



ABOVE: "IT'S TIME TO CURE IT" PART OF THE POSTER ANNOUNCING THE LATIN AMERICAN STUDENT CONGRESS IN EL SALVADOR, ELSY MONTENEGRO FOR EMESARES, DESIGNER

MISSION OF PHYSICIANS: WAR OR HEALTH?

IPPNW works to eliminate nuclear weapons because they are instruments designed for instantaneous mass human extermination. IPPNW works to prevent war because it results in mass human extermination over time. Acting together, war and conflict stimulate nuclear proliferation and raise the risk of nuclear war. Thus, IPPNW is committed to the primary prevention of war in all its forms.

IPPNW doctors, nurses, medical students and health practitioners are carrying out activities all over the world whose basic purpose is to protect human health and life from the ravages to a militarized world. The pages of this newsletter are rife with examples. Advocacy for a nuclear weapons convention, education on the links between disarmament and development, research on small arms injuries, activism in areas of conflict - they are all part of a continuum of health interventions that promote peace.

On June 12 the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute released its 2006 Yearbook, Armaments, Disarmament and International Security, with the disquieting news that world spending on

armaments reached a staggering \$1118 billion last year or over \$2 million per minute. Over the ten year period 1996-2005,

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military spending increased 34 percent. The US is responsible for 48 percent of total spending, followed by the UK,

France, Japan and China with 4-5 percent each. This begs the question that ever increasing militarism is the path to security.

To examine the links between militarism, warfare, and human wellbeing, IPPNW will convene its 17th World Congress from



Diego Zavala, PhD of Puerto Rico presenting at the 8th World Injury Conference in Durban, South Africa. Professor Zavala is the director and principal investigator of a landmark, hospital based pilot study on fire arm injuries spanning six countries.

The next step, once additional funding is secured, is to launch the one-year research project at all six sites.

September 7-10 in Helsinki, Finland under the aptly named theme of "War or Health." In 2001, IPPNW's affiliate

Physicians for Social Responsibility-Finland published a 650 reader of the same title. Like the book, the IPPNW congress will focus on the role of physicians and other health workers in the preservation and promotion of peace - a responsibility the World Health Assembly regards as "the most significant factor for attainment of health for all.

(continued on page 2)

WAR OR HEALTH: PHYSICIANS SEEKING UNDERSTANDING IN FIVE CONFLICT ZONES

EL SALVADOR
DEM. REPUBLIC OF CONGO
IRAN
NEPAL
KOREA

El Salvador

Latin America is plagued by conflict, poverty, and deep social inequities. Violence ranks in the top five causes of death in most of the region, and is the leading cause of death in Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, and Venezuela. Apart from sub-Saharan Africa, no part of the world has a higher murder rate. According to UNICEF, seven of the top ten countries with the most child murders are in Latin America.

It is against this dark backdrop that the **students of IPPNW El Salvador** are beaming with hope and enthusiasm about hosting the First Congress of IPPNW Medical Students, under the theme of “Latin America on the Way Towards Peace.” The organizers aim to put medical students, “as future professionals in the field of health,” in the forefront of the struggle “to create and promote a new culture, a new way of life: ‘Paz a Travez de la Salud.’” The congress will take place at the National University of El Salvador and the Divina Providencia Hospital where Monseñor Romero

was killed during the civil war. “We have a responsibility to take the initiative,” say the students. Visit www.ippnw-students.org/la-conferencia/ for further information.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been reeling from years of armed violence and torn apart by several armed conflicts including civilian wars, occupation and aggression from foreign armies from Rwanda and Uganda, guerrilla violence carried out by local militias, and ethnic armed conflicts between various tribes in the Ituri district.

