



ACTIVITY REPORT 2014



Cover photo: The Berlin wall: Poster used to advertise the IPB conference held in the European Parliament, Brussels, 4-5th March 2014

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INTRODUCTION

The year 2014 saw a serious worsening of the international security situation. Of 15 major ongoing armed conflicts, two especially stand out: those involving Ukraine and Islamic State. The first threatens a return to the tensions of the Cold War, and the second heralds a prolonged period of violent confrontation, both within the Muslim world and between radical jihadism and the West. To this could be added incidents such as the abduction of an estimated 276 girls and women in Nigeria by Boko Haram, and dramatic attacks on civilians in a wide range of war contexts. From February onwards, the ebola epidemic in West Africa gave rise to near-panic in many parts of the world; such fears were used by the authorities to introduce controversial military measures to control the disease. In July-August Israel launched a devastating air attack on Gaza, killing 2100 Palestinians and further inflaming the Arab world.

All these events have done much to maintain the atmosphere of fear and anxiety which fuels support for military solutions. While military spending saw a small reduction in western countries, the overall global total remained at over \$1.77 trillion¹. At a time when the global economy is still struggling to recover its dynamism, and debate continues over how to fund the proposed Sustainable Development Goals and to build the Green Climate Fund, the IPB and its partners remain determined to work for a reallocation of public resources away from the military and towards human security solutions.

Among the rare items of good news was the announcement in Dec. 2014 by U.S. President Barack Obama of the resumption of normal relations between the U.S. and Cuba. This was a welcome reminder that patient diplomacy can bear good fruit if given a chance. The other encouraging event was the Vienna conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, which clearly demonstrated the determination among states and civil society to intensify pressure for a ban on such weapons.

What is IPB?

IPB is a global network of peace groups, with 300 member organisations in 70 countries, with an office base in Geneva. The organisation has a democratic structure, with an elected Council and Board. IPB was founded in 1891 to coordinate the work of the world's national peace associations. It is a Nobel Peace laureate (1910), and thirteen of our officers and staff have won the Nobel Peace Prize over the years.

IPB's long-term goal is a world without war. We see our work as a contribution to the development of a peace-building community, cultivating in all societies the seeds of a culture of peace. While the causes of armed conflict are complex, and the attempts to tackle them very varied, IPB has chosen to focus its efforts in a limited number of areas, of which the main one is Disarmament for Sustainable Development. This report offers a summary of the highlights of the year's activities.

DISARMAMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IPB continues to develop its major programme, launched in 2005, entitled Disarmament for Sustainable Development. (D for D). This is designed to reflect widespread public concern at the continuing high levels of global military spending; and the evidence that all weapons — both the devastating weapons of mass destruction and those used on a frequent basis (small arms, cluster bombs, landmines...) -- seriously impede sustainable development. Many years and several wars on from 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.

Our **Disarmament for Sustainable Development** programme has three thematic areas: (1) military spending, (2) impacts of weapons on development, (3) justifications for investments in militarism. Since 2011 the central focus of the work is military and social spending. The various concepts are discussed in detail in our book *Warfare or Welfare?* A follow-up volume, *Whose Priorities?* provides examples of creative campaigning by NGOs and other civil society organisations who have taken up these issues. More recent publications focus on the links between military spending and the UN's Development Agenda, and the challenge of climate change.

1 <http://books.sipri.org/files/FS/SIPRIFS1504.pdf>

MILITARY SPENDING

This year saw a major development in our work on military spending.

A NEW CAMPAIGN

10 December 2014. “After many months of preparations and consultations, the IPB is delighted to announce the launch of the all-year-round **Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS)**. Since today is **Human Rights Day**, we feel the timing is very appropriate! Today’s launch sees the unveiling of our **new Campaign website** - at the same address as the GDAMS one: www.demilitarize.org. The launch announcement will be made today at the **Future of Human Rights Forum** held at the UN in Geneva. The event is entitled ‘**Divest from War: Invest in Our Future**.’”

Following the launch of GCOMS and a dedicated staff workshop, IPB has been developing detailed plans for the future of the campaign: including new materials, fresh ideas for partnerships, and the outline of a major world congress to be held on this issue in Berlin (30 September – 3 October 2016).

