

VITAL SIGNS

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR (IPPNW)

DIPLOMACY, NOT WAR, WITH IRAN

On February 8, IPPNW released a statement strongly opposing any military action against Iran's suspected nuclear weapons facilities. Attacking Iran will cause widespread devastation, increase the risk of nuclear proliferation, and halt the chances for peace in the Middle East.

IPPNW national affiliates have been using the statement as a basis for op-eds and other media work; in meetings with Israeli, Iranian and American embassy officials; and to urge their own governments to take a clear stand against attacking Iran.

IPPNW is urging all nations, and Israel and the United States in particular, to work with the international



community to resolve, through the many diplomatic and non-violent pathways that remain open, the legitimate concerns that Iran may be developing a nuclear weapons capa-

bility. IPPNW is calling upon Iran as well to reestablish full and transparent relations with the IAEA.

[continued on pg. 2]

RED CROSS MOVEMENT CALLS FOR END TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The world's leading humanitarian medical association has called for the elimination of nuclear weapons in a far-reaching resolution adopted by acclamation this past November.

Citing "the destructive power of nuclear weapons [and] the unspeakable human suffering they cause," the annual gathering of the Council of Delegates of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies urged states "to ensure that nuclear weapons are never again used" and to pursue negotiations "to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear




weapons through a legally binding international agreement."

IPPNW board member Dr. Ira Helfand, who consulted with Red Cross leaders on the text of the resolution, called its passage "a historic decision." He reported from Geneva that IFRC delegates "repeatedly argued that nuclear weapons were in violation of international law" and that physicians would be unable to respond to the aftermath of a nuclear war.

JPPNW leader Dr. Masao Tomanaga addressed the Council before the vote, describing the immediate and

ongoing medical consequences of the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Dr. Tomanaga joined Dr. Helfand in a special workshop to present new research suggesting that catastrophic global famine would follow even a limited use of nuclear weapons.

One of IPPNW's highest priorities is to encourage partnerships between our own affiliates and national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies in an effort to implement the resolution by educating the public and policy makers about the unique, catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear war. 

TRANSCENDING CONFLICT FOR PEACE AND HEALTH

IPPNW PHYSICIANS IN IRAN, DPRK, PAKISTAN, AND TURKEY

 [Read more: peaceandhealthblog.com](http://peaceandhealthblog.com)

Affiliates work on a broad range of issues to pursue IPPNW's mission to create a more peaceful and nuclear-free world.

Diplomacy, not war, with Iran

[continued from pg. 1]

IPPNW is also working closely with the leadership of Iranian Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR Iran), which joined the federation in 2010.

Our Iranian affiliate is led by renowned experts on the effects of Saddam Hussein's chemical warfare attacks during the Iraq-Iran War. They founded the Tehran Peace Museum to promote a culture of peace and to highlight the extreme horrors of war and weapons of mass destruction (photo on pg. 1 from the Peace Museum).

IPPNW delegations have been meeting with Iranian colleagues in Tehran and at other international venues, including an IPPNW Middle East Regional Meeting in Ankara last December hosted by our Turkish affiliate. Through "citizen diplomacy" we have been trying to decrease tensions and highlight the terrible dangers of war and the use of nuclear weapons.

We are planning a return to Tehran to strengthen the hand of our affiliate colleagues, increase student involvement, and to meet again with officials in the foreign ministry and with Iranian media.

IPPNW physicians, working together on a non-political, non-partisan basis, are committed to doing everything possible to help avoid another



devastating, unnecessary, hypocritical, and counter-productive war.

Nuclear-free Middle East is focus of Ankara meeting

More than two dozen IPPNW activists from Israel, Iran, Egypt, the United States, the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, and Turkey met in Ankara in December to address the issues of peace, health, and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

In a declaration released at the conclusion of the three-day conference, the participants asserted their responsibility as health professionals to respond to the "unacceptable conditions which have caused large scale suffering and loss of human life." They called upon the governments in the region to commit to peaceful resolution of conflicts; to


immediately start negotiations to establish a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons; and to implement a number of other measures to achieve regional peace and security.

Physician diplomats visit DPRK and Pakistan

Physician-to-physician diplomacy has been a hallmark of IPPNW since its founding at the height of the US-Soviet Cold War. In recent years, countries such as the DPRK, Iran, India, and Pakistan have been the meeting places for dialogues to promote peace, non-violent conflict resolution, and a world without nuclear weapons.

