presence in the China Seas and elsewhere, while expanding US bases in the Pacific. In addition, it has withdrawn from the Iran nuclear deal and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. At the same time, the Australian government has announced its intention to become one of the world's top 10 arms exporters, moving up from its current position at number 20 and has allocated \$ 3.8 billion for subsidies to Australian arms manufacturers. This is a trend also visible in many other countries including Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, India, Israel and others.

In Europe, the draft European Defence Action Plan authorizes for the first time the allocation of EU funds to common defence programmes and has earmarked 90 million euros over three years (30 million in 2019) for research and development in the military and security field, **with security becoming increasingly militarized**. The proposal of the European Commission includes financing defence industries with 51,000 million euros between 2017-2027. We also observe the worrying trend of arms companies penetrating universities by providing research funding for military purposes.

We are, therefore, living in a time of military escalation and increasing political tension around the world. As evidence of this, the US and NATO are demanding its member countries to increase their military spending up to 2% of GDP, generating

tensions with States outside NATO . This should be **money for social spending and human needs, not for the military!**

Global military spending already accounts for 2.3% of global GDP. Governments are allocating resources to the military that should be used to ensure that people can effectively enjoy their economic and social rights as enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as human rights in general. Many peace and development organizations estimate that 10% reduction per year and per country of the resources invested in the arms and defence sectors could enable the achievement of the main elements established by the United Nations in its 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Militarism has serious impacts on people's lives, generating major risks to their safety and well-being. According to the latest UNHCR report, there are 65,6 million displaced persons, of which 40,3 million are displaced in their own country, 22,5 million are refugees in other states and 2,8 million are asylum seekers. These are **persons displaced as a result of conflicts in countries like** Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, as well as several African and Latin American countries.

Nowadays, climate change is the most pressing global threat. Even the World Economic Forum agrees with this, yet politicians continue to listen to the 1 percenters rather than the vast majority. Climate change is a direct consequence of global power and mass consumption. It is the main threat to people in the Global South, as well as to the planet itself and its diversity.

The **Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS)** is an international campaign founded in December 2014 and promoted by the International Peace Bureau. The aim of the campaign is to convince governments to invest money in the sectors of health, education, employment and climate change rather than the military. We urgently need to **build human security structures worldwide and at the same time put a stop to war and destruction.**

We need to involve an increasing number of citizens and organizations in an open and robust debate on the **counter-productive results of military expenditure.** More strongly than ever, we urge you to reach out to new partners to work on the on-going Global Campaign on Military Spending, and to make the Global Days of Action on Military Spending a great success! **Move the funds from the military to peace!**

More information: <http://demilitarize.org>

Barcelona, 22 February 2019

IPB's Vice-President, Joseph Gerson, at the Gensuikyo International Forum



IPB's Vice-President, Joseph Gerson, spoke at the Gensuikyo International Forum on February 27, part of the 2019 Bikini Day Commemorative Program in Japan. The event marked the 57th anniversary of the Bikini disaster caused by a U.S. hydrogen bomb test in the year of 1954. With the theme "After the Post-Cold War Era: Abolition and the Imperative of Preventing Nuclear War", Joseph's talk concluded on a hopeful note, reminding the audience that "humans and nuclear weapons cannot long coexist" and that "it is people who can bend the arc of history toward peace and justice". [Check our website](#) to read Joseph's speech.

Key documents from the “World Court Project” campaign now available online

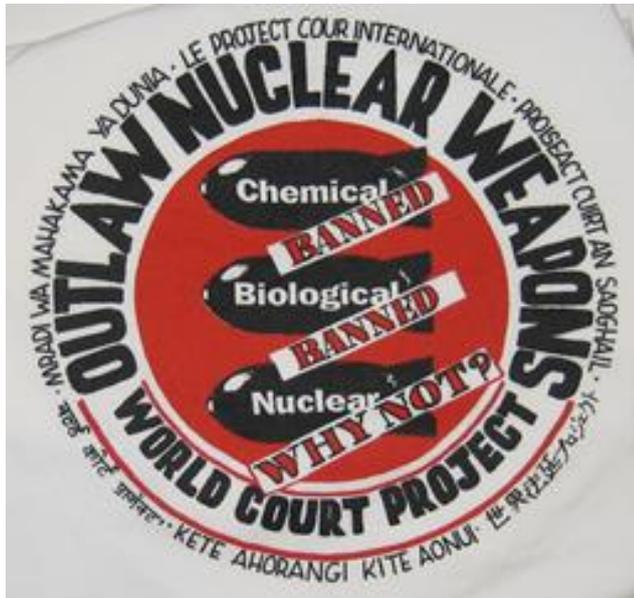


Photo from nuclearfreenz30.org.nz

A walk through IPB’s history

Thanks to our member organizations Disarmament and Security Centre (New Zealand), key documents associated with the history of the **World Court Project** are now digitally available ([click here!](#)), including articles, books, and memoranda.

The World Court Project has its roots in New Zealand, and was jointly championed on the international stage by IPB, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA). The campaign’s efforts led the International Court of Justice to issue, in 1996, an Advisory Opinion on the legal status of nuclear weapon. A milestone in the struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons, the Court concluded the general illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons and affirmed that states must conclude negotiations to eliminate them.

