

VITAL SIGNS

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

HISTORIC ARMS TRADE TREATY OVERWHELMINGLY ADOPTED AT THE UNITED NATIONS


A historic Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) was approved at the UN General Assembly in New York on April 2. The treaty enshrines in international law a set of clear rules for global transfers of conventional weapons and ammunition. Thousands of IPPNW members around the world have contributed to this achievement through letters, phone calls, petitions, and speaking with governments at home and at the UN. We have consistently provided a public health voice to proceedings at the national, regional and international level, as the only health member of the Control Arms Coalition.

This has been a long road.

IPPNW participated in a 1997 meeting in New York of a small group of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, convened by former Costa Rican president Óscar Arias, who called for an

International Code of Conduct on arms trade that would benefit all of humanity. "After 15 long years and millions killed, maimed or traumatized by gun violence," said IPPNW co-president Robert Mtonga, "we are finally gratified that the world's countries have finally enacted a humanitarian-based ATT. It is not perfect, but taken as a whole, it is groundbreaking in scope, and we are hopeful States will enact it in the most comprehensive way." Dr. Mtonga led the IPPNW delegation to the ATT.

The ATT opened for signature in June and US Secretary of State John Kerry signed the Treaty in September. The number of State signatories is now more than 100. Yet the goal for entry into force is still distant, requiring ratification (not just signature) by 50 nations. Only seven have ratified at this writing.

There is more work to do. We need IPPNW activists in every country to encourage signature and ratification to help move the ATT into reality. 



Has your country signed and ratified the ATT?

If not, urge your government to sign and ratify this treaty as a public health imperative. IPPNW's *Health Professionals Guide to the ATT* can assist you with this work.

ONLINE: IPPNW.ORG/PDF/HEALTH-GUIDE-TO-ATT.PDF

ALL ABOARD TO MEXICO AND A NUCLEAR-WEAPONS-FREE WORLD

The road to a nuclear-weapons-free world got widened on September 24, when Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto announced in the UN General Assembly that his country will host the second international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons on February 13-14, 2014.

The conference will be a followup to the unprecedented and highly successful meeting of States in Oslo in

March. While the program will retain a scientific focus, civil society hopes are running high that a deeper understanding of the catastrophic and irremediable effects of the use of nuclear weapons will jumpstart a process for a ban treaty that will lead to their elimination.

ICAN has made no secret of the fact that it is campaigning for such a process, and is using the months between now and February to build

support for a ban treaty among as many non-nuclear-weapon States as possible (see page 2).

Evidence that such support is growing came at the first High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament (HLM), which took place on September 26 at the UN General Assembly. Presidents, prime ministers, and foreign ministers of a

[Continued on pg. 2]

All aboard to Mexico and a nuclear-weapons-free world

Continued from page 1

majority of participating countries stated emphatically that nuclear weapons are a global humanitarian disaster waiting to happen, and called for their elimination. The voice of civil society was heard at the conclusion of the meeting, when ICAN campaigner Nosizwe Baqwa delivered an impassioned statement describing the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

The Oslo conference reframed nuclear disarmament as a humanitarian imperative, validating IPPNW's fundamental message — that there can be no effective medical response to the horrifying and indiscriminate consequences of nuclear weapons. Leaders of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and ICAN campaigners echoed the conclusion that pre-

vention through abolition is the only option.


IPPNW brought its *Nuclear Famine* study to Oslo and described the climatic and agricultural disruption that would result from even a limited, regional nuclear conflict to stunned delegations from 127 countries. In Mexico, we will present new data showing that the original projections—a billion people at risk of starvation—were significantly underestimated.

Whether enough States will be convinced in Mexico that the time has come to launch negotiations on a Ban Treaty remains to be seen. But the P5 (the US, Russia, China, the UK, and France) are so worried about this possibility that they boycotted Oslo, expressed “regret” that

The campaign and orientation meetings for ICAN partner organisations on February 11-12, and half-day on February 15 will be open to any civil society organizations attending the government conference.



the HLM happened at all, and are applying not-so-subtle pressure in diplomatic corridors in an attempt to derail this new humanitarian case for nuclear abolition before it gains unstoppable momentum.