In October, IPPNW leaders from Finland, Norway, Sweden, and the

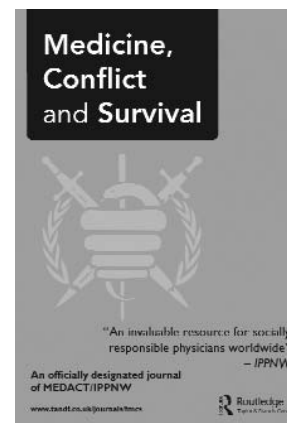
Netherlands returned to Pyongyang in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to meet with members of the Korean Anti-War Peace Physicians, the federation's North Korean affiliate. The delegation led a seminar for doctors from the Pyongyang Medical Academy, where they had an opportunity to discuss public health promotion, the climate consequences of nuclear war, and IPPNW's campaign for a world without nuclear weapons.

Co-President Dr. Vappu Taipale and her husband Dr. Ilkka Taipale visited Pakistan in January, where they met with IPPNW colleagues in Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore. During a well attended press conference at the Pakistan Medical Association, affiliate leader Tipu Sultan explained that the country had acquired nuclear weapons at the expense of the societal needs of the Pakistani people, including health care. 

Medicine, Conflict and Survival is the designated journal of IPPNW, published by Taylor & Francis in the UK in collaboration with our British affiliate, Medact. The peer-reviewed quarterly journal covers a wide range of topics, including:

- The causes and consequences of war and group violence
- The health and environmental effects of war and weapons of mass destruction
- The influence of war and preparations for war on health
- Human rights abuses, their causes and consequences
- The ethical responsibility of health professionals in relation to war
- Non-violent methods of conflict resolution
- Medical and humanitarian aid in conflict situations

Subscriptions are \$115/year.
ONLINE: tandf.co.uk/journals/mcs




In Hong Kong - Speaking out on the dangers of nuclear power

The President of the San Francisco chapter of PSR, Dr. Bob Gould (photo above: second from left), participated in a forum and demonstration to mark the first anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear reactor disaster. Dr. Gould presented a lecture "Generations at Risk," and stressed the importance of paying attention to health issues associated with radiation, at Chinese University in Kowloon in March.

"We are very concerned about taking preventative action to avoid the cancers and genetic damage and all the

other chronic health conditions that are attributable to radiation and certainly ought to be expected in the wake of the Fukushima accident, much as we already know the toll from Chernobyl," Dr. Gould said.

Participants of the protest, organized by the Hong Kong Alliance Against Nukes, called for an end to the use of nuclear energy, expressing particular concern about the Daya Bay and Ling Ao nuclear power plants in Guangdong province in mainland China, that is located within 60 km of Hong Kong's bustling metropolis. 



ICAN UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS


NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

 Resources, reports, campaign materials online: icanw.org



322 private financial institutions in 30 countries—169 of them in the US—loan money to or invest in 20 corporations that design, manufacture, modernize, or maintain nuclear weapons.

By divesting from nuclear weapons companies, banks and other asset managers would contribute to the delegitimization of nuclear weapons and, ultimately, to their abolition.

 **ONLINE: FULL REPORT**
“Don’t Bank on the Bomb: A Global Report on the Financing of Nuclear Weapons Producers”
dontbankonthebomb.com

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) launches nuclear weapons divestment project

Nuclear-armed nations spend more than \$100 billion each year maintaining and modernizing their nuclear forces. Much of this work, which is carried out by corporations such as Lockheed Martin (US), BAE Systems (UK), Thales (France), and Larsen & Toubro (India), is backed by financial institutions that provide loans and that purchase shares and bonds.


ICAN released a groundbreaking 180-page report in March, called *Don’t Bank on the Bomb*, which identifies 322 financial institutions that invest in the production of nuclear weapons.


ICAN supporter and Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu has called on financial institutions to “do the right thing and assist, rather than impede, efforts to eliminate the threat of radioactive incineration”, noting that divestment was a vital part of the successful campaign to end apartheid in South Africa. “Today, the same tactic can – and must – be employed to challenge man’s most evil creation: the nuclear bomb. No one should be profiting from this terrible industry of death, which threatens us all,” he wrote.



ICAN brings abolition message to the Middle East

ICAN has fielded a new team of Middle East campaigners to promote and strengthen the call for nuclear abolition. The first priority of the campaign coordinators, who will be based in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Bahrain, Lebanon, and Syria, will be to raise awareness within the region of the humanitarian, environmental, and security dangers of nuclear weapons, and to pursue practical and effective ways to achieve their worldwide elimination.

Ahmed Saada (photo above), IPPNW’s regional vice president for the Middle East, is the new ICAN campaigner in Egypt. “I believe that the Middle East should be a zone free from nuclear weapons,” Dr. Saada said. “Raising awareness, networking, and advocating for such a goal is crucial for the region...especially in Egypt where a new mindset is emerging.” 

