



# VITAL SIGNS

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## From the Executive Director



**Michael Christ**

There is no question that Saddam Hussein was a savage dictator. Indeed, IPPNW experienced his brutality first-hand. Ten years ago, the founder of IPPNW's affiliate in Iraq, Dr. Rajih al-Tikriti, was executed by Saddam's Special Security Services. He was one of about a dozen people rounded up one day in August 1993 for allegedly plotting against Saddam. Dr. al-Tikriti spoke out against the Iraqi government's repressive policies. He was also outspoken in his opposition to the first Gulf War. And, just as surely, he would have joined IPPNW in opposing this second Gulf War. Why? Because the ends do not justify the means.

There is, regrettably, no shortage of brutal regimes around the world. But is it right, is it legal, is it worth the risk to American lives and innocent civilians, is it the job of the US government to invade these countries and knock off dictators one by one? Will that secure the safety of Americans at home and abroad? Reduce terrorism? Secure democracy and peace in the region and the world? It is likely that a comparable number of equally innocent Iraqi women, children, and men died in this latest Iraq war as were killed in the horrendous terrorist bombings at the Twin Towers. Are the lives of Iraqis citizens worth less, or merely unfortunate but necessary "collateral damage" to achieve US goals?

In addition to "regime change," the other main justification for war was the supposed immediate and present danger posed by Saddam's "weapons of mass destruction." Yet, it seems the UN weapons inspectors were right that inspections had and would have continued to prove effective. Looking back at the rout of Saddam's military, did he pose as significant a threat as we were led to believe?

In our view, the Bush Administration squandered the unprecedented compassion and goodwill that flowed to the US after 9/11 in order to embark on a new US policy of preemptive, unilateral war that is extraordinarily dangerous.

First, such a policy places the lives of large numbers of civilians and combatants (including US soldiers) at grave risk. Second, it threatens to accelerate nuclear weapons proliferation. Instead of discouraging the nuclear ambitions of states like Iran and North Korea, the Iraq example sends exactly the wrong message: nuclear weapons are indeed a guarantor of security. Third, it sets a dangerous precedent for other states to justify using aggressive "preventative" force to settle international disputes; for example, in the conflict between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan. Fourth, it abandons multilateral diplomacy in favor of unilateral military force. Fifth, it ultimately undermines the rule of international law and the UN Charter, which restricts the use of force to self-defense. Finally, it diverts vast resources away from measures that would truly enhance US and global security.

Since 9/11, the Bush Administration has provided little help to US cities and towns for enhanced security measures that have cost an estimated \$2.6 billion at the expense of education, health care, and other essential public services. At the same time, the administration has already spent tens of billions of dollars on the Iraq war, with many billions more needed to restore that which was destroyed by bombing. US military spending for 2004 is at \$399.1 billion and growing. (By comparison, Russia's military budget, number two in spending, is \$65 billion and Iraq's was \$1.4 billion.) The US nuclear weapons budget has grown 84 percent since 1995.

What is needed is global US leadership to reduce and eliminate nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. We need the administration to confront the greatest proliferation threat stemming from massive quantities of nuclear, chemical, and biological materials that are scattered unprotected across the former USSR. Strengthen, not undercut, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ratify, not reject, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Support, not walk out of, negotiations to strengthen the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions. Secure, not lobby against, a global ban on nuclear fissile materials. Restore, not abandon, the ABM Treaty and the START arms reduction efforts. Scrap and not spend billions on a Star Wars II missile defense system. Cancel, not develop, a new generation of "usable" battlefield nuclear weapons.

IPPNW is not sorry to see Saddam go. But the US policies of preemptive war and threatening the use of nuclear weapons are not solutions to the world's problems. Alternatives to war are evident. In the pages that follow, you will read about a few of the many ways that IPPNW's global federation is working to lead governments down a peaceful path to make the world a safer place. I thank you for helping us in this vital struggle.

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*Coverphoto: While the US public saw a relatively bloodless pyro-technic display of US military might during Gulf War II, much of the rest of the world saw the war from the vantage point of its terrified and wounded victims. Related article on page 6. (Photo: Al-Jazeera)*

## Seismic Change in Nuclear Policy

**Bernard Lown, MD**

A seismic change in American nuclear policy has been largely ignored by the media. The Pentagon's most recent Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) provides a chilling insight into new policies aimed to breach the nuclear firewall. This Strangelovian document lays out contingency plans for the use of nuclear weapons against at least seven countries, including Russia, China, Libya, Syria and, of course, the so called "axis of evil" Iraq, Iran, and North Korea. The NPR defines military objectives as those targets that are able to withstand non-nuclear attack, or countries using or threatening to use nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons, or "in the event of surprising military developments," whatever that maladroït locution denotes.

Since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear weapons were considered options of last resort, to be used only when a nation's very survival hung in the balance. With the NPR, nuclear weapons will be available to theater military commanders as conventional battlefield hardware. A British commentator reflected, "the possibility that the US will resort to the use of nuclear weapons in a future conflict is greater now than at any time since the darkest days of the Cold War."

The Bush Administration has indeed lowered the nuclear threshold. In the scary gobbledygook of the Pentagon's NPR, "We must be prepared to stop rogue states and their terrorist clients before they are able to threaten or use WMD . . . . To forestall or prevent such hostile acts the US will, if necessary, act pre-emptively." It continues, "The US reserves the right to respond with overwhelming force, including through resort to all our options, to the use of WMD against the US, our forces abroad, our friends, and allies."

This means that any attack on US interests, real or imagined, however limited, from whatever source, wherever in the world, involving any form of chemical, biological, or radiological weaponry, could trigger nuclear retaliation. The NPR shreds the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The US thereby breaks a pledge issued in 1978 never to use nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear weapon state or against a signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty such as Iraq. In a deeper sense, the NPR abrogates a doctrine hallowed since the earliest days of the Cold War, namely, that the sole justification for stockpiling genocidal nuclear weapons is to deter their use — not to employ them in fighting wars. This horrendous precedent will set in motion uncontrollable forces with treacherous, far-reaching, and unpredictable consequences.