IPPNW and ICAN will be working equally hard to ensure that the Ban Treaty train, which has already left the station, cannot be called back. 



CONDITIONS FOR NUCLEAR ABOLITION ALREADY EXIST: A LOOK AT ICAN TODAY

ICAN—the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons—was launched by IPPNW in 2007 to mobilize global support for negotiations to rid the world of nuclear weapons. As the founder and lead medical NGO in ICAN, IPPNW has played a key role in providing the scientific and medical data about the impact of nuclear weapons that is the basis for the campaign's humanitarian case for political action.

Why is abolition a humanitarian imperative?

For more than 30 years, IPPNW has documented the catastrophic medical and environmental consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, as well as the devastating effects on health and social well being from one end of the nuclear chain to the other. Our message—that there can be no meaningful medical or relief response to nuclear

weapons, and that what cannot be treated must be prevented—has been echoed by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and taken up by governments in many countries. The only certain way to prevent the use of nuclear weapons is to eliminate them.

Is this an effective campaign message?

For the first time since the end of the Cold War, this focus on the horrifying nature of the weapons and their intolerable effects, has mobilized a large and growing number of States who want to change the way we approach nuclear disarmament. From small beginnings five years ago, ICAN is now a broad-based civil society campaign with more than 300 partner organizations in 70 countries. Many States impatient with decades of inaction and excuses from the nuclear-weapons states

now look to ICAN campaigners for support, advice, and new ideas about how to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world.

What is ICAN's “new idea?”

The nuclear-weapon states have shown themselves unwilling to negotiate an agreement to eliminate their arsenals. Decades of appeals from the international community to fulfill their disarmament obligations have gone unheeded. ICAN has set out to mobilize non-nuclear-weapons states around a treaty to ban nuclear weapons—a treaty that they can negotiate and implement even without the cooperation of the nuclear-weapon states. A ban treaty would delegitimize nuclear weapons, prohibit their possession by anyone, and do something that no other arms control agreement—including the NPT—currently does: establish a legal and political obliga-

Conditions for Nuclear Abolition Already Exist: ICAN Today

Continued from page 2

tion to eliminate nuclear weapons that the nuclear-weapon states could no longer sidestep.

Why are the conferences in Oslo and Mexico so important?

This past March in Oslo, 127 countries participated in the first international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. This unprecedented gathering of States will be followed by a second conference in Mexico in February. These conferences are transforming the debate about nuclear weapons by shifting attention to the irremediable harm they cause, and away from

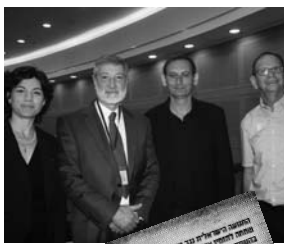
the national security arguments used by States who want to retain them indefinitely. While the conferences themselves are scientific and have no political agenda, ICAN believes that the facts about nuclear weapons will speak loudly enough to the participants that they will rally around the proposal for a ban treaty.

Has there been a more exciting or hopeful time for those of us committed to the cause of a nuclear-weapons-free world?

Finally, a question with a simple, one-word answer. No!

www.icanw.org/resources/publications

IPPNW Makes History in Israel's Knesset



Co-President Ira Helfand participated in June in an unprecedented debate about nuclear weapons in Israel's parliament, the Knesset. At an event organized by ICAN-Israel and the Israeli Disarmament Movement, Dr. Helfand presented the scientific findings about the global climate effects of a limited nuclear war, and made a compelling case for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The next day, he traveled to Ankara, where he gave a similar talk about nuclear famine and the medical consequences of nuclear war to the Turkish parliament. While speaking in the Knesset, Dr. Helfand debated nuclear abolition with a member of Israel's Likud Party.



