

Newsletter



July 2018

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

After exciting and inspiring actions in Ramstein, Germany and Brussels, Belgium, we are full of impressions and motivation to continue.

In this issue, we want to give you a glance of these events we were part.

Also, we want to invite you to several events from our members in Bosnia and Hercegovina, the United Kingdom and France.

We insist on our mail programme disarmament for development. Nuclear disarmament plays a special role in this regard, that is why we would like to set a short reminder of the importance of nuclear disarmament for global security.

For our members, we have prepared our first announcement of our Council Meeting, which will be held on Cyprus this year.

Last but not least, for all those of you who want to support us, please [donate](#) to IPB. We depend on any donation, regardless the amount.

We hope you enjoy reading!

With our warmest wishes

Amela Skiljan





AN ACTION WEEK AGAINST THE AIR BASE RAMSTEIN

A week of diverse actions gathered people from all over Germany and other 11 countries to stand united against war, illegal drone strikes and military spending and motivated for further engagement for peace and justice.

Werner-Liebrich- Football Tournament

The week started with a football tournament, where 10 teams played the whole afternoon on Saturday, June 23. The aim was to promote sports, fairness and anti-racism – all these only possible in peace.

Peace Camp



A fundamental part of the annual actions against the Air Base Ramstein is the one-week peace camp, from 24.06.-01.07.2018. It was a melting point for 600 people wanting to discuss actual political topics, go to interesting workshops, eat delicious vegan food or just relax with family and friends. All this wrapped in a friendly and peaceful atmosphere.

4 day workshops

From June 25 to 28 several workshops were held. The topics differed from nuclear weapons, gender equality, and whistleblowing to specific insight into the British and the US peace movement - so everyone could find something suitable. The workshops motivated for discussion and action and were a wonderful networking platform.

International meeting against foreign military bases & Evening public event

On June 29, around 40 representatives and activists from 12 countries met at the international meeting against foreign military bases, discussion the situation in their countries, common actions and possible common further steps. At the end of the meeting, the participants adopted a declaration "Stop the wars and not the refugees!" - see on page 4.

Additionally, a public event with Ann Wright, Pat Elder, Kai Ehlers and Ekkehard Sieker. Several hundreds of people were interested to listen to them carefully.

Demonstration against the Air Base

June 30 – a sunny day – invited around 2500 people to demonstrate against the Air Base in front of it. After the rally finished, 300 activists participated in a civil disobedience act. They blocked the base gate for 45 minutes! See photos here

Conclusively, all demonstration participants were invited to party in the camp.

Declaration of the international meeting against foreign military bases

Attendees from Germany, Netherlands, France, UK, South Korea, Spain, Italy, USA, Ireland, Greece, Austria, Switzerland agree to the following

Whereas:

- The EU/US/NATO plays a key role in the creation of unequal economic conditions, wars and armed conflicts, and environment destruction that cause people to flee from their homes, seeking safety and sanctuary in Europe;
- Increasing levels of military spending are contributing to these conditions;
- Security and defence interests focusing on the security of states, power elites, and cooperate interests comes at the expense of individuals' personal security;
- Over 30 000 people are estimated to have lost their lives attempting to find sanctuary in Europe over the last 25 years and countless thousands, possibly millions, have died in their own countries;
- The EU has put measures in place for open borders for weapons and soldiers, but not for people.

We oppose:

- The militarization of EU border security that serves the interests of the military and security industry and endangers the lives of people seeking sanctuary in Europe;
- The aims and actions of Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, tasked with border control of the Schengen Area, in coordination with national border and coast guard bodies;
- All migrant detention and long-term processing centres inside and outside Europe's borders. And we call on the EU to:
- Ensure safe and legal crossing of sea and land borders around and within Europe, thereby opening the borders for people fleeing from conflict and famine;
- Reduce military spending and invest in fair, just and equitable conditions for development and trade;
- End the sale and export of arms and weapons' components.

Stop the wars and not the refugees!

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June 29th, 2018, Kaiserslautern, Germany



PROTEST AGAINST THE NATO SUMMIT

The demonstration (on July 7) against the NATO Summit was colourful and powerful, sending strong messages of peace.

The press release from the No-to-War No to NATO Network, explains why this demonstration is important and describes the event.

