

# Newsletter 1 – May 2016



## IPB World Congress

### **Disarm! For a Climate of Peace**

Creating an Action Agenda

30 September – 2 October 2016, Technical University of Berlin



# EDITORIAL

**Berlin, 2 May 2016**

Dear readers, dear participants of the IPB World Congress,

With this first newsletter on the IPB World Congress, we would like to start an informational series which will regularly provide you with the latest news on the congress and its organizational process. Simultaneously, we would like to introduce to you aspects of the city of Berlin – a metropolis of diversity and change and the venue for our congress.

The congress will centre on the theme “disarmament for peace” – a theme, more topical than ever and surely one that cannot be discussed without referring to the plight of the millions of refugees currently fleeing from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and elsewhere. Without any doubt, Germany is directly involved in handling the refugee crisis and should show more commitment than is presently done. In the face of growing right-wing populism – in many parts of Europe as well as in Germany – it has to be underlined: the IPB World Congress is designed to show solidarity with the refugees, with the poorest of the poor, the persecuted and their families. In the same vein, the congress will give room to discuss the reasons for flight and refuge, among which the interventionist wars of the United States and NATO take a prominent place. Likewise, the consequences of climate change, reinforced by the forces of global capitalism, and the fundamentally unjust world economic order, will be debated.

Poverty and hunger are colonialism’s long-term consequences. They are exacerbated by neoliberal politics pursued by western industrialized nations. Therefore, the congress will first and foremost strive to give impulses for a real global transformation. In the face of the growing wealth gap and the fact that billions of dollars are still invested in the military sector to the detriment of social projects, the necessity for a profound re-allocation of military expenditures becomes obvious. War has finally to be overcome. Moreover, ways out of structural violence – provoked by the dominant political and economic regimes in the world – have to be found. In this context, the “sustainability complex” will also critically be discussed. We will give space to new ideas, provide loads of information and will search for real exit strategies to the “violence-crisis-war-capitalism” cycle.

We therefore kindly ask everyone interested in the congress to **register now!** By joining the event early, the planning process will become easier. Registration is possible via our online form, available at <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/event/ipb-world-congress-berlin/>.

Moreover, we are thankful for any comment or critical advice on how to make the congress even more attractive and interesting. In the face of our limited financial resources, not everything will be realizable – however, coming up with new ideas is always important. We strive for a participatory design of the congress – both in its planning and its holding. A number of aspects are still unsolved and require organizational input. The first provisional draft of our already quite extensive program is online. Many renowned persons will be welcomed as speakers (<https://www.ipb2016.berlin/program/program-structure/>). The draft shall serve as a starting point for new discussions on how to make it even better, more gender balanced and rich in new approaches to common challenges.

The program committee will meet in the end of May. We are confident that it will come up with many new, creative ideas to enrich the current draft.

*Who are we?*

We are, first of all, the International Peace Bureau (IPB), more precisely the IPB board and the bureau in Geneva, run by Colin Archer. We are also the office in Berlin that mainly is in charge of the organization of the congress' practical details. Currently, Reiner Braun (one of the Co-Presidents of the IPB), Amela Škiljan (Executive Assistant), Lucas Wirl (Youth Gathering Coordinator and Responsible for Public Relations) and Juliane Drechsel-Grau (intern) work in the office in Berlin. The team will grow in the course of the preparation period.

Together, we will try everything to make the congress become a major event in the international peace and social movements – not as a single action but as continuation and intensification of the multiple actions against war already under way. We sincerely hope that the IPB World Congress in Berlin will send out a strong signal, that it will contribute to real change, to the desperately needed global transformation, to a world without war.

We will be delighted to welcome as many as possible here in Berlin!

Please pass this message around – we welcome your feedback.

Kind and peaceful regards

Reiner Braun, Amela Škiljan, Lucas Wirl and Juliane Drechsel-Grau

The Brandenburg Gate



Image © Flickr. Shirley de Jong

The TV-Tower at Alexanderplatz



Image © Flickr. Jörg Schubert

# PRESS RELEASE 1

21<sup>st</sup> April 2016

**“The world is over-armed and peace is under-funded”** (*UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon*)

Given the omnipresent atmosphere of political confrontation and arms build-up worldwide, the International Peace Bureau (IPB) will this year hold a World Congress on global disarmament and military spending. The event will take place from September 30<sup>th</sup> till October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016 at the Technical University of Berlin. About 1000 guests from all over the world are expected to participate in the congress.

The IPB World Congress 2016 is supported by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), UNI Global Union, the peace research institute SIPRI, by international religious organisations (of different persuasions), organisations of the environmental and development policy sector and by the three big political foundations in Germany: Heinrich Böll, Friedrich Ebert and Rosa Luxemburg.