The NPR also discloses plans to expand greatly the nuclear war infrastructure. To develop a new generation of warheads, the Bush Administration is preparing to end its de facto compliance

with the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. To enhance the planned "nuclear options capability," already in the development pipeline, is the "robust nuclear earth penetrator" (see article on page 4) for destroying underground targets and the "enhanced radiation weapon" intended to incinerate toxic agents. The US is now spending 45 percent more on nuclear weapons activities than during the Cold War.

Why has there been no outcry on this barbaric policy shift? The projection of a US military strategy based on the use of nukes, with unprecedented potential for first use against non-nuclear states, the prodigious investment of scarce funds for development of new nuclear weapons, and even the planned resumption of nuclear testing has been greeted by a muted acquiescence. Neither the media, the ethicists, the clergy, nor the intellectual classes — all those who pride themselves as guardians of our moral values — have raised a howl or even hiccuped a whisper of revulsion. After all, what is being prepared is the initiation of a type of industrialized genocide associated with Auschwitz, but on a far more colossal scale.

The silence must be carefully analyzed if effective opposition to the present nuclear posturing is to be roused. Public detachment relates to a concept that has been subtly espoused by the establishment and accepted by the entire political spectrum of opinion. It involves the concept of weapons of mass destruction or WMD. Included under this rubric are nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. One three-lettered acronym equates the destructive consequences of these disparate instruments of mass murder. It has long been clear to the PR engineers who shape the mass mind that a particular meaning imparted by oft-banded words helps mobilize public consent. Indeed, Saddam's alleged possession of chemical and biological weapons (CBW) and willingness to use them was a major selling point of the need to attack Iraq.

An examination of the development and historical uses of CBW indubitably demonstrates, that though these are able to inflict horrendous human suffering, they are orders of magnitude less dangerous and far less destructive than thermo-nuclear devices. A B52 loaded with tons of conventional explosives is potentially more devastating than any chemical or biological devices when deployed against developed rich societies. By contrast, a sizeable nuclear attack can make a huge continental country like the US uninhabitable. Nothing remotely as destructive is possible with CBW.

Engendering equivalence in the public mind of these incomparably destructive weapons lowers public resistance against a nuclear response. It numbs people's moral restraint against resorting to genocidal weapons. It is time once again for anti-nuclear activists to break this psychic numbing.

**Dr. Lown is one of the founding Co-Presidents of IPPNW.**



*Founding IPPNW Co-Presidents Drs. Evgueni Chazov (left) and Bernard Lown (center) with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.*

## Letter to the Editor

The following letter to the editor appeared in last April in the *Canberra Times*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and *The Age* — all major Australian newspapers.

Prime Minister Howard must have missed the news. No signs of jubilation from him at the announcement of a proposal to get rid of some more weapons of mass destruction, peacefully this time. Syria has proposed a Middle East zone free from all weapons of mass destruction.

No prizes for guessing which particular weapons Syria has in mind, of course.

But then Israel's neighbors have every right to seek the removal from Israel of its nuclear weapons, the most destructive weapons ever created and the only ones in the region. Syria's call for a Middle East region free of all weapons of mass destruction merely reflects UN Security Council Resolution 687 of 3 April 1991, which set in place measures to disarm Iraq and also affirmed "...the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their delivery." We do insist on the fulfillment of Security Council resolutions, don't we, Mr. Howard?

For Israel, its nuclear weapons are a liability. They increase hatred and resentments and entrench a culture of violence. As protection against suicide bomber attacks, they are an absurd irrelevance. And for Israel's neighbors, the problem is that one day these weapons will be used.

A Middle East zone free from all weapons of mass destruction is an essential prerequisite to peace in the region. We have fought a war to get rid of weapons which might or might not exist. Time to focus on those we know exist, including Israel's.

**Dr. Sue Wareham is President of IPPNW's Australian affiliate MAPW.**

## New IPPNW Study on Bunker Busters

**John Loretz, Program Director**

IPPNW has published an important new study on the medical consequences of the use of nuclear earth-penetrating weapons (EPWs), also known as bunker busters. The study was written by a team of physician-experts on the medical consequences of the use of nuclear weapons led by Victor W. Sidel, and including H. Jack Geiger and Herbert L. Abrams. Princeton University physicist Robert W. Nelson and IPPNW Program Director John Loretz were also co-authors of the report, which was released at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, and to the international media on March 20, 2003.

The IPPNW study concludes that even a very low-yield nuclear EPW exploded in or near an urban environment would inevitably disperse radioactive dirt and debris over several square kilometers and could result in fatal doses of radiation to tens of thousands of victims. Moreover, if EPWs were used against underground bunkers containing biological or chemical weapons or weapons materials, there is a high probability that these deadly agents would not be completely incinerated and would be dispersed on the ground and into the atmosphere.

The United States currently deploys both conventional and nuclear EPWs, including about 50 nuclear-tipped B61-11s, which can penetrate 2-3 meters and have reported yields between 0.3 kilotons and 340 kilotons. Development of new nuclear EPWs is called for in the US Nuclear Posture Review delivered to Congress in

December 2001, and the Bush Administration has requested funds for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator in both its Fiscal Year 2003 (\$15.5 million) and FY 2004 (\$15 million) budgets.

“Our findings unequivocally refute the contention by the Bush Administration and the Pentagon that nuclear bunker busters could be used with minimal so-called collateral damage,” Dr. Sidel said.

“The nature of that ‘collateral damage’ would be fatal doses of radiation to anyone within a kilometer of the explosion and acute radiation sickness for potentially thousands of people who would die excruciating deaths over several days to a week or more,” he continued.