 **ONLINE: INTERVIEW**
Read Dr. Saada’s eye-witness account to the “Arab Spring”
<http://peaceandhealthblog.com/2011/11/08/saada-interview/>

AFP UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

MEDICAL ALERT, HOSPITAL-BASED RESEARCH, AND WORKING WITH THE WHO

 [More from Aiming for Prevention: ippnw.org/afp.html](http://ippnw.org/afp.html)

Calling all health professionals! Medical campaign launched

AFP launched a Medical Alert for a Strong Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to show that doctors and other health professionals around the world want action now to help save lives. We hope to have thousands of signatures to deliver to the ATT Negotiating Conference in July.

You can help!

- Go to ippnw.org to sign the Medical Alert and send it to colleagues.
- Join Control Arms colleagues at meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in your country to urge for a strong ATT.
- Contact: mvalenti@ippnw.org.

Violence prevention in Liberia, Zambia and Germany

AFP leaders continue their critical work in communities around the world. Dr. Andrew Winnington of IPPNW-New Zealand recently conducted hospital-based research on armed violence in Liberia in conjunction with the Liberia Armed Violence Observatory, while Drs. Michael Schober of Austria and Bob Mtonga of Zambia are leading a new North/South affiliate project to develop a pilot violence prevention clinic program in Zambia.

In Germany, AFP is collaborating with Dr. Helmut Lohrer to plan a major conference on small arms and health entitled “Human Target: International Congress on Health Effects of the Global Arms Trade,” scheduled for May 2013.

An estimated 360,000 people are killed annually by firearms in non-conflict situations, including the majority of homicides in many countries (70% in the US, 69% in Brazil, and 77% in Central America).

In South Africa, serious abdominal gunshot injuries cost at least 13 times more than the annual per capita government expenditure on health.

[Source: WHO]


Snapshots from the 2012 Arms Trade Treaty

online: [facebook.com/aimingforprevention](https://www.facebook.com/aimingforprevention)



Global Campaign Action Plan

IPPNW is an active member of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA).

We recently provided input into a new Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Action Plan, the seeds of which were planted at the WHO VPA meeting AFP leaders attended in Cape Town last year. Drs. Michael Schober and Stephanie Hametner of IPPNW-Austria will represent IPPNW at the upcoming WHO VPA annual meeting in Munich, on April 16-17, where the Global Plan of Action will be developed further. 

AFFILIATES IN ACTION

INTERVIEW WITH ALEX ROSEN, IPPNW GERMANY

📄 Full interview online: peaceandhealthblog.com



If you're looking for someone with boundless energy, an unflinching commitment to nuclear abolition, and—apparently—36 hours in every day, get to know Alex Rosen, a young pediatrician from Düsseldorf, Germany. Alex joined IPPNW as a medical student and quickly established himself as a leader of the student movement, organizing Target X events and “Ban All Nukes (BAN)” bike rides in cities around the world, and serving a dynamic term as International Medical Student Representative on the IPPNW board. We asked Alex about his current activities and his reasons for working with IPPNW.

VS: Where did you get the idea to create a series of posters about the victims of the nuclear age [ippnw-students.org/hibakusha.html], and what do you hope the project will accomplish?

AR: I knew the term “Hibakusha” was used in connection with people suffering from the effects of radiation, and I also remembered the personal stories of the inhabitants of uranium mining sites, the survivors of nuclear accidents, the downwinders of nuclear weapons tests, and the survivors of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. All of these people were, in a sense, Hibakusha.

We now have an international team of doctors and medical students working on this exhibition. The aim is to show people the links and connections between the different aspects of the nuclear chain—to see the big picture.

VS: By our count, you're now involved in your fifth bicycle tour to promote nuclear abolition. Is this one special to you?

AR: This upcoming bike tour in Japan is a very special one not just because it takes us to the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, but also because it will give us a chance to get in touch with Japanese people and talk to them about the catastrophe of Fukushima.

VS: You've been very outspoken about the Fukushima disaster and what you see as the failure to adequately protect the health of those exposed to radiation, especially children. What lessons should we take from this tragedy?

AR: We first need to provide assistance to the victims of the nuclear catastrophe in Fukushima and in neighboring prefectures. But there is

a second important issue to address: how can something like this be prevented from happening again.

Unlike earthquakes and tsunamis, there is a way to prevent nuclear meltdowns. We have to get rid of nuclear energy. In Germany, we are hoping to show other countries that we must invest in energy efficiency, energy conservation, regenerative energy production, and new technologies to store energy.

VS: Many young doctors find it very difficult to remain active with IPPNW while trying to establish themselves professionally. What's your secret?

AR: For me, the most important factor was the personal connections to other IPPNW activists. In my hometown of Düsseldorf, we have a rather active IPPNW group, which we started 12 years ago as a student group and which has since become a group of young doctors and students. Together, we meet up regularly, discuss issues that are on our minds and think of ways in which we can work on these topics locally. These personal contacts have been very important for me and have helped me keep up the spirit and continue to work with and for IPPNW.

