

VITAL SIGNS

CAMPAIGNING FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE WORLD



Dr. Andreas Nidecker (right) of IPPNW - Switzerland met with Israeli nuclear whistle blower and disarmament advocate Mordechai Vanunu in Jerusalem in March 2005, during a week long visit to Israel and the Palestine territories with PSR members for Seattle, Washington. The Swiss affiliate, which campaigned for Vanunu's release from prison, is now pressing for his freedom to travel.

IPPNW physicians and medical students have been campaigning for the elimination of nuclear weapons in virtually every corner of the world during 2005. As we approach the 60th anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, our efforts — and those of our coalition partners in Abolition 2000 — appear to be paying off in some heartening and surprising ways, despite deepening global anxieties about proliferation, nuclear terrorism, and continued stonewalling on disarmament by the nuclear weapon states.

In late February, following one missile defense test failure after another and years of criticism by domestic opponents of the Star Wars system, including IPPNW affiliate Physicians for Global Survival, the Canadian government formally ended its participation in the ill-conceived US program. Prime Minister Paul Martin told President Bush at a summit meeting in Mexico that "the file is closed" on missile defenses.

This setback to an important component of the US nuclear war fighting system as described in the Nuclear Posture Review came on the heels of Congressional refusal to fund research into the nuclear bunker buster and other new, low-yield nuclear weapons that had been part of the Bush administration's 2005 budget request. Physicians for Social Responsibility, IPPNW's US affiliate, had joined a chorus of grassroots and Washington-based advocacy groups who insisted that the administration could not simultaneously condemn

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LEARN MORE

New publications and educational tools have been an important part of the Physicians Campaign as we try to teach young, new audiences about the ongoing nuclear threat and how to take a stand. IPPNW Sweden (in conjunction with the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society) have created a clear and informative web resource for secondary students.

<http://www.slmk.org/larom/laromeng/index.html>



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other countries for seeking nuclear weapons while seeking to develop a new generation of warheads for its own arsenal.

Even more encouraging news came in March, when the European Parliament—including two nuclear weapon states—adopted a resolution calling for full compliance with the disarmament obligations of the Non-Proliferation Treaty just a few weeks before the opening of the 2005 NPT Review Conference. IPPNW affiliates and other European NGOs had been lobbying their governments for months to recognize and support the inseparable links between non-proliferation and disarmament enshrined in the NPT. The resolution struck the right balance, demanding that the nuclear weapon states implement the 13 Steps spelled out in the 2000 NPT Review, while

describing a plan of action to prevent proliferation in Iran, North Korea, and elsewhere.

The Physicians Campaign marked other successes in the early months of 2005:

Indian Doctors for Peace and Development held their 7th national conference in Hyderabad in March. IDPD members demanded complete abolition of nuclear weapons and an end to the arms trade that has been fueling the conflict between India and Pakistan. IDPD President Dr. L. S. Chawla called on physicians in both countries to work together for a South Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.

IPPNW Germany made a major commitment to the Mayors For Peace emergency appeal, helping German NGOs obtain more than

200 mayoral endorsements, as well as pledges from seven mayors that they would accompany mayors Akiba and Itoh to New York for the NPT Review. Psychoanalyst Horst-Eberhard Richter, the co-founder of the German affiliate, met with 24 German mayors at the Berlin Senate in March to discuss the 2020 Vision campaign, and Xanthe Hall joined Middle Powers Initiative chair Douglas Roche in a meeting with Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, who confirmed that Germany was taking the NPT Review very seriously.

IPPNW's Australian affiliate, **MAPW**, organized an ambitious and very successful "Nuclear Challenge Seminar" in Canberra in March. Representatives of the US, Russian, and Australian governments debated their positions on disarmament

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IN MEMORIAM

HANS BETHE

1906 - 2005

I call on all scientists in all countries to cease and desist from work creating, developing, improving and manufacturing further nuclear weapons; and, for that matter, other weapons of potential mass destruction such as chemical and biological weapons.

from an *Open Letter* by Hans Bethe, 1995

Hans Bethe, a refugee from Nazi Germany, served as Director of the Theoretical Division of the Manhattan Project. He later repudiated nuclear weapons and was a driving force behind the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty. In the 1990s, he urged President Clinton to declare that the US would not develop any new nuclear weapons.

Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project: medical student delegates traveling to nuclear weapons states

Medical student leaders built on the enormous success to date of the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project by sending a team to Moscow and St. Petersburg from March 5-11. Inga Blum and Jakub Wilhelm (Germany), Richard Fristedt (Sweden), and Ruth Mitchell (Australia) held dialogues with students at several colleges and universities, including the St. Petersburg University Urology Department and the Sechenov Academy in Moscow. While their fellow students were navigating the Moscow metro system, a second NWIP team, led by Camilla Mattsson of Sweden, went to the US, where they conducted three workshops at the Student PSR National Conference in Chicago. This next generation of IPPNW leaders is now preparing for dialogues in India, Pakistan, and China later in the year.

Worldwide, an estimated

500,000

people are killed annually by small arms and light weapons

A surfeit of small arms — handguns, rifles, and machine guns — is spreading like a plague throughout the developing world, shattering lives and hope in some of the world's poorest countries. Gun violence kills hundreds of thousands of people each year, most of them unarmed civilians, leaving many more maimed, injured, disabled, and traumatized. Indeed, up to ninety percent of all casualties in modern armed conflict are innocent men, women, and children.

An outbreak of gun violence can destroy years of hard-earned progress in peace building and community investment. Since 1990, small arms have been the only weapons used in 46 of 49 major conflicts, causing legions of refugees, contributing to outbreaks of disease, and diverting precious resources away from basic education and nutrition programs.

A public health approach can unravel the causes of firearms violence and provide the basis for appropriate policy interventions. Quantifying the human costs of small arms injuries and death gives us a new and powerful tool for preventing harm.

As a global organization committed to protecting human health from the effects of militarism and war, IPPNW launched its "Aiming for Prevention" campaign in 2001 to reduce and prevent the effects of small arms violence on health, development, and peace in the developing world. In Africa, Latin America, and South Asia, IPPNW is mobilizing doctors, medical students, and other health providers, who live and work in their communities, to document the devastating human impact of small arms, to document the devastating human impact of small arms, to educate key stakeholders, and to advocate policy reform.

IPPNW affiliates in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria, and El Salvador, working with epidemiologist Diego Zavala of the Ponce School of Medicine in Puerto Rico, are planning a multinational pilot study that will provide the first comparative analysis of the causes and costs of small arms and light weapons injuries in the global South.

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1. Horrors of civil war, Democratic Republic of Congo
2. First Prize winner of the IDPD poster contest
3. Medical students working with EMESARES, El Salvador
4. Combatants, Democratic Republic of Congo

3



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Here are some highlights of the courageous and effective work done by our affiliates, who are the backbone of **Aiming for Prevention**

IPPNW Affiliate in Action: PROFILE Emperatriz Crespin, El Salvador



For the past five years, 31-year-old **Emperatriz Crespin** has been a dynamic presence in the *Medicos Salvadoreños para la Responsabilidad Social (MESARES)*. Dr. Crespin, who holds a medical degree and an MPH from the University of El Salvador, began working with affiliate leader Ignacio Paniagua in 2000 on SOLPROMESA, a project that focuses on improving and solving health-care related problems. That same year she began to work with a small group of medical students, EMESARES, which has grown to include more than 100 students who regularly participate in research, educational, and advocacy activities, including medical brigades. Under her guidance EMASARES recently completed a groundbreaking research study at Hospital Rosales in San Salvador.

Recognizing that informing the public and gaining their support helps with the goals of MESARES, Dr. Crespin has effectively reached out to the media and facilitated widespread press coverage of the costs to society of firearms violence. She has also worked with other civil society groups to organize high profile events, such as the Mass of Angels, to commemorate firearms victims.

IPPNW El Salvador recently completed a year-long hospital-based research project that, for the first time, quantified the health costs of small arms injuries. They helped forge a national action coalition and recently presented this research to President Antonio Saca, which helped persuade him to create a National Commission to review the gun laws. The affiliate now has a seat at the table. The report has been presented to the UNDP, the Pan American Health Organization, and is scheduled for publication in medical journals, raising public awareness around the world.

Congolese Physicians for Peace (CPP) have been conducting research for the past five years on small arms violence, which has claimed more than three million lives in their country. They have helped to identify vulnerable populations, demobilize soldiers, treat the victims of violence, and organize major conferences in the most violent areas. As a leading voice pressing for peaceful change in the Congo, last year they helped create the first national citizens network on small arms. CPP's Dr. Simon Bokongo now serves as National Assistant Coordinator of the country's first National Small Arms Commission.