ONLINE: <http://youtu.be/1SfLFRxAYOw>

Rhythm Beats Bombs



About 35 IPPNW doctors and students took part in a two-day blockade of the Büchel nuclear base in Rheinland-Pfalz on August 11 and 12. Twenty of the 180 US nuclear weapons stored in Europe for use by NATO are deployed in Büchel. Participants in the blockade, organized around the musical theme "rhythm beats bombs," called for the withdrawal of the weapons from German soil and a treaty that would ban all nuclear weapons worldwide.

ONLINE: <http://www.atomwaffenfrei.de>

Nuclear Lectures at Tehran Peace Museum



Iranian PSR sponsored a seminar on "Nuclear Weapons and International Law" at the Tehran Peace Museum on May 9, 2013. Speakers from the AT University Law School, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IPPNW, and ICAN delivered lectures to more than 70 students of international law. Affiliate leader Dr. Shahriar Khateri called it "an exciting event with open discussions about nuclear issues," and promised similar collaborative events covering humanitarian aspects of weapons of mass destruction in the future.

ONLINE: tehranpeacemuseum.org

Dr. Kanter at the UN: "The choice is clear"

IPPNW board member Andrew Kanter spoke on behalf of civil society in early September at a UN-hosted event to mark the observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests. He described the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and made an impassioned appeal for banning and eliminating them. "We are constantly reminded of how small and interconnected our planet really is," Dr. Kanter said. "The choice is clear. Either we can continue down the path we have been on for 60 years and destroy ourselves and our planet, or we can choose another path and guarantee a healthy, happy, and sustainable future for generation after generation."



ONLINE: <http://goo.gl/7zI3Ph>
Go to 1:35:28 in the video

HUMAN TARGET CONGRESS SHINES LIGHT ON SHADOWY WORLD OF ARMS TRADE

For videos and presentations, go to the “Dokumentation” tab on: <http://www.human-target.org>



PHOTOS: SAMANTHA STAUDTE /IPPNW GERMANY

More than 350 people from around the world convened in May in Germany for the international *Human Target Congress on Social and Health Effects of the Global Arms Trade*. In the picturesque town of Villingen-Schwenningen, speakers from around the world shined a bright light on the chilling, shadowy, \$70 billion annual world trade in arms.


Keynote speaker Andrew Feinstein painted a picture of the human destruction wrought by the largely unfettered arms trade, but ended on the hopeful note that “knowledge is power” and urged us all to never stop working for transparency and a

more peaceful world. This message resonated throughout three days of powerful plenary sessions and engaging workshops, designed to discuss solutions as well as problems, presented by experts from the worlds of arms control, public health, medicine, investigative journalism, and international policy.

More than 100 congress participants convened outside the locked gates of Heckler & Koch, a major European arms manufacturer, located in the nearby town of Oberndorf am Neckar in the Black Forest, to protest the manufacture of their weapons. Under a sea of umbrellas in a driving rain, partici-

pants sang songs and bore witness to hopes for peace.

The congress also featured a bicycle tour from May 26-29. IPPNW activists from around the world cycled from Ulm to Villingen (approximately 120 miles), organizing interviews, meeting politicians, giving public demonstrations and spreading information on the impact of the global arms trade.

The congress was organized by IPPNW-Germany and IPPNW, in cooperation with the campaign “AktionAufschrei – Stoppt den Waffenhandel!” 

Victim Assistance Intervention in Zambia Assessed


The newly adopted Arms Trade Treaty includes language regarding the need to improve care and rehabilitation for victims of armed conflict. A joint project of IPPNW affiliates in Austria and Zambia seeks to improve care for all victims of violence seen at the Lusaka, Zambia University Hospital emergency room.

The research project has focused on tracking two interventions. First, pro-

viding training to hospital staff to encourage victim referrals to local social service agencies. Second, placing brochures and posters with social service agency information in key hospital areas, police stations, and other areas where those affected by violence may see them.