Over three million people have died in this humanitarian catastrophe. The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator has called it the greatest challenge facing the international community. IPPNW’s affiliate **Congolese Physicians for**

Peace (CPP) has been a leader in the DRC in bringing a public health perspective to bear on stemming the violence. Led by Dr. Simon Bokongo,

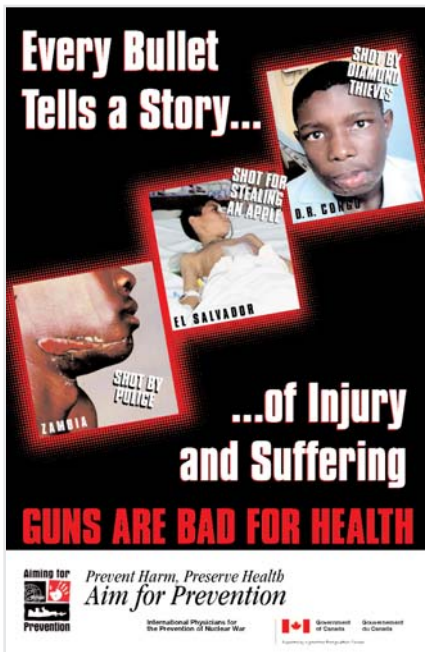
the CPP regularly engages in “Dialogues with Decision Makers” to discuss ways to improve human security and promote peace. They helped to create the first nationwide action network against armed violence, have been mobilizing the health community to engage in violence prevention strategies, and have assisted war affected communities by initiating relief and development activities to save lives They have participated in programs to sensitize public workers in the health aspects of demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants. CPP is one of the five African sites participating in IPPNW’s multinational injury pilot study. They will be collecting data from the major hospital in Kisangani too help inform better public policies to prevent injuries from armed violence and to build bridges to peace in the war-torn region.

Iran

The task of preventing nuclear war and abolishing nuclear weapons, already made more difficult by the collapse of the 2005 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review, became even more complicated in 2006 as allegations mounted that Iran was engaged in a covert program to enrich uranium for use in nuclear weapons. Although the government of Iran has consistently

“IPPNW is in a position to mediate through its professional contacts, as it did 20 years ago between the US and the former Soviet Union.”

Andreas Nidecker, MD
PSR/IPPNW-Switzerland



STEPHEN BURDICK DESIGNS

denied the charges and has asserted its right under the NPT to develop a civilian nuclear power capacity, international pressure has mounted on Iran to cease uranium enrichment until it can satisfy the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Security Council that it is not violating its NPT commitments with an illegal nuclear weapons development program.

IPPNW has stepped into an environment marked by suspicion, charges, and counter-charges, offering the kinds of quiet, physician-to-physician diplomacy that had made such a difference during the superpower confrontation of the Cold War. Andreas Nidecker of **PSR/IPPNW-Switzerland** visited Iran in May with the goal of eliciting interest in a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone among physician colleagues.

“I strongly believe,” Dr. Nidecker said, “that an NWFZ in the region—consisting of Iran and neighboring Arab nations—could potentially defuse the volatile political situation between Iran and Western nations.”

Dr. Nidecker found that Iranian citizens with whom he spoke were “completely against nuclear

weapons,” but seemed less informed about the dangers of nuclear energy and the need for investment in renewable energy sources. Nevertheless, he returned from Iran expressing the hope that Iranian physicians and medical students may be allowed to form an IPPNW affiliate and promote a civil society discussion about nuclear weapons and the medical imperative to prevent nuclear war.

Earlier in the year, in an effort to stave off Security Council sanctions or—at the worst—US-led military intervention, IPPNW presented an appeal to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, endorsed by other Nobel Peace Laureates and non-governmental organizations, calling for a high level UN Commission to mediate in the conflict. While the Commission was not created, the international community has persisted in seeking a diplomatic resolution that keeps the non-proliferation regime intact while recognizing Iran’s legitimate security and energy needs.