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION 2014

The pressure for change is rising...that was the conclusion drawn at the end of the fourth edition of the **Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)**, held on 14-15 April 2014. This year’s programme

featured around **135 actions in 25 countries**, including an extraordinary range of imaginative events: from rallies and distribution of flyers, to petitions, to ‘penny polls’ and other variations, to selfies and twitter campaigns, to tree-planting, sea actions, infographics, and much more.

Geneva seminar: IPB Secretariat organised a seminar in Geneva which attracted the participation of many NGO representatives and others. The goal was to draw attention to the latest statistics released by SIPRI and to discuss ways to take action in order to favour the reallocation of military expenditures to social and environmental programmes. The speakers were:

- **Michael Møller**, Acting Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Acting Director-General UN Office at Geneva
- **Colin Archer**, Secretary-General, International Peace Bureau, and Coordinator, Global Day of Action on Military Spending
- **Prof. Alfred de Zayas**, UN Human Rights Council Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
- **Helen Wilandh**, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI



‘Welfare not Warfare’ protest at the South Korean Parliament, Seoul – Global Day of Action on Military Spending, April 2014.

Social media work: The IPB led the campaign on multiple platforms. Aside from the traditional methods, we launched and directed our bigger-than-ever virtual outreach through the following social media tools:

- a) **The If I Had \$1.75 Trillion... Selfie Campaign**
People were requested to think of and write a poster highlighting a social good they would rather spend the annual global military budget on. They then took their photos and uploaded these on the website or Facebook.
- b) **The If I Had \$1.75 Trillion... Online Survey**, which accompanied the selfie campaign.
- c) **The GDAMS Move the Money! Thunderclap.** We aimed to mobilise 100 people through Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr to support the campaign and encourage others to back it up as well in order for Thunderclap to broadcast the GDAMS message. Through earnest promotions, we were able to persuade 118 supporters. Meeting (and even exceeding) our goal prompted Thunderclap to send out a wave of '*GDAMS #movethemoney: Cut military spending-fund human needs!*' messages which reverberated on social media and reached 143,480 people.
- d) **A sustained social networking on Facebook and Twitter**

Through a more targeted communications plan and our reliable volunteers, IPB was able to mobilise new partners who are interacting with the GDAMS network for the first time, such as high school students, young activists, ordinary citizens as well as people from new geographical locations.

The GDAMS website was optimised by dedicating a separate section to GDAMS USA (the GDAMS UK section was created last year), and by modifications in the user interface and improved functionalities.

See full set of reports (by region) at: <http://demilitarize.org/gdams-2014/>

OUTREACH

A whole range of activities were undertaken during the year to reach out to NGOs and other groups in various countries, with the aim of engaging them in the work on military spending and development.

Dialogue with development agencies and religious bodies

IPB recognises the importance of engaging in discussion with major development and religious organisations on the issue of military spending. In 2013 we began a process of contacting key NGOs and faith bodies, helped by a grant from the Rissho Kosei-Kai Buddhist organisation (Japan). This continued into 2014.

Faith-based organisations are invited to join the Disarmament for Sustainable Development Campaign. The main aim of this initiative is to press for an end

to the over-funding of military establishments and for the creation of new funds to tackle human insecurity and common threats to the planet. Fr. Paul Lansu (IPB Vice-President) wrote a [background document](#) which can be used for further action within the religious communities.

One rather special event was the conference organised in January by the **Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust** in Hyderabad, India. IPB was represented there by our Co-President Ingeborg Breines, who accepted a special prize on behalf of the organization. The gathering permitted many new contacts to be made, especially with members of the Hindu community. We are pleased that the SRMT continues to support the work of IPB.

UN POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

As the debate hotted up on the new UN development agenda – to succeed the Millennium Development Goals – IPB took a number of steps to advance the argument that military spending should be considered as a possible source of development funding.

Co-President Ingeborg Breines travelled to New York to attend meetings of the General Assembly's Open Working Group (OWG) on the **UN's Post 2015 Development Agenda**, with the purpose of making the case for the importance, not only of military spending, but also wider issues related to peace and disarmament. She presented IPB's statement arguing for peace as a stand-alone goal and for a 10% reduction in military costs, in order to finance the new sustainable development goals, the SDGs (2015-2030).

