

IPPNW "Aiming for Prevention" International Campaign on Preventing Injuries from Small Arms and Light Weapons

IPPNW Participating Affiliates - Activity Summaries for 2004 by Country

IPPNW's small arms work is organised around the public health initiative "Aiming for Prevention" and includes research, education, advocacy and policy initiatives. We currently have active programs in El Salvador, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, India, and Pakistan. IPPNW/Philippines is engaged in a related program entitled "Peaceworks." Support for the program is provided by foundations and government entities and other affiliates including Canada, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and others.

IPPNW/El Salvador

Salvadorian Physicians for Social Responsibility Medicos Salvadoreños para la Responsabilidad Social (MESARES and the student group, EMESARES)

- A major accomplishment by MESARES in 2004 was publication of research results of a one-year epidemiological study at the Hospital Rosales in San Salvador profiling 100 victims of firearms injuries and the costs to the hospital and the community. Study leader Dr Emperatriz Crespín presented preliminary findings in June at the pre-conference to the 7th World Injury Conference convened by the Centers for Disease Control in Vienna "The Role of Public Health in the Prevention of War-related Injuries," and EMESARES students who collected the data presented it at the IPPNW World Congress in Beijing in September. They hope to replicate this study in another region of El Salvador in conjunction with UNDP/WHO.
- MESARES has just undertaken a "Peace Through Health" survey in rural El Salvador involving 150 Medical Students from the National University to identify the relationship between small arms and impact on health from the community viewpoint, especially in areas of post-conflict.
- MESARES regularly helps organise public events to bring attention to small arms violence such as the recent "Mass of Angels" at the Cathedral of San Salvador, held in conjunction with a local radio station and children from national schools and their teachers, to remember the victims of small arms in El Salvador, attended by the Vice-President and the Human Rights Councilor of El Salvador.
- MESARES was appointed to serve on the Technical Committee of the UNPD Programme of Action on Small Arms, and works on policy issues at the national level with government, business and all sectors of civil society and NGOs.
- EMESARES was invited by the UN to participate in the upcoming Regional Meeting for Youth Network of the United Nations in Managua, Nicaragua.

IPPNW/Democratic Republic of Congo

Congolese Physicians for Peace (CPP)

- CPP's Dr Simon Bokongo was recently elected to serve as the National Assistant Coordinator on the newly established board of the DRC National Network on Small Arms/Light Weapons, which will work closely with the National Focal Point on SALW.
- CPP is the Landmine Monitor country researcher for the Landmine Monitor, and CPP published *The DRC Landmine Report 2004* released at the November Nairobi Summit for a Mine-Free World.

CPP planned a series of activities during 2004. Highlights include:

- A three-day workshop in January on the "Role of the Medical Community in the Prevention of SALW-related Deaths and Injuries," attended by 112 medical professionals, 34 scientists and members of the public, and a large number of UN Cooperation Agencies, NGO representatives and local authorities - this workshop was repeated in August in Kinshasa.
- Two workshops in Kinshasa and Kisangani in September in collaboration with Africa Peace Forum (APFO), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), and GADERES on "The Role of Civil Society in Combating SALW Illicit Trafficking in DRC and Great Lakes Region" attended by a wide range of government representatives and NGO's, which led to the establishment of the National Focal Point as recommended by UN Programme of Action.
- Co-planning the November workshop to create the DRC National Network on SALW.
- CPP is working in collaboration with Congo En Image (CIM) to produce materials directed at youth living in at risk communities such as Ituri, Bafwasenda and the eastern Congo to raise awareness on SALW issues.
- They are collecting data from victims, families, communities and hospitals to create materials for IPPNW's One Bullet Story initiative.
- CPP is currently working with the National Commission for Disarmament and the Military Structure of Reintegration to train 60 Sensitizers for DDR process. The DDR will demobilize 330,000 combatants and reintegrate only 130,000 among them in the future National Army. 180,000 ex combatants will be sent in to civilian life. This process is important in reducing the SALW epidemic and the health consequences in the affected communities.
- Since 2003 IPPNW/DRC has been conducting epidemiological research on causes and effects of small arms injuries in health facilities in Eastern DRC. A draft of this research was presented by Dr Ruku Oyaku Bhileni at the international June CDC-convened conference in Vienna "The Role of Public Health in the Prevention of War-related Injuries." Findings will be presented at the Biennial Meeting of States 2nd UN Conference on SALW in New York in July 2005. Pending funding, they will participate in a multinational hospital research pilot study that will entail collecting data on small arms injuries from hospitals in 8 -10 countries and allow for comparative analysis.