On May 5, a delegation of physicians from **Svenska Läkare mot Kärnvapen (SLMK)**, IPPNW’s Swedish affiliate, met with the Ambassador of Iran, Hassan Ghashghavi, and the Cultural Attaché, Heidar Ali Balouji, in Stockholm to discuss IPPNW’s con-

cerns over nuclear proliferation. The delegation, led by SLMK chair Frida Sundberg, was warmly received by the ambassador, who agreed to facilitate an invitation for Iranian physicians and medical students to attend the 17th World Congress in Helsinki, and for a reciprocal visit by IPPNW leaders to Teheran in October.

Nepal

The armed conflict between the monarchy of Nepal and Maoist opponents of the king resulted in the deaths of more than 13,000 people over the course of a decade. When King Gyanendra declared a state of emergency in April 2005, after dissolving Parliament and assuming direct rule in May 2002, pro-democracy, pro-human rights advocates — including leaders of **Physicians for Social Responsibility Nepal (PSRN)** — organized mass protests against the violent tactics of both the government and the insurgents.

Early on the morning of January 19, 2006, armed police broke into the Kathmandu home of Mathura Shrestha, the president of PSRN and one of the country’s most prominent human rights activists. Dr. Shrestha remained in custody for the next three months, smuggling out letters and essays criticizing the king and calling for a new kind of “people-centered” politics in the country. His

(War or Health continued on page 6)

Peace is not the mere absence of war or conflict.
Peace, if forced by guns and authoritarian rule, becomes sterile, inert, and even dead....

In Nepal peace can be possible only if the societies become fully transparent, responsible, and democratic.... This is possible only if the people participate in the development of a new constitution through an elected constitutional assembly that will pave way to transform the country politically, socially, economically, and culturally with participatory and inclusive democracy.

— Mathura Shrestha, MD
Vice President South Asia Region
August 26, 2005

IPPNW WORLD NOTES

GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF PEACEMAKERS
MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

IPPNW calls on US to renounce nuclear strike plans against Iran UNITED STATES

Respected journalist Seymour Hersh shocked the world in April with an article in the New Yorker magazine claiming that the US was actively considering plans for nuclear strikes against suspected nuclear weapons facilities in Iran. IPPNW called on US President Bush to renounce the "nuclear option," and mobilized its affiliates to protest any use of nuclear weapons by the US or by any other nuclear weapon state in response to concerns over Iran's nuclear programs.

Chernobyl: A 20 year catastrophe; a lesson for the future WORLDWIDE

IPPNW affiliates marked the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy with a number of major conferences and publications reassessing the long-term health consequences of the world's most serious nuclear catastrophe. IPPNW-

Germany sponsored an international congress on Chernobyl and released a report challenging the conclusions of an IAEA-sponsored study that had downplayed the long-term health effects. In the UK, Medact organized a conference on the "true health and environmental legacy" of Chernobyl, while PSR/IPPNW Switzerland held a symposium on the health of the Chernobyl liquidators (clean up workers).

Raising nuclear awareness with open dialogues in Europe BELGIUM AND RUSSIA

IPPNW physicians and medical students participated in a new round of Dialogues with Decision Makers in Brussels and Moscow this March and April. Proposals to remove US tactical nuclear weapons from Europe were the focus of meetings with parliamentarians and European Commission representatives, while an IPPNW delegation to NATO headquarters brought up the apparent contradictions between the NPT and CTBT commitments of NATO countries and the alliance's nuclear policies. Dialogues at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and RosAtom, the country's atomic energy agency, focused on environmental cleanup at decommissioned



nuclear weapons facilities and ongoing programs to dismantle Russian nuclear weapons.

Objections raised against the US/India nuclear agreement INDIA

When US President George W. Bush announced in March that the US and India had reached agreement on a deal to supply Delhi with civilian nuclear energy technology, IPPNW immediately alerted its affiliates to the ways in which the agreement would further undermine the non-proliferation regime by enabling India to vastly increase its nuclear weapons stockpile. PSR and Indian Doctors for Peace and Development issued statements opposing the deal, and PSR went to Capitol Hill in an effort to persuade Congress to block the agreement. Other affiliates raised objections to the member states of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which would have to reverse long-standing international policies before the agreement could go into effect.