Because missiles made even of the hardest steels cannot survive severe ground impact stresses beyond shallow depths, the explosion of a nuclear EPW would inevitably breach the ground surface and throw out radioactive dirt and debris. The resulting surge of radioactive fallout would extend over an area of several square kilometers. Anyone remaining in this area for more than a few hours would receive a fatal dose of radiation and shorter exposure would cause significant injury. The number of casualties from a nuclear EPW attack would depend on the location of the target, the density of the surrounding population, the extent of debris dispersal, and the possibility of escape or evacuation.

The use of low-yield nuclear weapons would also undermine global security. “Were the US to use such weapons,” Dr. Sidel said, “it would be crossing the nuclear threshold for the first time since the US used nuclear weapons on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki more than 50 years ago. This is not only morally repugnant, but it would start us down the slippery slope to the use of nuclear weapons of greater yield — something the entire world has been trying to prevent since Hiroshima and Nagasaki.”

The study concludes with a policy assessment in which the authors state that further development of EPWs could require underground nuclear testing, breaking the current world moratorium and destroying prospects for eventual universal accession to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Both the resumption of nuclear testing and the production of new nuclear weapons will fuel global nuclear weapons proliferation.

Dr. Sidel presented the findings of the EPW study at the 2003 meeting of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Committee in Geneva in April. He told the assembled States Parties to the NPT that the development, deployment, and use of low-yield nuclear weapons by the US or any other State would “undermine global security and further weaken the NPT and the CTBT, along with the



*Dr. Victor Sidel releasing IPPNW's study at PSR/IPPNW press conference in March 2003 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. (Photo: James Snyder-PSR)*

non-proliferation regime built upon these treaties.”

In a statement delivered to the participants at the PrepCom, IPPNW warned that the entire nuclear non-proliferation regime for which the NPT provides the foundation is in danger of collapse.

Citing the development and proposed uses for EPWs as a key example, IPPNW pointed to US nuclear policy as “the principal driver behind the dangerous tendency toward increased proliferation in other countries” since it envisions a permanent nuclear arsenal, including new nuclear weapon designs, that effectively repudiates US disarmament obligations under the NPT.

The statement concluded that “the States parties to the NPT at this PrepCom must confront a stark choice between two futures: one in which the nuclear double standard fails because the non-nuclear weapon states finally reject the claim that nuclear weapons are good in some hands but not in others; or one in which the double standard is abandoned because the nuclear weapon states finally accept that the weapons themselves are unacceptable in anyone's hands.”

*The Threat of Low-Yield Earth-Penetrating Nuclear Weapons to Civilian Populations: Nuclear “Bunker Busters” and Their Medical Consequences* is available on IPPNW's website ([www.ippnw.org](http://www.ippnw.org)). To obtain printed copies at a cost of \$2.00 each, please send the order form on page 11 with payment.



*Young US Gulf War II protester. (Photo: Lynn Martin-IPPNW)*

More nuclear news is available on IPPNW's website at [www.ippnw.org](http://www.ippnw.org) and at [www.wagingpeace.org](http://www.wagingpeace.org), a project of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

# Small Arms Project Update

**Allison Howard,  
Project Coordinator**

In recent months, IPPNW's international campaign against small arms violence, Aiming for Prevention, has expanded work to include affiliate activity in South Asia and the Former Soviet Union. In India, affiliate leaders Dr. Arun Mitra of Indian Doctors for Peace & Development (IDPD) and Drs. Balkrishna and Nalini Kurvey of the Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament and Environmental Protection (IIPDEP), along with Dr. Vyacheslav Sharov of IPPNW-Russia are working to build and consolidate a network of health activists. Their efforts have involved convening educational seminars at hospitals, medical schools, and health facilities, most often in close collaboration with municipal and regional governments, and with partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs). IDPD and IIPDEP have convened 10 medical symposia on small arms and war prevention over the past year with funding made available by the Ploughshares Fund. Significant media coverage was generated by the efforts of Drs. Mitra and Kurvey in regional and national newspapers in the Indian provinces of Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur, Kashmir, and Assam.

The imperative of the Aiming for Prevention campaign is to publicize the health consequences of small arms violence by educating the public, medical professionals, media, and government officials and to generate the political and public will necessary to alter prevailing misconceptions of violence and weapons in society. IPPNW activists in India and Russia have focused their outreach on physicians, medical students, civil society leaders, military and public security personnel, border police, customs officials, and political leaders to illustrate the health crisis caused by firearms. They are reinforcing advocacy work with data-collection and research in provinces throughout India and in southeastern and central Russia. Records of injuries in hospitals and local treatment facilities are available but have not been analyzed for the purposes of obtaining casual factors, types of firearms injuries, age and regional demographics, and related research variables. Successful strategies used in IPPNW's cam-

paign against landmines directly inform the methodology of the Aiming for Prevention campaign in education, research, and advocacy.

In July 2001, the United Nations convened a Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects, in New York. Two years later, the Biennial Meeting of States is scheduled for July 7-15, 2003, to evaluate the Programme of Action on SALW developed in 2001. IPPNW, the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Oxfam, and many partner-NGOs are collaborating to coordinate advocacy at this Review Conference. Because of the disappointing and politically limited agreements established in 2001, it is critical to lead the UN advocacy effort in 2003 with data and research to emphasize the human suffering and health consequences of SALW violence. IPPNW will be represented at the conference by both US-based activists and international affiliate members. In 2001, Dr. Vyacheslav Sharov delivered a statement to the official UN Conference as part of a collective NGO effort.