Eight local partner organizations have been actively involved in the project and have praised the training and educational materials. The project coordinator on Gender Based Violence (GBV) at the Young

Women's Christian Association said: "The YWCA is wholly sold on this project. It has been the cry of the YWCA to create a link among all agencies working on GBV and interpersonal violence in general. This project is an answer to our prayer." Similar thoughts have been expressed by the other partners.

IPPNW Austria is currently reviewing the research findings of the past year to see whether the interventions have improved referrals to social service agencies. 

Next WHO Violence Prevention Meeting to be Held in Mexico Where Violence is Rife




IPPNW leaders from Mexico and the US will participate in the upcoming World Health Organization (WHO) meeting, "Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention." The theme of this sixth Milestones meeting, which will be held in Mexico City on November 13-14, is "Towards measurable violence prevention targets."

An estimated 60,000 people or more have died in Mexico's drug wars since 2006, and the US/Mexico cross-border drug and gun trade has been widely criticized as contributing to the violence. Since he was elected in 2012, President Enrique Peña Nieto has focused on reducing the crime and violence that affect the lives of Mexicans.

The Milestones meeting will address multiple types of violence, and will focus on consolidating global, regional, and national efforts to strengthen the measurement of vio-

lence and violence prevention policies, programs and laws, with a view to defining measurable violence prevention targets in the years ahead. IPPNW will report on our Aiming for Prevention initiatives at a subsequent meeting of the WHO's Violence Prevention Alliance, in

which we are an active participant. IPPNW has also been invited to attend a side meeting on violence prevention specific to issues in Mexico organized by the Ministry of Health. IPPNW Mexico will conduct an affiliate meeting in the margins of these events. 

DOWNLOAD RESOURCES

WHO violence prevention resources

ONLINE: <http://goo.gl/PO69Rp>

American Journal of Public Health

A collection of papers and other resources to help promote awareness and policy change surrounding gun violence, the health of ex-combatants, and suicide.

ONLINE: <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/>

Small Arms Survey 2013: Everyday Dangers focuses on small arms and armed violence outside war zones, with chapters on organized crime and gang violence, the use of firearms in intimate partner violence, and violent land disputes.

ONLINE: <http://goo.gl/O8Zlu>

IPPNW's Health Professionals Guide to the ATT highlights the valuable actions health professionals can take to make the ATT effective. ONLINE: ippnw.org/pdf/health-guide-to-att.pdf

AFFILIATES IN ACTION

INTERVIEW WITH DR. ALEXANDRA ARCE VON HEROLD, CO-PRESIDENT OF IPPNW COSTA RICA

 INTERVIEWS ONLINE: PEACEANDHEALTHBLOG.COM

Alexandra Arce and some young physician colleagues in Costa Rica brought new life to an important Latin American affiliate earlier this year. Since then, they've been unstoppable in their enthusiasm for ICAN, Aiming For Prevention, and all the work of IPPNW. We asked Alex about her passion for these issues.

AA: My mom was a congresswoman and a Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) member. Because she doesn't know English very well, she would ask my brother and me and to go on trips to help her. In 2009 we went to New York to a PNND Assembly. I was just the translator, but all the people I met were really interesting and somehow it made sense, in my mind, that I had to be part of all this! So I continued to help with translations and with taking people everywhere when they came to Costa Rica.

Along the way, I learned about an organization of doctors that worked on eliminating nuclear weapons. Last year, at the PNND Assembly in Kazakhstan, I had the opportunity to go as a translator for my mom, again. But this time my eyes opened. The energy I felt and the people I met were just amazing! I thought that I could be of greater help and it seemed to me that Costa Rica has a reputation as a high moral authority because we have no army and we always choose to find a diplomatic solution for everything.

When I returned to Costa Rica, I read Ward Wilson's book [*Five Myths About Nuclear Weapons*] and suddenly it all made sense!

Then it occurred to me that maybe I should join IPPNW and help the affiliate here! I contacted Xanthe Hall, whom I'd met in Kazakhstan. When she told me that the Costa Rican

affiliate was no longer active, something changed in me. I told myself: "OK, this is the moment to do something important about the world's security and peace; it's a lot of responsibility but I'm sure I can make it work."