IPPNW medical students are on a roll...literally! WORLDWIDE

More than 20 students from Europe, Russia, the US, Africa, and Asia will cycle from Tallinn, Estonia to Helsinki on their way to the 17th World Congress. Along the way, par-

BE A PART OF THE LEGACY

IPPNW's global federation of medical organizations, health workers, physicians and medical students work together to create a safer future free of nuclear weapons and through a planned gift to IPPNW, you can guarantee that your voice for peace and disarmament carries on, until nuclear weapons exist only in history books.

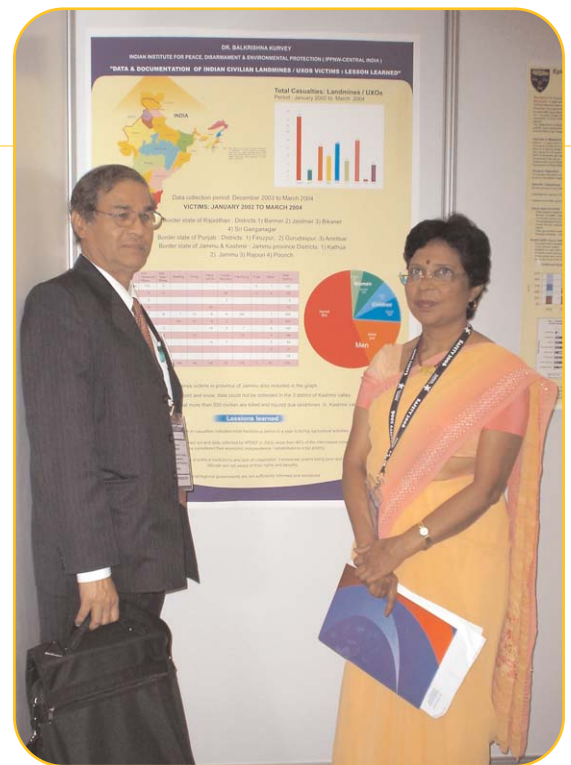
For information on IPPNW's planned giving society, please contact Development Director Daniel Karp

tel: 617.868.5050 x204 ❖ ❖ ❖ email: dkarp@ippnw.org



LEFT: CAPTION CAPTION CAPTION
CAPTION CAPTION CAPTION

RIGHT: DR. BALKRISHNA KURVEY (LEFT) AND DR. GEETA ARVIND KURHADE (RIGHT) OF INDIA IN FRONT OF DR. KURVEY'S POSTER ON "DATA AND DOCUMENTATION OF INDIAN CIVILIAN LANDMINES / UXOS VICTIMS"



ticipants in the Baltic Bicycle Tour will raise public awareness about the urgency of nuclear abolition. Almost 150 medical students gathered in Napoli in May for the 2006 European Student Conference. Topics of discussion included nuclear weapons in Europe, the role of medical students in the Middle East peace process, and the medical situation of refugees in Europe. In August, a group of medical students will return to refugee camps in Palestine as part of the ReCap project. For the third year in a row, IPPNW students will work and play with children in the camps, while also organizing workshops on health topics. And while they won't be able to bike from Helsinki to San Salvador, the students will finish out a very active year at the first IPPNW Latin American Student Conference in October.

Aiming for Prevention Leaders Travel Globe with Message "Gun Violence is Bad for Health"

WORLDWIDE

Aiming for Prevention affiliates and have been traveling the globe recently to bring our message to the health community, the public and policy makers that gun violence is bad for health, to organize a multina-

tional research project on firearm injury, and to press for public policy changes to address this international health crisis.