You will find an overview of all supporting organisations on <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/partners/>.

## **What is the International Peace Bureau?**

Founded in 1891/92, the **International Peace Bureau** (IPB, [www.ipb.org](http://www.ipb.org)) is the oldest existing international peace network. It counts more than 300 member organizations in over 70 countries and was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 1910. Over the course of time, 13 prominent IPB leaders were also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The IPB devotes itself to the vision of a world without war. The main focus of its work is “Disarmament for Sustainable Development”. Within this programme, it mainly strives for the re-allocation of governments’ military spending. For 6 years, the IPB has been the coordinator of the **Global Campaign on Military Spending** (including the Global Days of Action on Military Spending, GDAMS) . Since the 1980s, the IPB has promoted the worldwide campaign for nuclear disarmament, aiming at the abolition of all nuclear weapons.

## **What is the aim of the Congress?**

### **To face the challenges of peace.**

According to official SIPRI records, the combined military budgets of the world’s governments totalled \$1,7 billion in 2015. In the same year, 900 million people suffered from hunger. Every day, 10000 children die of curable diseases. Social inequalities are increasing.

In the face of these growing social challenges and the desperately needed financial resources to mitigate and adapt to climate change, money must under no circumstances be wasted by investing in the military sector.

Global disarmament must be put on the international agenda. Therefore, the congress wants to help build support for a peace agenda, bringing about a peaceful and fair distribution of the world’s resources.

The congress will centre on questions of global transformation. How can we encourage fundamental and desperately needed changes? How can we foster cooperation and dialogue in order to reach common security goals?

Transformation to peace is among the biggest challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Thus, the congress is set up as international peace gathering with a clear message: “no to war and confrontation”. The people’s active participation, promoting a new international democracy, is inseparably linked with the successful development of the worldwide peace process.

Humans are led to support wars, often seduced by lies and false concepts of 'the enemy'. But simultaneously, people all over the world stand up for freedom and peace, frequently by organising great public events.

One big aim of the congress is to make a major contribution to the international peace movement. A range of ideas will be discussed and a “Plan of Action for Peace” presented. Attempts will be made to bring together theoretical considerations and real transformation strategies. Moreover, the congress shall be an impulse for the initiation of more peace actions all around the world.

The organisers confront the world of war with a clear vision of a world of peace.

### **Prominent participants in the Congress**

Several prominent guests will participate in the congress. Among the speakers in the plenaries, in panels and working groups will be, among others, the Nobel Peace Prize laureates Tawakkol Karman from Yemen and Mikhail Gorbachev (via video), the founder of the “Right Livelihood Award” (Jakob von Uexküll), the laureates of the “Right Livelihood Award” (Vandana Shiva and Alyn Ware), prominent economists like James Galbraith, Noam Chomsky (via video) and Samir Amin, the Co-President of the Club of Rome (Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker), the secretary generals of ITUC and UNI Global Union (Sharan Burrow and Philip Jennings), the former Director-General of UNESCO (Federico Mayor Zaragoza), the former Defence Minister of Ecuador and current Permanent Representative of her country to the United Nations in Geneva (María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés), the Director-General of the United Nations office in Geneva (Michael Møller), and the chairman of ver.di (Frank Bsirske).

The congress will be opened by the President of the Technical University of Berlin, Christian Thomsen, and by the Senator of finance in Berlin, Matthias Kollatz.

**Prepcomms:** Already 6 preparatory seminars have taken place in various parts of the world: <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/congress/preparatory-events/> (see reports below).

### **Program**

You will find the provisional, already quite extensive, program on <http://www.ipb2016.berlin/program/program-structure/>.

The latest news will also be published on facebook: [www.facebook.com/IPBcongress2016](http://www.facebook.com/IPBcongress2016).

A diverse program of cultural, informational and other side-events will accompany the congress.

Moreover, there will be an independent “Youth Gathering”.

More information will be published on [www.ipb2016.berlin](http://www.ipb2016.berlin).

Equally, you can contact Reiner Braun, Co-President of the IPB ([reiner.braun@ipb.berlin](mailto:reiner.braun@ipb.berlin); phone: +49 172 231 7475).

## CONGRESS STRUCTURE

The congress will be divided into several different types of sessions:

**- Plenaries**

**- Panel Discussions**

**- Workshops**

**- Youth Gathering**

**- Side-Events**

Future newsletters will carry information on sessions planned. See below a summary of the **Panel Discussions**.