Statement: http://ipb.org/uploads/documents/other_docs/IPBConceptPost2015.pdf

Report : http://ipb.org/uploads/documents/other_docs/BreinesReportNY.pdf

Discussion paper: http://ipb.org/uploads/documents/other_docs/Post-2015_Peace_2.pdf

She also made a presentation to the Norwegian national FoRUM for Development and Environment on the importance of including peace and disarmament in the UN Post 2015 Development Agenda; and of their partnering for the inclusion of the IPB proposal of a 10% yearly worldwide reduction of military costs to benefit the SDGs.

Both activities were follow-up actions to our 2012 publication '*Opportunity Costs: Military Spending and the UN's Development Agenda*', and also a preparation for further work on this issue through 2015, when the new Goals are due to be adopted.

MILITARISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE

For some time IPB has been conscious of the need to articulate the connections between the military and the environment. While we have published a number of short Studies, and have supported a number of NGO initiatives in this area, the opportunity arose in 2014 to

put together a more substantial document. Dubbed 'the green booklet', this 80pp text was written by Tamara Lorincz and published in draft form in September 2014, and presented at the Convergence conference at the time of the People's March for the Climate in New York. It serves as the basis of IPB's work in preparation for the COP 21 conference in late 2015.

Demilitarization for Deep Decarbonization: Reducing Militarism and Military Expenditures... by Tamara Lorincz, Senior IPB Researcher. To help countries chart a path to low-carbon energy systems and economies, the UN launched the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project (DDPP). However most of the military sector's fuel consumption and emissions are excluded from national greenhouse gas inventories. In Demilitarization for Deep Decarbonization: Reducing Militarism and Military Expenditures to Invest in the UN Green Climate Fund and to Create Low-Carbon Economies and Resilient Communities, IPB argues that war must stop for global warming to slow down. Military expenditures must be reduced and re-directed for climate finance to create low carbon economies and climate-resilient communities. Disarmament must take place alongside mitigation and adaptation.



HUMAN RIGHTS

The connection between human rights and military spending is equally important. This year provided an important opportunity to make this link through the work of the Geneva-based Human Rights Council. On 15th May 2014, IPB was invited to participate in an important consultation convened by the UN's Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order, Alfred de Zayas. The organisation was represented by Secretary-General Colin Archer and Senior Researcher Tamara Lorincz (also of Voice of Women for Peace, Canada). At the outcome of the consultation, Prof. de Zayas issued a very strong statement, which, as IPB said at the time, we hope will help open a new debate within the UN and beyond on this crucial issue.

On 10 Sept, Prof. de Zayas issued his report.

*"It was an unusual event in the life of the United Nations. The **Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order**, Prof.*

Alfred de Zayas, chose to devote the bulk of his annual report to the Human Rights Council to the issue of military spending, highlighting the many ways in which it aggravates the challenge of ensuring respect for human rights, by increasing the militarisation of conflicts and diverting vital resources away from human needs. This report is an extremely useful and important tool for those of us working on the issue around the world".

See links and details at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IntOrder/Pages/IEInternationalOrderIndex.aspx>

NATIONAL LEVEL:

A number of IPB member organisations chose to focus their work on military spending. A few examples:

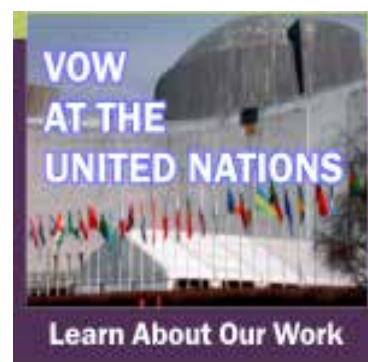
Switzerland: IPB congratulates the Swiss campaigners who have achieved a historic victory, the first ever 'no' in a referendum on a military issue. On May 18, 2014, voters rejected the proposal to buy 22 JAS-Gripen fighter jets from Swedish arms company Saab, thus freeing up public money for other purposes.