If there's one thing I've come to realize in the past ten years, it's this: You never have time for anything. You always need to make time. 📄



STRONG ARMS TRADE TREATY CAN SAVE LIVES, IMPROVE HEALTH

First-hand accounts online: peaceandhealthblog.com/tag/arms-trade-treaty/

Aiming for Prevention leaders are working on the ground and in the policy arena to stem the tide of armed violence. Member activities around the globe, from Liberia to the United Nations, have sent a clear message: we must strengthen violence prevention programs and policies to save lives and support healthy communities.

In February, 10 IPPNW leaders brought prescriptions for a humanitarian-based Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to the UN in New York. Doctors Bob Mtonga, Cathey Falvo, Donald Mellman, Shannon Gearhart, Hakeem Ayinde, Emeka Okolo,



Omolade Oladejo, Ogebe Onazi and Victor Sidel joined AFP coordinator Maria Valenti and nearly 100 col-

leagues from the Control Arms Coalition at the 4th ATT PrepCom to urge action on a strong ATT.

Among the highlights of the PrepCom were the official NGO presentations to the delegates, at which Dr. Oladejo (see photo on left) was one of three speakers. IPPNW and AFP organized a panel on the role of public health and civil society in monitoring the ATT, and also participated in a panel on Nobel Peace Laureates and the ATT, which featured Dr. Oscar Arias Sanchez of Costa Rica.

CUT GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING NOW!

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING, APRIL 17, 2012

ORGANIZER'S PACKET AND FACT SHEETS ONLINE: DEMILITARIZE.ORG

Last year global military expenditure was \$1,630 billion (US), on average nearly \$4.5 billion a day. By way of contrast, an average of more than 24,000 children under the age of five die every day from mainly preventable causes - lack of access to adequate food, clean water and basic medicines. This is one of the prices paid, the collateral damage that is seldom talked about, for maintaining armed forces in a state of combat readiness around the world.

The Global Day of Action was started in 2011 by the International Peace Bureau, based in Geneva, and the Institute for Policy Studies, based in Washington DC. The April date is chosen to coincide with the release of the Stockholm

International Peace Research Institute's latest figures on world military expenditures.

Peace, social justice and human rights groups around the world are involved in the Global Day of Action and we will be joining together on 17 April to focus public, political, and media attention on the costs of military expenditure and the need for different spending priorities.

There are many ways that you can get involved in the Global Day of Action. Add your organization to the list of supporters; connect with others who are organizing; and find news, reports, videos and other resources at the Global Day of Action website, demilitarize.org.



Find an event near you!

For 2012, there are 50 endorsers planning events in at least 27 countries.

CALENDAR

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| April 13-15, 2012 | European Students Meeting
Berlin, Germany |
| April 16-17, 2012 | XII World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates -
"Speak Up, Speak Out for Freedom and Rights."
Chicago, Illinois, USA |
| April 28 - 29, 2012 | ICAN Campaigners Meeting
Vienna, Austria |
| April 30 - May 11, 2012 | NPT PrepCom
Vienna, Austria |
| June 1, 2012 | Drawing for IPPNW's Peace Raffle |
| June 18, 2012 | IPPNW delegation to NATO
Brussels, Belgium |
| July 2-27, 2012 | ATT Review Conference
New York City, USA |
| August 9, 2012 | Nagasaki Memorial Day Ceremony
Biking against Nukes (BAN) tour participants kick
off the 500km/310 mile journey to IPPNW's
Congress in Hiroshima.
Nagasaki, Japan |
| August 27-September 7, 2012 | UN PoA Review Conference
New York City, USA |



20TH WORLD CONGRESS: FROM HIROSHIMA TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

August 21
ICAN Campaigners Meeting

August 22 – 23
Student Congress

August 23
Outgoing Board Meeting
Intl Council Meeting

August 24 – 26
Main Congress

August 26
Intl Council Meeting

August 27
Incoming Board Meeting

Join us to renew our memory of the atomic bombings of Japan and to redouble our efforts to create a more peaceful, nuclear-free future.

IPPNW2012.ORG

PEACERAFFLE.COM

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of our physician and student
volunteers worldwide.

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IPPNW is a non - partisan federation of national medical organizations in 63 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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Vital Signs is published twice a year by IPPNW. 66-70 Union Square, #204, Somerville, MA 02143 USA Tel:+1.617.443.1733 Email: ippnwbos@ippnw.org

Editor and Designer: Aki Morizono IPPNW staff: Michael Christ, Doug Kline, John Loretz, Maria Valenti, Aki Morizono, Garrett FitzGerald, and Anne Kieran