A cornerstone in preparations for the July 2003 UN Conference is the development of the One Bullet Story project. We are working to incorporate the One Bullet Story project — originated by IPPNW-Kenya — into the program priorities of all Aiming for Prevention's affiliate activities, including those in El Salvador, Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria, Mexico, Kenya, Russia, India, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The One Bullet Story project links the faceless statistics of small arms violence with the visual and human reality. A gun injury takes a terrible toll on the physical well-being of the victim, and One Bullet Stories will illustrate the extent of the injury. The stories also reveal the economic and social costs associated with a single bullet wound. IPPNW physicians are actively collecting data and images for One Bullet Stories for distribution and use at the United Nations as Power-Point presentations, information packets, and on IPPNW's website.

On December 4, 2002, IPPNW was one of five invited NGOs to attend a meeting with Japan's Ambassador Kuniko Inoguchi,



*After 9 hours of surgery to repair massive injuries to his face caused by a firearm, this 14-year-old Kenyan boy was left with physical and psychological scars that will never fully heal. These images are part of the One Bullet Story project developed by IPPNW-Kenya. (Photos: Dr. Walter Odihambo, IPPNW-Kenya)*

Chairperson-Designate of the First Biennial Meeting of States on the Implementation of the Program of Action of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Ambassador Inoguchi, in preparation for the 2003 Review Conference, has convened several informal consultations with NGO activists. IPPNW was represented by Program Coordinator Brian Rawson and American physician-activist Dr. Cathey Falvo. A sample of the One Bullet Story was presented to Ambassador Inoguchi and was received favorably as an essential advocacy tool.

Ultimately, One Bullet Stories and health research — in collaboration with Wendy Cukier of Ryerson University and SAFER-Net — will be collected for publication in a "Prevention Primer" on small arms and health. This publication will be an easy-to-read and visually rich physician-activist's manual on how to prevent small arms violence and will be distributed internationally to health professionals. It will provide graphic images of the injuries caused by small arms, together with authoritative facts and statistics and basic political analysis. This primer model was successfully used in IPPNW's campaign against landmines and as part of IPPNW's Global Health Watch publication series in the publication *Primary Care of Landmine Injuries in Africa* (see page 11 for ordering information).

For information about the UN Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms in July 2003 or about the Aiming for Prevention campaign, please contact [ahoward@ippnw.org](mailto:ahoward@ippnw.org)

# Getting to the Truth About Casualties in Iraq

A well-known quote says the truth is the first casualty of war. Gulf War II proves its veracity. As the Iraqi people struggle to recover from the 20,000 bombs the US and UK used to “shock and awe” their enemy, the “victors” insist that there are “no reliable estimates” for Iraqi military or civilian casualties. They can, however, tell you with precision the numbers of US and UK soldiers injured, killed, missing in action, or taken prisoner because they are proud that these numbers are low. But most attempts by reporters to get casualty figures for Iraqi soldiers and civilians were met with the response, “We don’t do body counts.” For its part, the US government stopped publicizing the number of enemy dead and injured when public support for the Vietnam War declined, partly because of moral revulsion at the high numbers of civilians killed during that war.

Most of the mainstream media in the US has been an invaluable partner in efforts to project a clean war and to assure citizens that everything humanly possible was done to prevent civilian casualties and reduce damage to the infrastructure that supports Iraqi society. The public hasn’t been allowed to see what resulted from the pyro-technic displays of military might. The media broadcast primarily military-friendly images clearly designed to awe viewers but not to shock their sense of morals. Media analyst Norman Solomon quoted *Time Magazine* as he explained the



Maria Sotiropoulou of IPPNW-Greece fields questions from the press. (Photo: IPPNW-Greece)

differences between how the war was being projected at its height by the US media and how most of the rest of the world saw it in a piece for Alnet, “On US TV, it means press conferences with soldiers who have hand and foot injuries and interviews with POWs’ families, but little blood. On Arab and Muslim TV, it means dead bodies and mourning.”

If what National Public Radio reported (the source was the Red Cross) on April 9 is true — that 100 injured civilians per hour had been pouring into Iraqi hospitals over the previous four days — then this war caused high numbers of civilian casualties. Nearly 10,000 people were injured in that period alone, according to this report.

It is critical that US and UK citizens see the other side of this war that was fought in their names — to see the innocent civilians — many of them children — caught in the cross-fire. It is only by understanding the full costs of war to all involved that an informed citizenry can determine whether their country should pursue this option.

### Medact’s Iraq Health Monitoring Project

Knowing that little information on casualties emerged from the first Gulf War, IPPNW’s UK affiliate Medact anticipated that the US and UK governments would follow the same policy. They developed an Iraq Health Monitoring Project (HMP) to help determine the true human costs of this war. Working in collaboration with Oxfam and in association with IPPNW, the HMP will carefully monitor and publicize the health effects of Gulf War II. A team of epidemiologists, public health workers, and experts on war’s effects is gathering reliable information and images to document casualties and other short- and long-term impacts of the war. IPPNW is working with Medact to make this information available to IPPNW affiliates, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the media worldwide.

Public opinion is a powerful force in preventing wars, and the Medact Health Desk will help get the truth out. As Dr. Victor Sidel said in announcing the project in London, “The impact of the war on the health and well-being of the Iraqi people will be felt long after



Members of IPPNW’s UK affiliate, Medact, at the million-strong London protest against war on Iraq on February 15, 2003. (Photo: Sarah Rushby, Medact)

US/UK-led forces leave the country. This full cost must be counted, not only to help plan effective humanitarian intervention and reconstruction, but to ensure informed debate about whether future conflicts will prove more harmful than the problems they purport to solve.”

Building on the Medact report *Collateral Damage: The Health and Environmental Costs of War on Iraq*, the Iraq HMP will issue periodic bulletins to publicize its findings. If you would like to receive these bulletins via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to [Ldmartin@ippnw.org](mailto:Ldmartin@ippnw.org). If you would like us to mail you printed copies, please complete the publication order form on page 11.