IPPNW's Costa Rican affiliate is few in numbers right now, but all of them are incredibly special. I think the important thing is quality, not quantity.

VS: In a little less than a year, you and your colleagues in Costa Rica have accomplished a lot. What were the highlights for you?

AA: We delivered 1,000 paper cranes, made by children from Japan, to the President of Costa Rica in return for her support of a ban on nuclear weapons. For Nuclear Abolition Week we helped with ICAN's Share your Shadow campaign. I got one from Óscar Arias, the former President of Costa Rica and a Nobel Peace Laureate! We held a Target X event, where we spoke with 1,000 Costa Ricans about the dangers of nuclear weapons. And we organized a Floating Lamps event to commemorate the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August.

VS: You seem to have a clear vision of why the abolition of nuclear weapons and the prevention of all forms of armed violence should be a priority for doctors.

AA: Doctors have a special influence




ALEXANDRA ARCE VON HEROLD WITH WARD WILSON ON LEFT AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA AND NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE ÓSCAR ARIAS.

in society and have a positive image. This influence should be used to promote health and the prevention of harm. I have met doctors working for different causes, and the ones who do are just amazing people!

I think it's difficult to convince doctors to do something other than medicine. But when I saw that parliamentarians who work for this cause are very interesting and special people, I thought the same might be true about doctors. And, fortunately, I was right. IPPNW's Costa Rican affiliate is few in numbers right now, but all of them are incredibly special. I think the important thing is quality, not quantity.

I don't think this should be a priority for doctors alone—though they are the ones trying to treat victims of conflict and—in the case of nuclear conflict—facing impossible conditions. This should be a priority for everybody.

VS: The Latin American region, and Costa Rica in particular, will play a big role in promoting a nuclear ban treaty and in getting the ATT ratified and entered into force. What are your thoughts about those goals?

AA: The ATT has already been ratified in Costa Rica and we are very proud of this here, because the idea came from many wonderful minds and one of them was Óscar Arias. We have demonstrated that a country can live in peace without an army, that diplomacy is the safest and best way and we will use this and try to export this belief the best we can. 

 ONLINE: AFFILIATE WEBSITE
www.ippnwcr.org

HONORING AN IPPNW LEGEND

DR. VIC SIDEL AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROMOTING PEACE

 PSR.ORG/NEWS-EVENTS/EVENTS/HONORING-VIC-SIDEL.HTML



TWO FORMER IPPNW PRESIDENTS: DRS. VIC SIDEL AND IME JOHN AT THE UN IN NEW YORK IN 2008.



DR. VIC SIDEL WITH HIS WIFE, PROF. RUTH SIDEL.

One of IPPNW's most respected leaders, Victor W. Sidel, will be honored at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in November.


Dr. Sidel, the Distinguished University Professor of Social Medicine Emeritus at the Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein Medical College, was Co-President of IPPNW from 1993 to 1998. A co-author of the groundbreaking series

of articles "The Medical Consequences of Nuclear War," published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1962, he was one of the founders of Physicians for Social Responsibility and served as PSR's president from 1987 to 1988.

A prolific writer and speaker, an expert on the health effects of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and an ardent advocate of policies to reduce gun violence, he is

the co-editor, along with Barry Levy, of two authoritative books, *War and Public Health*, and *Terrorism and Public Health*.

As a former APHA president and active member of its Peace Caucus, Dr. Sidel was the co-author of numerous Association policy statements opposing wars and weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. At IPPNW, he has been a constant and passionate advocate for nuclear abolition and, during his co-presidency, played a major role in The World Court Project, which led to the Court's important 1996 advisory opinion.

All of his friends and colleagues at IPPNW offer Vic Sidel our heartfelt congratulations and thanks during this celebration of his lifelong career in public health and peace work. 