Indian Doctors for Peace and Development, under the leadership of L. S. Chawla and Arun Mitra, has established active chapters in 25 Indian states where advocacy for nuclear disarmament goes hand in hand with campaigns to mitigate the effects of small arms violence. Working from their base in Nagpur, Nalini and Balkrishna Kurvey of **IPPNW Central India** have collected data on firearms and landmine casualties and have held mine risk awareness seminars in border zones where more than a million mines have been placed.

During the past two years Indian physicians and medical students working under the IPPNW banner conducted scores of symposia and workshops in major cities and border towns that have brought together health care providers, youth and women's groups, military leaders, police, policy makers, and other members of civil society to address small arms, peace building, and alternative conflict resolution strategies for the nation and the region. A focus of their work is to bridge the hostilities between India and Pakistan, bringing doctors from both sides in dialogue followed by meetings with top government officials.

The Kenya Association of Physicians and Medical Workers for Social Responsibility (IPPNW/Kenya) has created the "One Bullet Story," which captures in pictures and text the human dimension of small arms violence. Dr. Walter Odhiambo and other members of the Kenyan affiliate are working with the Kenya Medical Association and *The*

East African Medical Journal to encourage health professionals to document and publish cases of firearm injuries that can influence national gun policy. Kenyan medical students engage in humanitarian activities, including follow up on the rehabilitation of the survivors of firearm assault and the impact of fatalities on the lives of dependents left behind.

The Society of Nigerian Doctors for the Welfare of Mankind conducted a small arms workshop for the students of Bayero University, Kano, at which the assistant inspector general of police delivered the keynote address on youth violence. IPPNW Nigeria is collecting data on gunshot injuries in the Delta and northern parts of Nigeria, and is evaluating a pilot survey on youth violence in the Niger Delta.

Drs. Peter Olupot-Olupot and Eddie Mworozzi of **IPPNW Uganda** have used their medical expertise and activist credentials to raise the profile of small arms and landmines threats in their conflict-ridden country. They began work last year to document small arms injuries in the eastern part of the country, organizing presentations on peace through health in Mbale and Kampala to increase medical community awareness and interest.

As the Landmine Monitor for Zambia, Dr. Robert Mtonga has been concerned for many years about the devastating effects of firearm proliferation and has conducted research on the proliferation of SALW in the Southern African Development Community. **IPPNW Zambia** is currently working with the Small Arms Survey in Geneva,



Guest speakers on behalf of the Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament & Environmental Protection (IIPDEP)



Dr. Walter Odhiambo and staff member

documenting the costs of SALW injuries to the country's health system.

In short, IPPNW's Aiming for Prevention campaign is exposing the grim realities of small arms use and is advancing real alternatives to confront this immense global health crisis and to begin the process of reversing its deadly effects.

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For more information on **Aiming for Prevention**, please go to:
www.ippnw.org/SmallArmsStart.html

A legacy is described as something handed down from an ancestor or a predecessor. However, in today's world, the idea of a legacy has come to embody more than the process of a simple hand-off. Today we view ourselves and our legacies through the relationships we construct, lessons we teach, and the impact of our actions, whether in life or in death.

The mission of IPPNW is built on legacy and fueled by the hope for a better future. Our goal is to provide our children and the global citizens of tomorrow with a healthier, safer, and more peaceful, nuclear-weapon-free world. As the need for IPPNW's work becomes increasingly vital, so, too, does the urgency for each of us to declare the impact our lives and actions will have on the world that we hand to our children.

As you consider your personal legacy, we hope that you will consider remembering the work of IPPNW and will accept our invitation to become a member of the Sadako Society. This Society, founded in 2001 was created in remembrance of Sadako Sasaki of the thousand paper cranes and to acknowledge those individuals who have decided that our collective work is necessary — and worthy of being supported by estate provisions — either under will, or through the gift of a trust, pension plan or life insurance policy.

BE A PART
OF THE

Legacy



For more information on how you can begin to formalize your legacy through the Sadako Society of IPPNW, contact:

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and non-proliferation with NGO experts and activists before an audience of foreign embassy representatives, military personnel, students, and political groups. A new MAPW publication—"Australia and the NPT 2005: Getting serious about ridding the world of WMDs"—was distributed to all members of the Australian Parliament. The payoff came a few days later when the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade agreed to hold consultations with NGOs in the weeks leading up to the Review Conference. As a co-sponsor of the Middle

Powers Initiative, IPPNW had an opportunity to participate in MPI's Second Atlanta Consultation on the NPT, held at the Carter Center in Atlanta at the end of February. IPPNW Co-President Ron McCoy and Executive Director Michael Christ represented the federation at a three-day working session to develop a series of recommendations on disarmament and non-proliferation that could be introduced at the NPT Review by the New Agenda countries.