### Other Affiliate Action on Iraq

IPPNW affiliates throughout the world contributed greatly to efforts to prevent this senseless war. Our affiliates in the UK, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, the US, Italy, Argentina, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Greece, and Turkey — to name just a few — helped galvanize the mass movements in their countries against war on Iraq, culminating on February 15 in what was the largest protest in the history of the world. IPPNW physician-activists met with political leaders to call for peace and worked tirelessly to get their media to focus on the dangers war always poses for innocent civilians. IPPNW Action Alerts urged members to contact their governments to condemn US threats to use nuclear weapons in Iraq and to protest plans to launch massive cruise missile strikes against Baghdad. Although the Bush Administration chose war over peaceful means of conflict resolution, our work helped to convince many governments to take a strong stand for peace and has laid the foundation for better organized resistance against future wars.



Members of IPPNW-France at Paris protest against war on Iraq on February 15, 2003. (Photo: IPPNW-France)

IPPNW affiliates engaged in creative actions to publicize the human costs of war on Iraq. In December, members of IPPNW's Australian affiliate MAPW organized a protest in which 20 people in mock body bags lay outside the British Consulate in Melbourne to draw attention to the deadly consequences of a war on Iraq. Protest organizers urged the Australian and British governments not to support a US-led attack on Iraq.

IPPNW-Germany spearheaded a postcard campaign featuring a photo of a devastated city in Iraq in 1991 with the words "Not in my Name – No War on Iraq!" on the front and a message addressed to George W. Bush on the back. Affiliate members around the world sent the card to the Bush Administration. In the lead-up to the war and during the war, IPPNW-Germany issued a steady stream of press releases to the media and helped to bolster the large German peace movement.

In Costa Rica, Dr. Claudio Slon, President of IPPNW-Costa Rica, and his wife, Rocio, who is a journalist, drafted a powerful declaration against the war that was signed by members of all major religious groups, unions, academics, and former President of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Oscar Arias. The initiative was covered by the major media. It protested the Costa Rican government's participation in the "coalition of the willing," which was a non-material participation but still strongly opposed by the vast majority of Costa Ricans. It denounced the concept of preventive



Postcard used in global campaign initiated by IPPNW-Germany.

war and affirmed the importance of the UN, human rights, and respect for international law.

In Canada, hundreds of medical students from McMaster University joined with students from medical schools across the country to demand that Canada take action to end the human suffering in war-torn Iraq. April Kam, national student representative for IPPNW-Canada, Physicians for Global Survival, said, "A lot of people are celebrating the end of the war and the fact that the American and British coalition won. But that was never a question. You already have the world's most powerful country and its ally attacking an already crippled country, going against all international laws. At the cost of so many lives, what really is victory? It's not over for the Iraqi people and others in the Middle East." The students demanded that the Canadian government choose healthcare over warfare. They called for free access for humanitarian organizations to Iraq's war victims; immediate help to Iraqis to rebuild their society; and an assurance that the current conflict doesn't divert humanitarian aid from the reconstruction of Afghanistan, conflicts in Burundi, Colombia, and Sudan, and the AIDS epidemic, particularly in Africa.

IPPNW-Kenya organized many anti-war activities, including two press conferences that were widely covered by local radio. At one press conference, members read a statement that was signed by over 200 Kenyan health professionals against war. The signatures were collected by medical students. IPPNW-Kenya also produced posters showing an Iraqi child injured by the bombing. The poster reads, "The Greatest War Crime — Bombing Innocent and Helpless Children."

The prestigious *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) published a very complimentary article in late January about the efforts of physicians around the world — most of them members of IPPNW affiliates — to prevent war against Iraq. You can access this article from IPPNW's website at [www.ippnw.org](http://www.ippnw.org). In the same issue of the BMJ, Editor Richard Smith wrote a brief but incisive editorial on why physicians must oppose this war. You can read it at the BMJ's website at [www.bmj.com](http://www.bmj.com).

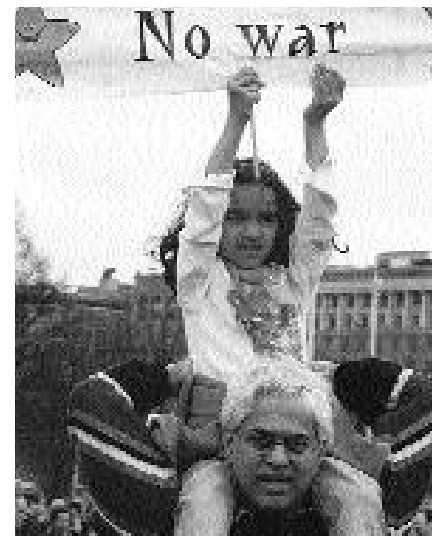
IPPNW members in many countries wrote opinion-editorial pieces and letters to the editor to advocate for peace. You can view many of them on IPPNW's website.

## Fact-Finding Missions to Iraq

In January, a team of Canadian-led experts in health, nutrition, child psychology, and emergency preparedness, backed by more than 20 non-governmental organizations including IPPNW, assessed the impact of a new war against Iraq on the more than 13 million Iraqi children. IPPNW helped publicize the report, prepared by experts from the International Study Team (IST), led by Dr. Eric Hoskins, throughout its affiliate network and the international media. You can access "Our Common Responsibility — the Impact of a New War on Iraqi Children" from IPPNW's website at [www.ippnw.org](http://www.ippnw.org). More information about the IST is available on War Child Canada's website at [www.warchild.ca](http://www.warchild.ca).

IPPNW also publicized research from the Center for Economic and Social Rights, which reported that the fragile Iraqi health care system, badly damaged by the first Gulf War and 12 years of economic sanctions, is woefully inadequate to deal with the effects of a new war. "Humanitarian and Legal Implications of War in Iraq" can be accessed [www.cesr.org/iraq](http://www.cesr.org/iraq).