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Organized by</b>	<b>Date</b>
	Conference within the Conference: Nuclear weapons (part I)	AFSC & Gensuiko	1st Oct & 2nd Oct
	Abolition of nuclear weapons (part II)	AFSC & Gensuiko	1st Oct & 2nd Oct
1.	The Role of the Peace Movement and the IPB Action Plan for Peace	IPB, Pax Christi, WILPF	2nd Oct
2.	Conversion	UNI, Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation	1st Oct
3.	Climate change, environment and conflicts	Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, FoEI	1st Oct
4.	GCOMS	IPB	1st Oct
5.	Transition/ Discussion about the Challenges of Transformation of Societies	Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation	2nd Oct
6.	Arms trade and small weapons	Aktion Aufschrei - Stopp den Waffenhandel	1st Oct
7.	Lessons learnt from peace processes: Northern Ireland, Columbia, Palestine/Israel		1st Oct
8.	Militarism and Women	WILPF, Women's Network for Peace	1st Oct
9.	SDGs - Peace & Disarmament		2nd Oct
10.	How to overcome terrorism?		1st Oct
11.	New Security in Europe		2nd Oct
12.	Peace Education	IIEP	1st Oct

## NEW SUPPORTER

We have gained **four important new supporters**. We thank the "*Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security*" (GRIP), the "*International Institute for Educational Planning*" (IIEP), the "*Federation of German Scientists*" (Verein Deutscher Wissenschaftler, VDW) and the "*Women's Network for Peace*".

We are delighted to announce that the „**Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund**“ (DGB, **German Trade Union Confederation**) will participate in the congress. Its federal chairman, Reiner Hoffmann, will be one of the speakers in the closing plenary session.

## SPEAKERS

In each newsletter, we will be presenting some of our renowned speakers. Today, we are happy to introduce **Tawakkol Karman** and **Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker** to you.

**Tawakkol Karman** is a Yemeni journalist, politician and human rights activist. In 2005, she co-founded the group "Women Journalists Without Chains". In 2011 she became the international public face of the Yemeni uprising that emerged as part of the Arab Spring. She is co-recipient of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize and the first Yemeni, the first Arab woman and the second Muslim woman to win a Nobel Prize. Moreover, she is the second youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize to date. She was awarded the Prize for her non-violent struggle for the security of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work. For several years now she has been a major activist for the freedom of press, for democracy and peace in Yemen.

**Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker** is a German scientist and politician (social democratic). He was director of the UN Center for Science and Technology in New York, director of the Institute for European Environmental Policy in Bonn and founding president of the Wuppertal Institute (a leading environmental think tank). From 1998 until 2005 he was a member of the German Bundestag. Afterwards, he became Dean of the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2009 he returned to Germany and since then has been an honorary professor at Freiburg University. Currently, he also serves as co-president of the Club of Rome.

## YOUTH

Around the IPB World Congress a **Youth Gathering** will be organized from **Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** until **Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**.

We want to bring together people from all over the world, creating a space to connect, to share knowledge, experience and visions. More precisely, we want the peace building process to be **inclusive**. In order to foster exchange and participation we intend to create a **platform for communication**.

Young people and activists worldwide are asked to participate in the **Youth Gathering** in order to formulate an **action agenda** designed to roll back militarism and pave the way for a **real global transformation** that fosters peace and social justice. Organizations and individuals working with young people are more than welcome to become **partners**, helping us in the preparation of the event. The **initial program** for the Youth Gathering is available at:

<https://www.ipb2016.berlin/youth/first-program/>.

At the end of the gathering a **declaration** with a clear perspective on how to foster a culture of peace shall be issued. This declaration will already be prepared in advance. Youth gatherings preceding and following the Congress will help in building next steps.

Without any doubt, peace building and demilitarization are issues that cannot be tackled without the youth's creative spirit and their active participation.

**We need you!** So, come to Berlin. Join **"Disarm! For a Climate of Peace!"** and engage in the **Youth Gathering**.

Register at <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/event/ipb-world-congress-berlin/>!

For **more information** on the **Youth Gathering**, please check: [www.ipb2016.berlin/youth](http://www.ipb2016.berlin/youth).

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/IPByouth](http://www.facebook.com/IPByouth)

**Facebook-Event** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1105580946139752>

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## REPORTS ON THE PREPARATORY EVENTS

### LEEDS (January 27-28)

#### **The Complexity of Militarism**

The workshop was organised by Dr Rachel Julian of the Peace Studies program at Leeds Beckett University. These two days were very much about speakers and contributors sharing knowledge and perspectives and seeking to work across disciplines in order to deepen our understanding and knowledge about the impact of militarism on a local and global scale.

This workshop used the methodologies of complex social challenges (<http://www.complexitycourse.org/tsunamidex.html>, Dorien DeTombe) and Wicked Problems (<http://www.bobwilliams.co.nz/wicked.pdf>, Bob Williams) as a framework for gathering and analysing data. Militarism fits these methodologies because it is an issue which crosses disciplines (like economics, environment, development, security and ethics) and has an impact at local and global levels, on a large set of actors, and has multiple boundaries and entry points. In this workshop, we were not seeking to find a clear answer, but rather to describe an issue which must be tackled through multiple perspectives.