Norway-Sweden: 200 years of peace

On 13 August 2014, a small double-century celebration was held in Göteborg, with Ingeborg Breines (IPB Co-President) as guest speaker, as well as the former Defence Minister Thage G Peterson. Former IPB President Toms Magnusson wrote an article about the long peace between the two countries.

Spain: IPB member organisation the Centre Delas organized the annual **Trobada de Barcelona conference** under the title '**A century of war and peace in the world**', which took place on 8th and 9th May. The Centre has been among the most engaged NGOs on the issue of military spending and has published many reports, in particular on the Spanish situation.

Canada: Voice of Women for Peace launched a petition called 'Challenging militarized security: Delegitimization of war' which includes a vigorous critique of military spending, calling for a 50% reduction. Janis Alton (VoW, IPB Board member) writes: "*This strong petition will be part of our work at this year's Commission on the Status of Women. Something we undertook last year, too, getting many NGO (largely individual) signatures from many countries. Once again, we'll collect signatures on site and present them to the Bureau Chief of the CSW and give a hard copy to the Canadian Mission's Deputy Ambassador on Mar. 18th.*"



REGIONAL LEVEL

Among the various papers issued this year from the Secretariat was a regional study **Military Spending in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**, By Malte Albrecht and Eva Stekete, Research Interns. August 2014. 18pp PDF.

This paper argues that one of the most disturbing aspects of the crisis in Ukraine is the increasing pressure on all governments in the region to increase their military spending. This pressure comes both

from below (fears of the 'other side') and from outside (NATO's 2% spending target, Russia's re-assertion of its influence on former satellites). In IPB's view, militarism is the wrong solution. The current arms build-up on all sides will only lead to increased polarisation between Russia and the West, and aggravates the potential for a dangerous armed conflict. Security cannot be attained through policies of military deterrence and intervention - only through diplomatic efforts to peacefully and democratically defuse the tensions and reverse the arms build-up.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINATION

Every year IPB has the opportunity to make an official nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2014 we chose to nominate the National Priorities Project, USA, which has been an active partner in the Global Day of Action on Military Spending.

*"IPB believes that Alfred Nobel was dedicated to supporting those who seek alternatives to the system of warmaking. In our view, the essential fuel for this system is money, especially public money derived largely from taxpayers. Within the world's largest-spending state in terms of military budgets, i.e. the USA, few have devoted as much energy to studying the budget process as the **National Priorities Project**. And few have brought to the task such a clear and steadfast commitment to re-allocating the enormous sums devoted to*



the military, in order to instead address vital issues such as inequality, unemployment, education, health and the need to build a green economy."

NUCLEAR

IPB has a long history of work to promote the elimination of nuclear weapons, notably in the late 1980s and 1990s when we focused on the struggle to bring the issue to the International Court of Justice (World Court Project); and since 1995 in support of networks such as Abolition 2000, Mayors for Peace, ICAN, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and the Middle Powers Initiative. In 2013 we continued on this path by participating in a number of key events and projects.

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY CONFERENCE,

In the first week of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) PrepComm), held in **New York, in April 2014**, IPB worked with our member organisations IALANA (lawyers) and INES (scientists and engineers), and others, to put together a series of important side-meetings. Topics covered included nuclear weapons in Europe; nuclear weapons and automatization; strategies to reach a world without nuclear weapons; and the nuclear weapons/nuclear energy linkage.

HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI COMMEMORATIONS, AUGUST

As is our tradition, IPB once again was present at the annual commemorations of the atomic bombings of the two Japanese cities, notably at the World Conference Against A & H Bombs, organised by IPB member organisation Gensuikyo.

"Hiroshima, 5th August: The city prepares for the commemoration of the victims: the Peace Park is ready for the great ceremony, the schools are festively decorated and the temples are preparing for the different services. A couple of minutes of silence in memory of the hundreds of thousands of victims of the first nuclear bomb during a wet but impressive event. But also, we hear more precise words than in the past, among others during the short speech of the conservative Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr Kazumi Matsui..." (Reiner Braun, IPB Co-President).