As *Vital Signs* was going to press, we learned that Dr. Ulrich Gottstein of IPPNW-Germany is organizing a team of IPPNW doctors (three are pediatricians and Iraqi born) that will travel by plane from Frankfurt to Amman, Jordan, and proceed by car and truck to Baghdad. They will deliver medicine, bandages, food for children, and medical equipment. In Baghdad, the team will meet with German and Iraqi colleagues to assess which hospitals are in greatest need. Please visit our website in late May to learn more about this mission.



Father and daughter at February 15 protest in Boston. (Photo: Lynn Martin-IPPNW)

To read more about media coverage of Gulf War II, visit Altnet at [www.altnet.org](http://www.altnet.org).

## Medical Students

### Allison Howard, Project Coordinator

In recent months, IPPNW medical students have participated in meetings, workshops, and consultations around the world: in March, at the Fifth IPPNW African Regional Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, and at the General Assembly Meeting of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) in Tallin, Estonia; and in April, at the South Asian Regional Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal, and at a meeting of the IPPNW Mediterranean Commission in Teramo, Italy. As always, IPPNW medical students continue to work as activists in their local and regional communities and to serve as representatives of a generation of future health practitioners at international medical conferences.

In mid-June 2003, medical students from across Europe will convene in Germany for the annual IPPNW European Medical Student Meeting, hosted in Berlin by students at IPPNW-Germany. The conference, to be held from June 11-15, will offer workshops and seminars on topics related to European influence on the Middle East. Of particular interest will be simulations of the negotiation and mediation strategies employed in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Introductory training will prepare participants to assume the roles of different parties to the conflict and the techniques of mediation. Pending funding, medical students from IPPNW's Middle East region will attend the European Meeting to offer realistic perspectives on the health impacts of war in the Middle East and the responsibilities of medical students as future physicians and purveyors of peace. Additional workshops will include topics on

nuclear weapons and nuclear power development; studies from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the enduring consequences of Chernobyl; globalization and the root causes of conflict; and the role of medical students as peace activists.

In other news, the momentum of the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project (NWIP) has propelled the project ahead in the past six months. The objective of the project, coordinated from SLMK, IPPNW's Swedish affiliate, is to recognize the importance of including students and younger people in the dialogue about nuclear abolition. Building on IPPNW's Dialogue with Decision-Makers Project, wherein physician-activists meet with key policy-makers in nuclear weapons states to discuss nuclear disarmament and the health consequences of militarism and war, a group of IPPNW students initiated the NWIP to create opportunities for peer-to-peer education about IPPNW issues, across geographic boundaries and political divides. NWIP student leaders convened a training session in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2002, to introduce the dialogue models of the Oxford Research Group (ORG). The effort was led primarily by NWIP leaders, Caecilie Buhmann (Denmark) and Richard Fristedt (Sweden), and was attended by Janet Bloomsfield of ORG, Drs. Ira Helfand (PSR-USA) and Hans Levander (SLMK), and several medical students. A successful delegation of the NWIP travelled to India in late March and met with over 50 Indian medical students in Hyderabad. Planned locations for future NWIP trips include Russia, Pakistan, and China before the end of the 2003 calendar year.

In the United States, medical students from IPPNW's US affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), convened the 2003 Student PSR Conference in San Francisco, California, "A New Era of Activism," in early March. The conference featured distinguished speakers within the medical and activist communities, as well as workshop sessions concerning the physician's role in promoting global security, protecting the environment and preventing violence.



IPPNW-Germany members at body bag action to protest plans for war on Iraq on January 31 in front of the US embassy. (Photo: IPPNW-Germany)

IPPNW and the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) continue to maintain strong and cooperative relations. In late 2002, Ms. Mania Misirli, of Greece, replaced Mr. Juha Rannikko as the IFMSA Liaison Officer to IPPNW. Mania has followed in the footsteps of Juha's competent leadership by representing IPPNW student programs at the March IFMSA General Assembly Meeting in Estonia. We extend our sincere thanks to Mania for her enthusiastic and informed stewardship of IFMSA's and IPPNW's collaborative projects.

Medical students across the IPPNW federation have expressed a desire to join IPPNW campaigns in measurable, meaningful ways. In response to this growing demand, the elected medical student leaders to the IPPNW Board of Directors are working to develop research and advocacy projects that IPPNW students can implement at the grassroots and local levels. In the next month, news of these cross-regional project activities will be posted to the Medical Student listserv.



Richard Fristedt of IPPNW's Swedish affiliate SLMK addresses medical students in Hyderabad, India, as part of the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project.



Members of Student PSR Nathan Fairman (National Rep), Rebecca Katz, and David Whitting (National Rep).

Please contact [ahoward@ippnw.org](mailto:ahoward@ippnw.org) for information about all aspects of IPPNW's medical student programs and opportunities.



## Ernest Guevarra Wins 2003 Reebok Human Rights Awards

### Doug Kline, Finance and Administration Director

The IPPNW community was excited to hear the announcement in February that Dr. Ernest Ryan Guevarra, a member of the Philippines affiliate, Medical Action Group, had been chosen as one of five international recipients of the 2003 Reebok Human Rights Award. Many of you have known Ernest for years as a leader in IPPNW's medical student community. Ernest served as Co-International Student Representative to the Board of Directors from 1998 to 2002 and is a beloved member of the IPPNW federation respected for his quiet dignity and fervent dedication to his work for humanity.

Established in 1988, the Reebok Human Rights Award honors activists 30 years old or younger who, against great odds and often at grave personal risk, have made significant contributions to the field of human rights through non-violent means. Since 1988, 72 recipients from 34 countries have been selected. The award aims to strengthen the work of these young heroes by attracting international attention to both the recipients and their issues.