Physicians for Global Survival in Canada produced a new set of resource materials to promote community involvement in nuclear disarmament issues. The resource kit includes background information and planning materials on the Mayors for Peace campaign, "Lanterns for Peace" ceremonies to commemorate the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the "Shadow Painting Project."

Making a Difference with Partners for Peace

PROFILE: Dr. Milton K.D. Bosch

The summer of 1980 was an exciting time in Dr. Milton K.D. Bosch's life. He graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and he made his first financial contribution in support of IPPNW's global mission of health and peace. Since then Dr. Bosch and his wife of 21 years, Elizabeth Anne Walker, have continuously renewed their support.

In 2004, Dr. Bosch began giving through IPPNW's Partners for Peace program and joined hundreds of other supporters whose donation of \$10.00 or more per month provides IPPNW with a vital resource. As Dr. Bosch said, "non-profits like IPPNW need a steady income they can rely on, and monthly donors support that." Because Dr. Bosch is now retired and living on a fixed income, the monthly giving program allows him to make a more reliable impact on IPPNW's work and in his own words, "be part of the legacy of caring individuals and organizations that truly make a long term difference to life on this fragile planet – not just humankind, but all life as well."

Living in the "beautiful wine country of Napa Valley [California]" Dr. Bosch and Elizabeth have three wonderful children. Together they are active in their community and serve on numerous committees. Dr. Bosch is a Deacon in the First

Presbyterian Church in Napa and serves on his congregation's Peace and Justice Committee. They have traveled to Washington seven times to lobby congressmen, senators, and the World Bank.

While Dr. Bosch remains committed to many worthy causes, he regards the mission of IPPNW as a critical pathway to progress on other important issues. According to Dr. Bosch, "The possibility of nuclear war remains the gravest threat to mankind's survival that we have ever known..." On the importance of supporting the work of physicians he writes, "They are the stewards of our overall well being."

Our deepest thanks to Dr. Bosch, whose generosity each month helps build our campaigns to abolish nuclear weapons and promote peace. We thank this extraordinary supporter, and all others, and invite you to join him in becoming Partners for Peace!



IPPNW Germany focuses on Iraq

Over the past few months the German Affiliate has placed the current situation in Iraq and the consequences of the war in the center of its focus. Besides giving background information on the current health issues (referring to the Medact study), physician's roles in torture (e.g. Abu Ghraib) and the UN's role in Iraq by submitting articles to the *Deutsches Aerzteblatt* (German physicians magazine) and a feature article in the latest *Forum* (IPPNW Germany's bimonthly magazine), special emphasis was

placed on the IPPNW Germany's projects in Iraq. Dr. Angelika Claussen emphasized that immediate help is needed for traumatized children in Iraq. By educating Iraqi psychiatrists, helping to build care units with trained staff and advisory work by German psychiatrists, IPPNW Germany is trying to build up a local task force. The second project, the "IPPNW Kinderhilfe", focuses on providing medical treatment for severely ill Iraqi children, either in Iraq or in Germany, and supports Iraqi hospitals with medical supplies.

Non Proliferation Treaty
Review Conference
New York, United States
5/2/2005 - 5/22/2005

Small Arms and Light Weapons
PrepCom
UN Program for Action
New York, United States
7/11/2005 - 7/15/2005

"Nuclear Terror: 60 Years on"
MAPW National Conference
Melbourne, Australia
8/6/2005 - 8/7/2005

World Peace Music Awards
60 year Commemoration
Nagasaki, Japan
8/9/2005

5th IPPNW North Asia
Regional Conference
Hiroshima, Japan
8/20/2005-8/21/2005

Annual Board Meeting
Cambridge, MA
9/31/2005 - 10/2/2005

European Regional
IPPNW Conference
Aubagne (Marseille), France
10/29/2005 - 10/30/2005



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IPPNW is a non-partisan federation of national medical organizations in 58 countries dedicated to eliminating nuclear weapons, to preventing war through non-violent conflict resolution, and to minimizing the effects of war and preparations for war on health, development, and the environment through research, education, and advocacy.