Nineteen IPPNW affiliate member physicians and medical students from eleven countries participated in three important events in March and April of 2006. We had a strong presence at the 8th World Injury Conference "Data to Action," the major international public health conference on injury prevention, and co-sponsored and participated in planning for its pre-conference "Driving Change: Firearms Policy for Safer Societies" in South Africa in April. We also planned and conducted a March training program in Nairobi, Kenya for physicians from five African countries participating in an IPPNW-sponsored multinational hospital-based research pilot study on injury due to firearm violence. Robert Mtonga MD from Zambia also participated in a meeting convened by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs just prior to these events, that focused on small arms and development, in preparation for the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons Review Conference in June/July in New York City, at which Aiming for Prevention

and the IANSA Public Health Network coordinated by IPPNW brought the health perspective to a number of panels.

Training for African Sites of the Multinational Pilot Study on Firearm Injury, Nairobi, Kenya, March 27-30, 2006

Thirteen representatives of IPPNW African affiliates from Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo attended a 3½ day training in Nairobi, Kenya, organized by IPPNW and conducted by Dr. Diego Zavala of Puerto Rico, the Principal Investigator and director of a landmark 6-country international hospital-based pilot study on firearm injuries being conducted by IPPNW affiliates (including El Salvador). The purpose of the training was to review the project goals, which include collecting contextual data for one year on gun violence victims using a standard form, review the data collection procedures, discuss building country support with key health leaders, and field test the data collection at Kenyatta Hospital. We are currently seeking additional funding to launch the data collection phase of this project.

(more World Notes on page 6)



Dr. SS Soodan of India and Dr. Robert Mtonga of Zambia at the 8th World Injury Conference in Durban.

8th World Injury Conference “Data to Action,” and the Pre-conference “Driving Change: Firearms Policy for Safer Societies” held March 31-April 5 2006

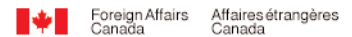
Durban, South Africa

Ten IPPNW members from Africa, India, Latin America and North America participated in these two major conferences. IPPNW contributed to planning for "Driving Change: Developing Firearms Policy for Safer Societies" organized by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) of South Africa, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and others, and attended by over 60 delegates. IPPNW members presented three compelling oral presentations, by Andrew Pinto, Canada (paper co-authored with Dr. Peter Olupot-Olupot from Uganda), Emperatriz Crespín MD MPH, El Salvador, and Walter Odhiambo MD, Kenya. IPPNW conducted a strategy workshop on “Prescriptions for Prevention: Health Professional Strategies to Prevent and Reduce SALW Violence,” and hosted an evening talk and reception. IPPNW

had a record number of 17 papers accepted at the main World Injury Conference, a significant contribution to the “Violence Prevention” track that was one of the major themes of this bi-annual conference attended by over 1000 delegates and held for the first time in Africa. IPPNW actively participated in a meeting of the WHO Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) of which

we are a member. We accepted the role as coordinator of a working group on preventing firearm violence, Dr. Crespín agreed to chair a group on train the trainer programs, and we agreed to participate in a June 19-20 planning meeting in Brussels where we will be represented by Dr. Ime John. IPPNW members also attended and contributed to a strategy meeting of the US Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) International Emergency and Refugee Relief Branch to discuss the development of their 5-year research agenda on war-related injuries. 🇺🇸

Funding for much of the small arms work was provided by Foreign Affairs Canada under a grant to IPPNW for our Aiming for Prevention program.




WAR OR HEALTH (continued from page 3)