Dr. Joseph Gerson (IPB Board member) made a speech at the same conference, addressing the tensions in East Asia, the recent unconstitutional and undemocratic reinterpretation/revision of the Japanese constitution, and the importance of mobilizing peace movements around both the NPT Review and the humanitarian consequences conferences.

AWARD OF MACBRIDE PEACE PRIZE TO MARSHALL ISLANDS

On Friday, December 5, the IPB presented the government and people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with the 2014 Sean MacBride Peace Prize, for its leadership in global efforts to highlight the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of

nuclear weapons and to abolish them. It is also in recognition of the legal case submitted by the RMI to the International Court of Justice, against all 9 states with nuclear weapons, for failure to honour their disarmament commitments. The prize was accepted by Foreign Minister **Tony de Brum** at a ceremony in Vienna.



IPB ACTIVISTS AT ANTI-NUCLEAR FORUMS IN VIENNA

Many members of the IPB network took part in the civil society forum organised by ICAN, just preceding the big conference of governments on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, arranged by the Austrian Foreign Ministry. The 600 campaigners came from over 70 countries, representing 100+ different organisations. On the margins, IPB also arranged the MacBride prize ceremony, a strategy discussion and a Board meeting. Several of our Board members also attended the inter-governmental conference. See [big photo-gallery!](#)

NGO COMMITTEE FOR DISARMAMENT, GENEVA

Work continued within the NGO Committee for Disarmament, Geneva, of which IPB is the Secretary. The Committee acts as a liaison body for a range of international organisations working for disarmament.

Activities in 2014 included monitoring the Conference on Disarmament, and preparing actions related to the NPT PrepComm and forums such as the humanitarian consequences conferences.

FRAMEWORK FORUM GENEVA/MPI

Middle Powers Initiative: IPB is one of eight co-sponsoring organisations of the MPI. The role of the organisation is to build support among middle power governments for negotiations leading to nuclear abolition. The high calibre of the participants in these gatherings (governments and NGOs) allows the Forum to tackle in detail the steps required for progress to be made on this challenging issue. Two important developments took place in 2014: A Briefing paper '*A Beacon of Hope*' was published in Sept, and a Roundtable was held on Nov. 17, in New York: Using "Building Blocks" to Construct a World Free of Nuclear Weapons.

MAKING PEACE

This project has been one of the great successes of 2014. Making Peace is a major photo-exhibition, created by IPB and first shown in Geneva in 2010. It consists of 100 panels with images by major photographers, plus text in English and local languages. During 2014 it was shown in 4 cities (Strasbourg, Sarajevo, Basel and Cape Town), the largest number so far in one year.

Strasbourg

"5 May, 2014. Our photo-exhibition 'Making Peace' opened on Saturday in Strasbourg in fine style. Despite the bitter cold, curator Ashley Woods and Secretary-General Colin Archer joined a large group of officials and specially invited guests (including the Bosnian Ambassador and a representative of the German Consulate) from the international institutions for the opening ceremonies of the Lieu d'Europe, a handsome, newly extended Alsatian

villa intended to provide a space for gatherings to 'bridge the gap' between the European institutions and the general public."

Sarajevo

The exhibition opened on 28 June with a well-attended public ceremony, addressed by the Mayor and the Swiss and Dutch ambassadors. There were also workshops to encourage the participation of students.



"1 July 2014. "The very first commemorative event held in Sarajevo on the anniversary day of the famous incident triggering the start of World War I on 28 June 1914 was...our Making Peace exhibition! Thanks to excellent cooperation with local and international partners, we were able to use a prime site along the banks of the River Milacka, right in front of the beautiful Art Academy."

Basel

Making Peace Basel was one of the main events organized by Swisspeace to mark Switzerland's 2014 Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). It was shown from mid-August to mid-December in two locations: along the Rhine and in the city centre, and attracted a lot of public and press attention.

walkways – from November 2014 to the end of February 2015. It was opened at an open air ceremony by former Prime Minister FW De Klerk.