Upon graduation, Ernest began his work as a physician and educator on the island of Mindanao in the Southern tip of the Philippines. Composed of ethnic minorities and a strong Muslim population, the island has been subjected to numerous conflicts in the recent past. Ernest joined a project to treat the psychological needs of children in post-conflict areas. That program was interrupted in early 2003 when the Philippine military, in search of a rebel group, invaded the region where Ernest was working. Thousands of villagers were forced to leave. As one of two doctors in the area, Ernest responded to the crisis, providing emergency care to more than 40,000 refugees.

In April, Ernest came to Boston to accept the award and participate in several exciting events. On April 7, IPPNW and the Reebok Human Rights Foundation hosted a dinner reception to honor Ernest. The featured speaker was Professor Howard Zinn, author of the seminal *A People's History of the United States* and respected civil rights and anti-war activist. Ernest was introduced to the audience by long-time friend and colleague Dr. Nicola Kaatsch of IPPNW-Germany and was joined by the Central Office staff, IPPNW Board members Proochista Ariana and



*Dr. Ernest Guevarra delivering speech at the Reebok Human Rights Awards ceremony in Boston.*  
(Photos: Lynn Martin-IPPNW)



*Drs. John Pastore (left) of IPPNW and PSR and Nicola Kaatsch (center) of IPPNW-Germany with Ralph Spiegelberg also of Germany at IPPNW dinner to honor Dr. Guevarra.*



*Dr. Nicola Kaatsch of IPPNW-Germany introduces Dr. Guevarra at the IPPNW dinner honoring his award.*



*Professor Howard Zinn, author of the seminal *A People's History of the United States*, was the featured speaker.*



*Shalini Nataraj, Associate Director of Reebok Human Rights Award Program, at IPPNW's dinner reception.*

Drs. Ira Helfand, John Pastore, and David Rush. Also attending were some of IPPNW's biggest supporters.

On April 10, many of the same people had the unique opportunity to attend the 2003 Reebok Human Rights Award Ceremony at the historic Shubert Theatre in Boston's theatre district. Actors Michael Michele of the television program *ER* and Anson Mount of the film *City of God*, tennis star Venus Williams, Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, daughter of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and John Shattuck of the Kennedy School of Government were among those presenting awards to the deserving recipients. The audience was brought to tears by documentary videos and moving speeches by each recipient intermingled with dance and musical performances. Ernest was the last to receive his award and gave a speech that truly enlightened the audience to the futility and horror of war and inspired people to get involved in the international fight for human rights, justice, and peace everywhere. For a copy of his speech, please e-mail [anca@ippnw.org](mailto:anca@ippnw.org).

Ernest and other award recipients received extensive press coverage in the *Boston Globe*, the *Boston Herald*, *Filipinas Magazine*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Please join us in congratulating Ernest on this much deserved achievement, and sending him our love and support during this time of violence for the people of Mindanao.

### Special Thanks to Sponsors

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Ms. Gina VanderLoop, ROI Solutions

# Sustainer Profile

## Robert Resnick, Ph.D.

Dr. Robert A. Resnik is a retired biochemist from Maryland who is a long-time supporter of IPPNW and an original member of IPPNW's Circle of Sustainers. Dr. Resnik first heard about IPPNW from a mailing he received years ago. Soon after, he joined in the campaign to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons by supporting IPPNW.

Dr. Resnik first became interested in issues related to nuclear weapons during his graduate studies. At that time, he was conducting research with a physicist who had developed cataracts because of his exposure to radiation. This event inspired Dr. Resnik to pursue research on the effects of radiation. His work in this field motivated him to support organizations dedicated to exposing the health and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons.

Today, Dr. Resnik is particularly concerned about radiation exposure as a consequence of nuclear war. When asked why this issue concerns him most, he said, "Most people do not comprehend the magnitude of the results of nuclear war. Politicians who consider using nuclear weapons do not understand that there are no barriers in the atmosphere. The effects of a nuclear war would effect the entire world. It's one world – one planet."

Dr. Resnik decided that the best way to support the spread of information about the effects of nuclear war would be through a monthly contribution to IPPNW. He said he chose to support IPPNW as a Monthly Sustainer because "it is a convenient way to provide support to a worthy cause and because of the dedication and excellence of its founders." We hope, like Dr. Resnik, you will consider joining our Circle of Sustainers program.

Dr. Robert A. Resnik is a noteworthy supporter of IPPNW, and we thank him for sharing his story with us. It is through his and your valuable support that we are able to uphold our mission to abolish nuclear weapons and promote peace.

### Support IPPNW's Film Project

Join Grammy Award winning-musicians Sheryl Crow and Bonnie Raitt; Academy Award-winning actors Matt Damon and Michael Douglas; Tony and Emmy Award-winning actress Jane



Anti-war activist and musician Sheryl Crow.

Alexander and producer-director Edwin Sherin; the Ploughshares and Richard and Rhoda Goldman Funds; the Simons Foundation; IPPNW's Swedish affiliate SLMK; socially responsible businesses ROI Solutions, Trillium Asset Management, Alexander, Aronson, and Finning, Co., and Wave Graphics; and IPPNW supporters like you in sponsoring IPPNW's public television documentary. Part of the series "Voices of Vision," the film will focus on IPPNW's anti-nuclear work and air in the US and internationally in 2004.

To find out how to become a sponsor, please check the box on page 11, and we'll send you information.

## IPPNW Circle of Sustainers

Become a Member of IPPNW's Circle of Sustainers!

### Why Support IPPNW Each Month?

- For the cost of a dinner out each month, a \$25 monthly pledge provides IPPNW with much-needed funds.
- You save time, postage, and paper when your gift is transferred automatically each month.
- You help allocate more of IPPNW's resources towards vital programs by reducing administrative gift processing costs.

A number of IPPNW supporters have simplified their gift giving by authorizing their bank or credit card to automatically transfer their gift each month.