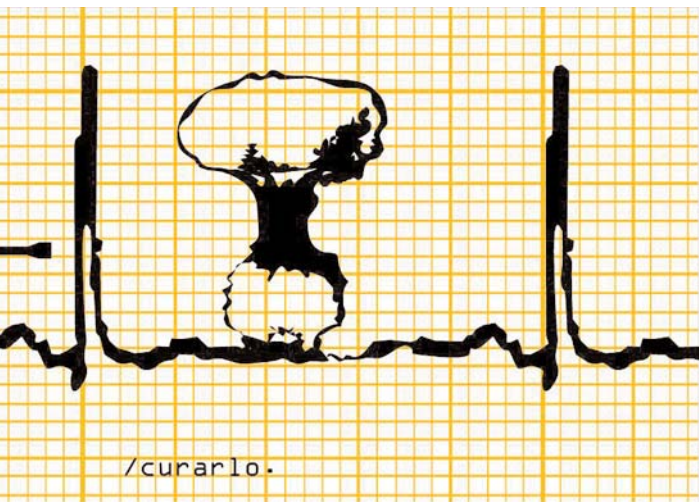
arrest and detention spurred IPPNW to organize an international letter-writing campaign calling for his safety and prompt release. In mid April, 20 medical students were arrested at a peaceful demonstration, and later that night armed police accompanied by Royal Nepalese Army troops forced their way into the Tribhuwan Institute Teaching Hospital and severely beat another group of medical students and a doctor. A few days later, seven more physicians—five of them PSRN leaders including Regional Vice President Mahesh Maskey—were arrested for participating in peaceful protests and for curfew violations. Health workers were routinely threatened for treating those injured during the protests.

IPPNW and its affiliates stepped up the pressure on the government, faxing letters of protest to the Permanent Mission of Nepal at the UN and to Nepalese embassies around the world and using its e-mail lists to inform its members about events on the ground during the critical weeks in April when the king began to waver. NGOs were repre-

senting a global cross section of peace, human rights, environmental, and social justice activists came together to insist that peace, democracy, and human rights in Nepal be treated as an international priority. On April 24, the king relented, reinstating Parliament, releasing political prisoners including the PSRN leaders, and giving the people of Nepal a long-awaited opportunity to establish a democratic government born from negotiation instead of violence.

Korea

In June, IPPNW addressed the threat of war and the nuclear crisis in the Korean Peninsula at a Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates held in Gwangju, South Korea co-chaired by President Kim Dae-jung and President Mikhail Gorbachev. Representing IPPNW were Co-President Ron McCoy of Malaysia and International Medical Student Board member Khagendra Dahal of Nepal. The summit marked the 1980 uprising of students and citizens in Gwangju to oppose the military coup and the declaration of martial law a year earlier, which ultimately led to the restoration democracy in 1987. Khagendra used the occasion to speak about parallels to the democracy movement in Nepal. The summit issued a Joint Declaration on Building a Nuclear-Free Korean Peninsula and was widely covered by major media in the region. 



/curarlo.

del 17 al 22 de octubre de 2006

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IPPNW



International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)

is a non-partisan federation of national medical organizations in 58 countries dedicated to safeguarding health by working to ban nuclear weapons and to address the impact of militarism and war on human health.

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MISSION OF PHYSICIANS: WAR OR HEALTH?

IPPNW 17th WORLD CONGRESS

SEPT 7-10, 2006
HELSINKI, FINLAND



www.ippnw2006.org

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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July 7 – 8
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Conference to mark the 10th Anniversary of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Opinion on Nuclear Weapons
Co-Sponsored by IPPNW, IPB, IALANA

August 4 – August 6
LONDON, ENGLAND

Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project (NWIP)

August 6
LONDON, ENGLAND

Target London
Medical students from six countries will conduct a public awareness demonstration in commemoration of Hiroshima day.

August 14 – September 10
PALESTINE

Refugee Camp Project (ReCap) 2006
ReCap is a project driven by medical students with the support of the local medical student participants. The project aims to draw greater awareness to the situation in the refugee camps by providing social and medical help to children and to learn about non-violent conflict prevention.

August 21 – September 6
FROM TALLIN, ESTONIA
THROUGH ST. PETERSBERG, RUSSIA,
ARRIVING IN HELSINKI, FINLAND

IPPNW Baltic Bike Tour 2006
www.ippnw-students.org/baltic

September 6 & 7
HELSINKI, FINLAND

IPPNW Medical Student Pre-Congress
www.ippnw-students.org/baltic

September 7 – 10
HELSINKI, FINLAND

IPPNW 17th World Congress
www.ippnw2006.org

October 18 22
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

IPPNW Latin American Student Conference 2006
www.ippnw-students.org/laconferencia [in Spanish]



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