Cape Town

This was the first time that Making Peace was presented outside Europe. The exhibition remained on-show along Government Avenue - one of the city's most busiest pedestrian



NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES SUMMIT

Every year Nobel Peace Laureates meet together to discuss the state of the world and to work together to present a collective peace message. The 2014 [World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates](#), due to be held in [Cape Town](#) from 13 to 15 October, was suspended after a boycott of Nobel Laureates to protest the third time refusal of a [visa](#) to the [14th Dalai Lama](#) by a South African Government “kowtowing to China”. Instead the event was held in Rome, the home of the Summit Secretariat. IPB was represented by Secretary-General Colin Archer and Board member Lisa Clark. Mr Archer spoke to a packed Auditorium on the 4th panel, entitled *Living Peace, Reconciling Communities*. His announcement that the [Global Campaign On Military Spending](#) (GCOMS) had been launched on

Human Rights Day Dec. 10 was warmly applauded. The two IPB reps also ran a workshop for some 50 students from a range of countries. See the [Final Statement of the Summit](#)



SARAJEVO PEACE EVENT

The [Peace Event Sarajevo](#) (June 2014) was a unique gathering whose purpose was to take stock of the international situation one hundred years after the outbreak of WWI. It was also an opportunity to consider ways to advance the peace-building process in the region, twenty years on from the Balkan wars of the 1990s. The event, which drew some 2500 participants, and consisted of dozens of forums, round tables, workshops, cultural and youth activities all across the city, was organised by a coalition of local and international organisations. One special highlight was a peace and solidarity benefit concert for the victims of the recent floods. Co-President Reiner Braun played a key role in the international organising committee, and arranged for IPB members to participate in several major panels and workshops.

It was an intense experience for all the IPB participants. Apart from a wealth of valuable informal networking, our own sessions, notably on the issue of Military Spending and Disarmament for Development, were useful networking exercises.

“Sarajevo is one of the symbols for two wars. 100 years ago the assassination in Sarajevo was the starting point for the (up to that time) most brutal, industrially organized war in history, which took place in many parts of the world. 10 million soldiers killed, huge areas destroyed, the first attacks with weapons of mass destruction ---these were the impressions of the beginning of a century of war and other crimes. In the 1990s the war in Yugoslavia showed its unbelievably aggressive face in Sarajevo. We can only say – never again. We want that Sarajevo will become a symbol for peace. We are happy that Sarajevo is part of the worldwide coalition Mayors for Peace; we want to help develop Sarajevo to be a city of peace and nonviolence.” (Interview with Reiner Braun, IPB Co-President, on the eve of the Event.)



SARAJEVO 2014
PEACE EVENT



mreža za
izgradnju mira

FROM THE OFFICE DIARY

Here are a few highlights taken from the wide range of outreach activities undertaken by staff and Board members:

No to NATO – Wales

IPB Co-President Reiner Braun reports on the NATO Counter-Summit in Wales, 4-5 Sept. 2014: *“In the normally peaceful little Welsh city of Newport, the latest NATO Summit took place, more than two years after the last summit in Chicago. Once again we saw the same images: vast areas sealed off, no-traffic and no-fly zones, and schools and shops being forced to shut; the security measures cost some 70 million euros. But there were welcome new aspects. The local population were obviously sympathetic to the cause of the protests. One of our main slogans attracted particular support – “Welfare instead of warfare” – a message that resonates strongly with the wishes of many in a region characterised by unemployment and lack of future perspectives. Also, the police accompanied our protest right up to the conference hotel and helped make it possible for a delegation to hand over a large package of protest notes...”*

The “No to War – No to NATO” network will continue these activities in 2015, including two events on the role of NATO in northern Europe and in the Balkans.

Asia Europe People’s Forum

AEPF is an interregional network of progressive civil society organisations across Asia and Europe. For the past fourteen years, AEPF has remained the only continuing network linking Asian and European NGOs and social movements. It has assumed the unique function of fostering people’s solidarity across the two regions and has become a vehicle for advancing the people’s voice within Asia-Europe relations. IPB has been active for several years within the Peace and Security current.

In 2014 the main meeting was held in Milan. Ingeborg Breines, Alicia Cabezudo and Lisa Clark represented IPB. In addition Lisa Clark attended a preparatory workshop in Hanoi.