Disarmament and a stop of wars is the order of the day

On July 7th thousands protested against the coming NATO summit in Brussels. The protests were called for by Belgian peace, environment, development and human rights organizations, as well as unions and the international network “No to war – No to NATO.”

At the protest Ludo De Brabander, member of the coordination committee of the network “No to war – no to NATO,” declared: “NATO wants to increase military investments up to 2% of GDP for each member state. For Europe we are talking about 100 billion Euro extra, annually. This is madness. We need the money to fight poverty, for social and environmental investments.”

On July 8th the counter summit was held in Brussels by the international network “No to war – no to NATO” and by organizations from the Belgian peace movement, in particular Vrede.

100 participants came from 15 NATO member countries and 5 no NATO states

The participants of the counter summit agreed upon the rejection of

- The massive armament that is pushed for by the NATO states. They oppose the 2% GDP goal for armament and instead demand a widespread disarmament of the global military expenses of 1.7 trillion US dollars to the benefit of social and environmental investments, for education and for the overcoming of poverty and hunger.
- The modernization of nuclear weapons. Essentially this is about the acquisition of a new generation of nuclear weapons that are supposed to lower the threshold for a nuclear war and make regional nuclear wars possible. “The abolition of all nuclear weapons and even broader coalition in support of the ban treaty remain our goal,” said Arielle Denis, form ICAN and IPB
- The monstrous and deadly arms exports. Arms exports have to be outlawed in general.
- The drone warfare and a further automatization and robotization of war. An international convention against drones has been demanded again and again.

“NATO is, in spite of its repugnancies, the!! military alliance of the world, stronger and more comprehensive than every other war alliance in history. It encompasses not only Europe and North America but extends over the whole world, Asia in

particular. The encirclement of Russia and China is the goal. "Wars of intervention are a daily, murderous method and against international law," said Kristine Karch and Lucas Wirl, co-chairs of the network "No to war – no to NATO."

The participants agreed that the long-term goal of peace work has to be the dissolution, resp. overcoming, of NATO. National withdrawals from NATO are an important step in this.

The network "No to war – No to NATO" is especially alarmed by the militarization of Europe, which is

connected to NATO but also detached from it, which is further increasing the dangers of confrontation and war in the world. Europe has to return to a policy of "mutual security," in particular with Russia.

The international network will, alongside many other forces for peace, prepare for the 70th anniversary of the founding NATO in April 2019 with many actions. "NATO belongs on history's midden heap," this was the collective conclusion of the counter summit in Brussels on July 8th 2018.



Photo credit Lucas Wirl

See more photos of the actions in Brussels and Ramstein on Flickr at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/lucaswirl/>



From Our Members



Srdjan Aleksic Award in Sarajevo

For the seventh year in a row The Network for Building Peace is awarding the most important national journalist award Srdjan Aleksic. The award ceremony will be organized on September 21st, on the International Peace Day. The award aims to promote the highest standards in journalism when it comes to reporting on vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Young Bosnian Serb Srdjan Aleksic saw his neighbour, an ethnic Bosniak, being harassed by a group of Bosnian Serb soldiers at the beginning of the 1992-95 war. He tried to protect the man but the soldiers then turned against Aleksic, beating him with their rifle butts until he fell into a coma. Aleksic died a week later at the hospital.

"Without people like Srdjan Aleksic and his heroic deeds, one would lose hope in humanity, and without it, our lives would not make any sense." As follow up reporters plan to set up a journalism network dedicated to Srdjan Aleksic, in what they say is an attempt to bring back professional values to the media in the country.

Established by the Helsinki Citizens Assembly and now awarded by the Network for Building Peace, Srdjan Aleksić Award is given for exceptional contribution in the protection and promotion of human rights. So far, 27 journalists and media organizations have received the award.

More information available at www.mreza-mira.net (English version of the web site will be available soon) and www.hcabl.org



Events in the UK

July 20 – 23 - The Annual conference of the Catholic National Justice and Peace Network held in the Swanwick Conference centre in Derbyshire. All welcome.

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>

August 6 - Hiroshima Day

Tavistock Square London 12 noon-2pm.
Commemorative event held near the cherry tree.