### TOKYO (January 31)

#### **World Military Expenditure and Japan's Choices**

This first Japanese Prepcomm for the Berlin congress was held under the auspices of Meijigakuin University. Professor Takao Takahara (International Peace Research Institute (PRIME), Faculty of International Studies) put together an interesting program. The speakers examined first the global picture of military expenditure (Colin Archer, IPB), and US spending and research funding for military projects (Subrata Ghoshroy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology), then PM Abe's new reforms of Japanese military policy (Akira Kawasaki, Peace Boat), and finally militarisation of outer space (Atsushi Fujioka, Ritsumeikan University).

The symposium was attended by some 60 participants, both students and activists. It was moderated by Professor Takahara himself as well as by Yayoi Tsuchida of Gensuikyo. While the meeting did not formulate any specific conclusions, the presentations are worth reading as background material on these important and indeed complex topics. PRIME plans to come up with further public fora like this one, before and perhaps also after the Berlin Congress, since, according to Prof Takahara, "the topic is especially important in the contemporary Japanese context; we might observe a major change to our demilitarized economy and society."

### GENEVA (April 6)

#### **Military costs v Humanitarian needs**

The Geneva seminar was a GDAMS event, hosted by the IPB itself. This year's theme was the relationship between military spending and the needs of the humanitarian sector. Five themes were explored:

- Military Expenditure
- Humanitarian Financing
- Civil-Military Coordination
- Tackling Terror
- Role of the Military

We were grateful to have very informative speakers from OCHA, UNHCR and Norwegian Refugee Council, in addition to the IPB Secretary-General. Report at:

[http://www.ipb.org/web/index.php?mostra=news&menu=News&id\\_nom=IPB+seminar+report](http://www.ipb.org/web/index.php?mostra=news&menu=News&id_nom=IPB+seminar+report)

## **BRUSSELS (April 18)**

### **Military Expenditure in Europe**

This event was co-organised by Pax Christi International and the Quaker Council for European Affairs. Four panel debates were followed by discussions, general conclusions, action suggestions and a joint statement.

Speakers and the conference are available at: <http://www.qcea.org/militaryspending/>

- Panel 1: The EU as a Peace Building Entity?
- Panel 2: Environment and Armed Conflict
- Panel 3: Realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Panel 4: Refugees and migrants: shared responsibility and coordinated action in Europe

The full programme is available at:

<https://www.ipb2016.berlin/brussels-belgium-2016-april-18th/>



Image © IPB

## UPCOMING EVENT

### Warsaw – NATO Summit

Simultaneous to the NATO Summit in Warsaw an **Alternative Summit** will take place from **July 8<sup>th</sup> until July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.

Under the motto “**No to War – No to Militarism – Yes to Refugees**” the **Alternative Summit** will issue a signal against war, heightened global instability, conflict and terrorism provoked by the Western powers military interventionism. The enlargement of NATO in the East has undermined the promise of a peaceful Europe in a peaceful world. We currently face a new East-West arms race with the war in Eastern Ukraine being a terrible example of this growing rivalry. A further extension of NATO to the East is likely to provoke an escalation of the conflict.

Presently, NATO urges its member states to rise their military spending to at least 2% of their country’s GDP. In doing so, the arms race will intensify worldwide, and – given the present diktat of economic austerity - funds will be shifted from welfare to war.

Thus, when the governments and generals meet in Warsaw in July, an alternative voice must be heard – a voice that is calling for worldwide disarmament, for solidarity, common security and global peace.

A **coalition of peace and anti-war movements** in Poland and internationally therefore plans to hold a number of events during the NATO Summit to work on alternative, anti-militaristic strategies and support the transition to a **world without war**.

Please help to mobilize for this important event and join in yourself. For more information, please contact [info@no-to-nato.org](mailto:info@no-to-nato.org) or consult [www.no-to-nato.org](http://www.no-to-nato.org).

## INFORMATION

<b>Date</b>	September 30 <sup>th</sup> – October 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2016 + Side meetings from September 29 <sup>th</sup> – October 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2016
<b>Venue of the Congress</b>	<i>Technical University of Berlin</i>
<b>Logistics</b>	A list of hotels and hostels in the direct neighbourhood of the <i>Technical University of Berlin</i> as well as information on public transportation in Berlin is available on our website <a href="https://www.ipb2016.berlin/logistics/accommodation/">(https://www.ipb2016.berlin/logistics/accommodation/)</a>

## REGISTRATION

### Registration is open!

Join us now on <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/event/ipb-world-congress-berlin/>.

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