Outreach trip to Vietnam & Malaysia

In February 2014 IPB Secretary-General Colin Archer conducted a tour of Vietnam and Malaysia. In Hanoi he met with leading officials from the Vietnam Peace Committee and the Peace and Development Foundation, whose President is the famous peace negotiator and liberation war-legend Mme Nguyen Thi Binh. He also had a meeting with the Association for Victims of Agent Orange. During the trip he visited several museums about the ‘American War’ and Ho Chi Minh. Special thanks for his kind assistance are due to Khang Hunyh Dac (IPB Finance Officer) who took



Colin Archer with Mme Binh in Hanoi

part in the first part of the tour and acted as ‘local guide’. Contacts made in Malaysia included the Foreign Ministry, Dr Ron McCoy of IPPNW-Malaysia, environmentalist Anwar Fazal and AEPF colleagues in Penang. Colin Archer made a presentation to GDAMS activists at the offices of a Chinese community group.

Centenary of World War 1

IPB was associated with two other events apart from those in Sarajevo: one in New York and the other at the European Parliament:

On May 3rd, a well-attended conference took place in New York on the centenary of World War I. Entitled **Facing the Dangers of a 21st Century Great Power War**, it brought together academics and activists to re-examine the history of WWI and its aftermath, and to consider what we might learn that is useful in peace and disarmament work, including similarities and differences between the forces that led to catastrophic great power war a century ago and those that threaten extinction today. The conference was sponsored by several organisations including IPB.

IPB’s Co-President Reiner Braun made a presentation at the conference co-organised with the GUE/NGL grouping in the European Parliament on 4-5th March, marking 100 years since the outbreak of World War

I. His subject included current technical developments in warfare, esp. automatization and killer robots. Co-President Ingeborg Breines's call for a minimum 10% annual reduction in military budgets was well received. Vice-President Rev. Paul Lansu also gave a speech at this conference.

OSCE Forum, Basel

Colin Archer's speech at the Forum was entitled '*The OSCE and the Integrated Security Agenda : Links between Disarmament, Development, Environment, and Human Rights*'. It focussed in part on the under-funding of the whole OSCE mechanism. The event was organised by the Basel Peace Office and Canton Basel.

IFOR centenary

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IPB member) held its centenary gathering



in Konstanz in August. It was an opportunity for many interesting encounters. Colin Archer and Tamara Lorincz attended, among other IPB representatives.

Tramelan, Switzerland. June 23. This weekend was the occasion for a rather special ceremony in the Swiss Jura village of Tramelan, the birthplace of Albert Gobat.

Gobat was the second of IPB's Secretaries-General and shared the 1902 Nobel Peace Prize with our first S-G, Elie Ducommun, also Swiss. Colin Archer and historian Verdiana Grossi attended the event and made presentations.



Medea Benjamin of Code Pink USA (centre) visits the IPB office in Geneva.

Regular activities:

The IPB BOARD met several times by skype, and held physical meetings in Barcelona and Ghent, Belgium. The **COUNCIL** met in Ghent, hosted by the local Peace Centre.

NEWSLETTER: Our main networking tool: *IPB News* (monthly) carries vital information and opinion on all aspects of Disarmament for Sustainable Development work, plus nuclear and other topics. Persons wishing to subscribe should contact the Secretariat.

WEBSITES: Much Secretariat time goes into maintaining our 3 Websites as well as their corresponding Facebook and Twitter pages.

STATEMENTS

24 Hours for World Peace

On January 1, the '24 Hours for World Peace' initiative offered people from every race, nationality, and religion an opportunity and a practical way to stimulate their thinking, to nourish their hope, and to take action for peace. Organizations and individual participants shared their wishes, resolutions and messages of peace. The International Peace Bureau sent its message as well.

Gaza

On July 25 the IPB called for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Gaza and the resumption of peace talks.

"IPB is deeply saddened and gravely concerned by the continued escalation of military operations in Gaza, the physical devastation, and the high number of Palestinian civilian casualties, including whole families. The entire Palestinian population in Gaza is again being subjected to collective punishment. As each day passes, more innocent civilians are being killed. We call for an immediate ceasefire. Israel has also lost people and the population is living in fear. The indiscriminate rocket attacks from Gaza against Israel must also stop. (...)"