Pax Christi Vigil in Westminster Cathedral piazza all day.

http://paxchristi.org.uk/event/hiroshima-and-nagasaki-commemorations/?instance_id=774

August 9 - Nagasaki Day

Pax Christi Vigil in Westminster Cathedral Piazza all day

6.30 pm memorial for Franz Jägerstätter in the Cathedral crypt followed by the annual interfaith walk to the Buddhist Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park for Nagasaki peace movement memorial ceremonies with Japanese friends.

Sept 21 - 22 Cardiff, Wales

Peace History Conference - talks, music, poetry, peace walk, exhibitions, concert.

http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/uploads/1/6/6/2/1/6622106/2018_flyer.pdf

Elimination of nuclear weapons in France?!

Actions worth joining!

For the 50th anniversary of the NPT [1] and the first anniversary of the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty [2], Le Mouvement de la Paix commissioned to the IFOP a poll based on "French, military spending and elimination of nuclear weapons" in collaboration with French newspapers La Croix and Planète Paix. This study was conducted from June 22 to 25, 2018, based on a sample of 1001 people over 18 years, using the quota method.

Gross Results

It appears clearly that French people are in favour for a security policy within the UN, in particular concerning the elimination of nuclear weapons. Thus, 76% of French approve that "France must make a commitment in an international process of a total and controlled elimination of nuclear weapons, as planned by the UN". This figure remains at a high level, close to a similar question realized in 2012.

On the specific question "In your personal opinion, do you think that France have to make a commitment into that process, that means signing and ratifying the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty", 67% of French respond favourably, namely two-thirds of the population.

Analysis

For Le Mouvement de la Paix: "those data reinforce the groundswell dynamics for the elimination of nuclear weapons, illegal under international law, dangerous because of its threat to the very existence of mankind, militarily ineffective and useless to ensure the nation's security, costly and morally unacceptable."

Also, the survey is a confirmation that citizens are largely demanding an international ban and elimination of nuclear weapons process. This is in contradiction with the maintained statement of a lack of knowledge and disinterest from the public opinion on those matters. "This opinion survey contradicts the choices made by the government and parliament, which just approved, without any public debate, a new military program Act aiming for a renewal of

French nuclear armoury, in total contradiction with the international law which outlaws holding, manufacturing and the threat of use of nuclear weapons".

Campaign

Le Mouvement de la Paix has engaged a campaign urging France to commit itself, to sign and ratify the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty. A petition has already started to collect several thousand signatures. The movie "La Bombe et Nous [3]" is running today in many movie theatres in collaboration with Le Mouvement de la Paix and other organizations members of ICAN-France. The Movement will address through the initiatives around the International Day of Peace (September 21) and during the Marches for Peace organized everywhere in France this year on Saturday September 22th, in association with the national collective "En Marche pour la Paix" involving 153 organizations.

On Sunday October 14th 2018, numerous partners are organizing with Le Mouvement de la Paix a day of mobilization at "crime scenes". Le Mouvement de la Paix insists: "we want to call the President of the Republic to tell him: Mr. President, get the bomb out of your skull". Pacifists will come together towards locations where the French State is preparing the nuclear war to criticize the humanitarian consequences and the illegality of nuclear weapons. "It has now been confirmed, we are the majority; Mr. President, you must listen to this will and engage France into the ratification of the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty".

July 5th, 2018

Le Mouvement de la Paix (see the whole article [here](#))

[1] The Non-Proliferation Treaty adopted in 1968 July the 1st, coming into effect in 1970, July the 1st.

[2] Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty adopted in 2017, July 7th.

[3] Directed by Xavier-Marie Bonnot



This month – on July 7 - we celebrated the first anniversary of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Up to now, 59 states have signed the Treaty and just a few hours ago, Nicaragua became the 12th country to ratify the Treaty.

Disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament is crucial in global security. While the global policy makers are talking about increasing the military budgets and more armament, it is our duty to remind them and the people of the importance of non-proliferation and disarmament.

The Treaty on the Prohibition on Nuclear Weapons represents an important step on the path to ban nuclear weapons. We call on all states to sign (if they have not done so yet) and to ratify the Treaty.



**2018 COUNCIL
MEETING IN NICOSIA,
CYPRUS**

23.11. BOARD MEETING

24.11. CONFERENCE

24.11. MACBRIDE PEACE PRIZE
CEREMONY

25.11. COUNCIL MEETING

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