**You can make a difference** in our success by making a regular contribution of \$25, \$35, \$50, or more each month. This monthly commitment ensures that IPPNW's vital work to eliminate nuclear weapons and prevent war will continue.

*You may, of course, increase, decrease, or cancel your gift at any time.*

If you have any questions about monthly giving or would like a copy of IPPNW's Annual Report, please contact:

Douglas Kline  
617-868-5050, ext. 202  
E-mail: [dkline@ippnw.org](mailto:dkline@ippnw.org)

### Yes! You can count on my monthly support to IPPNW. Here is my pledge of:

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# The Sadako Peace Society

*We promise you, Sadako Sasaki of the thousand paper cranes, who died of leukemia at age 12; we promise you, commingled with the Earth on which we stand; we promise you this mistake — no, this crime — will never be repeated.* Bernard Lown, MD



The Sadako Peace Society is IPPNW's planned giving program. By joining the Society, you can provide tax-free income for you and your family while helping to ensure that IPPNW's work will go on for another generation. You can do this through:

## Gifts That Provide You with Income

**Charitable Gift Annuities.** In exchange for your gift of cash or appreciated securities, IPPNW will guarantee a fixed payment to you and/or another beneficiary for the rest of your life.

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**Charitable Remainder Trusts.** For a minimum contribution of \$50,000, these flexible trusts can be tailored to provide lifetime income for yourself and/or a loved one.

**Charitable Lead Trusts.** You can pass assets, such as a family business, to the next generation with a substantial reduction in estate and gift taxes.

## Gifts Through Bequest

You can also continue to support IPPNW by leaving a bequest: a specific amount of money, a percentage of your estate, the amount that is left over from your estate after you have provided for everyone (residuary bequest), or by making IPPNW your heir in the event that your beneficiaries do not survive you (contingent bequest).

## Assets Available for Contribution

IPPNW is pleased to accept cash, appreciated securities, real estate, life insurance policies, retirement plans, patents, and stock options, either outright or to fund life-income gifts.

If you are interested in any of the options presented above, we encourage you to contact Douglas Kline at telephone 617-868-5050, ext. 202, or e-mail [dkline@ippnw.org](mailto:dkline@ippnw.org) so that we may provide additional information to you or your advisors.

## IPPNW Resources

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Threat of Low-Yield Earth-Penetrating Nuclear Weapons to Civilian Populations	\$ 2.00
Subscription to Medact's Iraq Health Monitoring Project Bulletins	\$25.00
Collateral Damage: The Health and Environmental Costs of War on Iraq	\$ 5.00
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The Last Epidemic — Video Available in NTSC Format Only	\$25.00
Nuclear Weapons Convention Monitor (April 2000), (April 2001), (June 2002)	\$ 5.00
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Nuclear Wastelands (1995) New Paperback Edition (2000) (696 pp)	\$35.00
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- Please send sponsorship information on IPPNW's documentary project.



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Please send a free inspection copy of *Medicine and Global Survival*, IPPNW's journal.

Please send a free IPPNW nuclear abolition bumper sticker with my publication order.

Please send IPPNW's 2001 Annual Report.



Registration is now open for IPPNW's 16th World Congress, September 16-19, 2004, in Beijing, hosted by IPPNW's Chinese affiliate. IPPNW members from around the world will celebrate IPPNW's 25th anniversary by joining together to reaffirm their commitment to achieving a more just and peaceful world free from the nuclear threat.

For more information, please contact Allison Howard at [ahoward@ippnw.org](mailto:ahoward@ippnw.org)

Please note that IPPNW's 17th World Congress will be held in Helsinki, Finland, from September 7-10, 2006.



Dr. Nicola Kaatsch's (IPPNW-Germany) photographs document her work to help to heal the wounds of war. Pictured above are two Lebanese children she photographed during a mental health project. She has generously donated her images to IPPNW to produce greeting cards to promote peace. Please contact Lynn Martin ([Ldmartin@ippnw.org](mailto:Ldmartin@ippnw.org)) if you are interested in purchasing these cards.

## Congratulations

We are very pleased to report that Dr. Joanna Santa Barbara, President of IPPNW's Canadian affiliate Physicians for Global Survival, was recently awarded the Order of Ontario, the province's most prestigious official honor. The award recognizes the highest level of individual excellence and achievement in any field. The citation reads: "Dr. Joanna Santa Barbara, of Lynden, has been unwavering in her quest to make the world a safer place. As national president of the Physicians for Global Survival, she played a central role in creating the Centre for Peace Studies at McMaster University. Thanks to Dr. Santa Barbara's hard work and vision, McMaster University is one of four Canadian universities to offer an undergraduate program in peace studies."



Dr. Joanna Santa Barbara on a medical fact-finding mission to Afghanistan.

### NEW CD FROM HAGUE PEACE CONFERENCE

The Hague Appeal for Peace's new CD "Bye Bye War" features live music and spoken recordings from luminaries such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Kofi Annan, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and artists such as Mos Def, Judy Collins, and the Sarajevo Drum Orchestra. Former IPPNW staff member and singer/songwriter Brian Rawson provides the opening song. To order, please send \$15 or a greater donation to the address below, with checks payable to Brian Rawson. Proceeds will benefit the both the Hague Appeal for Peace and Brian Rawson's music project:



Peace CD, c/o Brian Rawson, 398 Poplar St., Roslindale, MA02131 USA.

For the latest news on IPPNW's global campaigns to prevent nuclear and conventional war, please visit our website at

[www.ippnw.org](http://www.ippnw.org)

IPPNW is a non-partisan international federation of physicians' organizations dedicated to research, education, and advocacy relevant to the prevention of nuclear war. To this end, IPPNW seeks to prevent all wars, to promote non-violent conflict resolution, and to reduce the effects of war on health, development, and the environment.

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