Ukraine – 2 statements

- 1) March 11, 2014. **Ukraine Conflict: Dialogue and East-West Cooperation are the key.** *“The events of the last few days and weeks only serve to confirm what the IPB and others in the disarmament wing of the international peace movement have been asserting for years: that in times of political tension, military force solves nothing. It provokes only more military force from the other side, and risks pushing both parties up and around an infernal spiral of violence. This is an especially dangerous course when there are nuclear weapons in the background. (...)*



- 2) On 4 June 2014 IPB issued a second statement on the situation in Ukraine. **Reaffirm the vision of a common European home: no to Cold War rhetoric!** *“It is evident that there are major powers operating in and around the Ukraine for their own purposes - and not necessarily in the interests of the Ukrainian people. This is not unusual in conflict*

situations in which NATO/US/Russia become involved. What are clearly needed are policies that benefit and unite the people of the country. The growing internal conflict should have been resolved at a much earlier stage, before it escalated into an extremely dangerous international confrontation. The conflict is exposing the weakness of the very European security structures that were created to ensure peace and stability in Europe, notably the OSCE.

Syria – 2 statements

- 1) In January 2014 IPB issued a statement focusing on the role of women: ‘Women needed to create peace, today in Syria, tomorrow elsewhere’ *“Hearing all parties in a conflict is essential in order to obtain lasting agreements and prevent the conflict from turning violent. Women are parties in conflicts in their own right, as citizens, not because they have armed power. Women’s knowledge of the suffering and fear that war entails is a fundamental element that needs to be included in any negotiating for peace. Let us unite to bring the strongest peace-promoting women of Syria urgently into the process for peace.”*
- 2) A more general statement was released on 25 July: **Human Catastrophe in Syria. How Much Longer?**

“As violence continuously intensifies in Syria, sectarian tensions and violence are deepening. The death toll has increased by 36 % (from 100.000 to a conservative estimate of 136.000, including 11.000 children). Responding to the ongoing violence in Syria and the great suffering of the Syrian people, full humanitarian



access in the country should be guaranteed and strong international support for renewed negotiations be given. The human catastrophe must come to an end. How much longer have the Syrians to suffer?"

Islamic State

On 16 October 2014, IPB published a response to the growing crisis provoked by the rise of ISIS: *There Is No Military Solution To Fundamentalism*

"Tackling the challenge represented by ISIS (Islamic State or ISIL) is a tough assignment, both for governments and for civil society. Their barbaric killings and rapidly expanding control of territory have resulted in precisely the reaction intended: military intervention by the US and its allies. Despite the failures of the recent wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and elsewhere, those with hammers in their toolboxes once again see every problem as a nail."

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*Polden·Puckham
Charitable Foundation*

IN MEMORIAM

During the year we lost a number of close friends. These included:

Sheila Oakes, one of our former Vice-Presidents. Sheila was from a military family background but made a remarkable transition to becoming one of Britain's most prominent peace advocates, fulfilling the role of Secretary of the National Peace Council for many years. She was also active at the Geneva level as a member of the NGO Committee for Disarmament.

Alfons Banda, (1944 – 2014) co-founder and President of Fundacio per la Pau, Barcelona. A chemist by training, Alfons spent most of his career in education. He was a leader of pacifist thinking in Catalonia and Spain. His ideas are found in many books, articles, speeches etc. He often said that the inspiration for the establishment of the Fundacio per la Pau was Sean MacBride, IPB President and Nobel laureate who spoke in Barcelona in the 1980s.

IPB OFFICIALS 2013 - 2016

BOARD MEMBERS (18)

	Position	Country	Organisation
Reiner BRAUN	Co-President	Germany	IALANA
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Lisa CLARK (co-opted)	Member	Italy	Beati i costruttore di Pace

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (13)

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Celine Nahory	INTERNATIONAL	Peace Boat

TOTAL COUNCIL: 13 Reg. Reps. + 18 Board = 31 persons

Cora Weiss - UN Representative

STAFF AND OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

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Colin Archer — Secretary-General
Khang Huynh Duc — Finance and accounting
Mylene Soto — Programme and Communications

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The Council meeting at Ghent, October 2014.