CSOs Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security in Lagos, Nigeria

In the city of Lagos, Nigeria, IPB member [Community Agenda for Peace \(CAP\)](#) organized the “Civil Society Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security”. The event took place on February 7, with the theme “A vision for the future”.

Several journalists and representatives of non-governmental organizations were among the participants, who talked about youth political participation and discussed pressing issues of the Nigerian socio-economic context such as unemployment and education. Mr Obuesi Phillips, a decorated UN Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals and National Director of CAP, was one of the people who addressed the audience.



The dialogue was part of a pilot program developed in collaboration with Students Without Borders International (SWBI), African Youth Initiative on Crime Prevention (AYICRIP), Centre for Leadership and Development Nigeria (CLDN), Centre for Media and Peace Initiative (CMPI) and the National Orientation Agency (NOA) in the Lagos State. [Click here](#) to watch a video reportage of the event.

Red Hand Day in Berlin

IPB member **Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft - Vereinigte Kriegsdienst-gegnerInnen**, which integrates the German Alliance Child Soldiers (*Deutsches Bündnis Kindersoldaten*), participated in a series of events in Berlin on the **Red Hand Day** against the use of child soldiers. Together with members of the alliance such as Terre des Hommes, Kindernothilfe and Child Soldiers International, they promoted an act in front of the German Parliament and organized a press conference on the issue of child soldiers. Read more [on their website](#) (in German).



Photo from dfa-vk.de (by Christian Jungeblodt)

Press conference: Israel's arms export policy

The third report of the "Global Net – Stop the Arms Trade" (GN-STAT) was presented on February 18, during a press conference co-organized by IPB in Berlin. GN-STAT have set themselves the goal of informing people about lethal cases of arms exports throughout the world, from the First World War to the present.

Through their reports, they want to give a name and a face to the perpetrators in politics, in the arms industry, military, lobby groups and banks, and to file criminal complaints when there is a

strong suspicion of illegal arms trading. [The first case](#) examined how German rifles and weapons were used in the genocide of Armenians by Ottoman armed forces (1895-1916), while [the second case](#) studied the illegal arms export to Mexican regions of conflict. The defendant company in this case, "Heckler and Koch", was recently found guilty on the charges and ordered to pay 3,7 million €.





PRESSEKONFERENZ
FALL 03 des GLOBAL NET - STOP THE ARMS TRADE
zu WAFFENEXPORTEN ISRAELS

Vorstellung des Berichts
**„High-Tech für Potentaten
und Gewaltherrscher – ein
kritischer Blick auf Israels
Rüstungsexportpolitik“**

mit den Autoren
S Hever und W Landgraeber

Montag, 18.02.2019 - 11 Uhr
Wöhlertstr. 20, 10115 Berlin

The case presented this month engaged critically with the business strategies of Israeli arms companies. The authors of this report, Dr. Shir Hever and Wolfgang Landgraeber, state that the Israeli arms industry has one major advantage: "it is proven and tested on Palestinians". Many of the recipients of Israeli weapons are repressive and war-waging regimes like Azerbaijan, India/Pakistan and South Sudan.

Dr. Hever is a political economist, with a degree in Political Science from the Freie Universität in

Berlin. He is also a journalist, currently working for “The Real News Network” in the US. Wolfgang Landgraeber is a respected investigative journalist who has worked on more than 30 documentaries, currently editor and reporter for the “Monitor” and “Panorama”, and a lecturer in Munich, Germany. [Click here](#) to access the report.

Online Course: War Abolition 101



The online course “**War Abolition 101: How we Create a Peaceful World**”, organized by IPB’s member World Beyond War, started on February 18 and will run for six weeks, until the end of March. Participants have the opportunity to discuss strategies to tackle conflicts and promote sustainable peace, engaging with experts. For information, check [World Beyond War’s website](#).

Bike for Peace World Tour



Photo by Siril Ravndal Grude

The “Bike for Peace World Tour” 2019 has been launched in the UK and will pass by France, India,

China, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Norway. The Norwegian grassroots organization Bike for Peace, nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize a number of times, has promoted over 100 bike rides for peace since its establishment in 1978. Its Global Coordinator, Tore Naerland, is also a Board member of IPB.

This year’s launch event (February 27, in London) had as speakers Tore Naerland, Caroline Lucas MP (Green Party, Chair of Parliamentary Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament - CND), Fabian Hamilton MP (Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament), and Douglas Chapman MP (Spokesperson for Peace and Disarmament of the Scottish National Party, SNP). Check Bike for Peace’s [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for more information.

Mayors for Peace Youth Exchange



The city of Hiroshima, photo by Mike O’Sullivan

If you are a student living in one of the 7,709 member cities of “Mayors for Peace”, you might be eligible to apply for the 2019 Youth Exchange for Peace. Participants will have the opportunity to travel to Japan and to participate in the intensive summer course “Hiroshima and Peace”, at Hiroshima City University. For more information, [check the website](#).

Dear IPB member,

Are you taking part in or leading the organisation of any activity in **MARCH 2019**? Send information about **your events** to the e-mail address info@ipb-office.berlin if you would like them to be mentioned in the next IPB newsletter!