END THE OVERHEAD MYTH

THE COMMON MISCONCEPTION ABOUT NONPROFIT PERFORMANCE RATINGS

 IPPNW.ORG/OVERHEAD-MYTH.HTML


Occasionally, we at IPPNW receive calls from donors regarding IPPNW's "overhead costs," a catchphrase that gained some traction a few years back as a supposed indicator of efficiency in nonprofit spending and management.

IPPNW recently joined GuideStar, Charity Navigator, and BBB Wise Giving Alliance in the pledge to end the overhead myth. Instead of focusing on the percentage of a nonprofit's expenses that go to administrative and fundraising costs—commonly referred to as "overhead"—we need to focus on what really matters: impact.

In an effort to correct this common misconception, GuideStar, Charity Navigator, and BBB Wise Giving Alliance have published an open letter to the donors of America denouncing the "overhead ratio" as a valid indicator of nonprofit performance.

The open letter, published on a new website www.overheadmyth.com, states that "Overhead costs include important investments charities make to improve their work: investments in training, planning, evaluation, and internal systems—as well as their efforts to raise money so they can operate their programs.

When we focus solely or predominantly on overhead... we starve charities of the freedom they need to best serve the people and communities they are trying to serve." The letter goes on to recommend that donors focus their attention on more relevant factors behind nonprofit performance: transparency, governance, leadership, and results.

So when you are evaluating nonprofits, please consider the whole picture. The people and communities served by nonprofits don't need low overhead, they need high performance. 

- October 18-19, 2013
Helsinki, Finland
- Nuclear Exits: Countries Foregoing the Nuclear Option**
Organized by PSR-Finland in cooperation with IPPNW and the International Peace Bureau
- October 21-23, 2013
Warsaw, Poland
- XIII World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates**
Dr. Ira Helfand will be speaking on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear War.
- November 2-6, 2013
Boston, MA, USA
- American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting**
IPPNW and PSR members will be presenting, and IPPNW will share a booth organized by the APHA Peace Caucus.
- November 3, 2013
Boston, MA, USA
- APHA Special Event Honoring Dr. Victor Sidel**
Boston Convention Center, Room 210A, from 2:30 to 4:30pm
- November 13-14, 2013
Mexico City, Mexico
- Conference | WHO 6th Milestones on Violence Prevention**
- November 15, 2013
Mexico City, Mexico
- Violence Prevention Alliance Annual Meeting**
- February 13-14, 2014
Nayarit, Mexico
- 2nd Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons**
ICAN will hold campaign and orientation meetings for ICAN partner organizations on February 11-12, as well as a half-day debrief on February 15. These meetings will also be open to any civil society organizations attending the government conference.
- August 27-29, 2014
Astana, Kazakhstan
- IPPNW World Congress**
The 21st Congress will be hosted by IPPNW Kazakhstan in cooperation with IPPNW CIS Regional Affiliates.

Become a Partner in Peace today!

The Partners in Peace Sustainers Circle, IPPNW's growing network of dedicated monthly donors, forms the backbone of our annual fundraising efforts. Here's how it works: your monthly gift is automatically charged to your credit card or checking account, allowing IPPNW to rely on a steady stream of funding to continue our global fight for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

For only \$5 a month you'll receive IPPNW's biannual newsletter, Vital

Signs, along with other IPPNW publications and urgent action alerts.

Increase, decrease, or suspend your gift at any time by phone or email.

To join, please use the form on the reverse side of the enclosed donation slip, call (617) 440-1733x304, or email IPPNW Development Associate Garrett FitzGerald at gfitzgerald@ippnw.org today.



IPPNW is a non-partisan federation of national medical organizations in 62 countries dedicated to safeguarding health by working to ban nuclear weapons and to address the impact of militarism and war on human health.

All gifts to IPPNW are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. IPPNW is a non-profit organization registered under Section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. Tax ID# 04-2702110



Vital Signs is published twice a year by IPPNW, 66-70 Union Square, #204, Somerville, MA 02143 USA Tel: +1.617.443.1733 Email: director@ippnw.org

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