IPPNW/Kenya

Kenya Association of Physicians and Medical Workers for Social Responsibility,

- IPPNW/Kenya conceived of and developed the "One Bullet Story" advocacy tool that captures in pictures and text the human dimension of small arms violence including the costs to the victim, the community, the economy and society. Dr Walter Odhiambo presented the first OBS at the "The Role of Public Health in the Prevention of War-related Injuries," in Vienna in June, and is helping to oversee the development of stories by affiliates in Uganda, Zambia, El Salvador and India to be featured in an IPPNW public health and small arms advocacy training manual.
- The affiliate members participated actively at several meetings and seminars, both nationally and internationally, including the 16th World Congress in Beijing.
- IPPNW/Kenya published *Africa against AIDS* book authored by Dr Ruku Oyaku Bhileni of the DR Congo affiliate.
- IPPNW/Kenya is collaborating 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 policy change with regard to laws governing the possession and use of firearms in Kenya.

- Medical students engage in various humanitarian activities including follow-up on the rehabilitation of the survivors of firearm assault and the impact of fatalities on the lives of dependants left behind.

IPPNW/Nigeria - Society of Nigerian Doctors for the Welfare of Mankind

- IPPNW/Nigeria has focused on youth violence and the public health aspects of small arms injuries. They facilitated a small arms workshop for the students of Bayero University Kano, which was widely publicised by local and national press. The assistant inspector general of police delivered the keynote address on "Youth Violence." An HIV/AIDS awareness workshop was also conducted on campus.
- A press release was issued to support the IANSA week of action 2004. No public event was organised during the Small arms Week 2004 because of the ban on public gatherings as a fall out of the recent ethno-religious conflict that claimed thousand of lives and properties worth millions.
- Dr Ime John presented a paper at the June Vienna conference "The Role of Public Health in the Prevention of War-related Injuries" on the "Impact Of Small Arms On Health In Nigeria", and organised and spoke at a symposium on "Conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great lakes Region: Periscoping Wars in Africa, and the Way Forward", at the IPPNW World Congress in Beijing in September.

Current projects launched in 2004 include:

- Collection of data of gunshot injuries sustained during violent conflicts in Delta and northern parts of Nigeria
- Analyzing the questionnaires of a pilot survey on youth violence in the southern, Niger Delta of Nigeria with the hope of publishing them.
- In conjunction with Dr Diego Zavala of Puerto Rico, Dr Ime John helped initiate planning for a groundbreaking multinational hospital research pilot study that will entail collecting data on small arms injuries from hospitals in 8-10 countries, and allow for a first-ever comparative analysis of these countries. If funded, Nigeria will participate in the project.

IPPNW/Uganda

Ugandan Association of Medical Workers for Health and Environmental Concerns

- IPPNW/Uganda released its book entitled *The Landmine Situation in Uganda 1999-2000*, primary author Dr Edison Mworozzi, in preparation for the Nairobi Summit of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty.
- 2004 has seen ongoing research on the health impact of landmines, with recently started work on small arms and injuries in the eastern region, and capacity-building efforts such as formation of new student groups at Makerere Medical School and Mbale School of Clinical Officers.
- Presentations on peace through health were conducted in Mbale and Kampala to increase medical community awareness and interest in working on the SALW issue.
- Dr Peter Olupot-Olupot presented papers at the June Vienna conference "The Role of Public Health in the Prevention of War-related Injuries" on "Awareness and Sensitization on Effects of Small Arms on Health," and on "Dynamics Of HIV/AIDS in Conflicts: Situation Analysis In

Africa" at the IPPNW World Congress in Beijing in September. Dr Mworozzi presented a poster on Landmines in Uganda in Vienna.

- IPPNW/Uganda developed victim intake and consent forms to be used by affiliates when gathering information for "One Bullet Stories."
- Delegates plan to attend the Peace through Health conference in May 2005 in Hamilton, Canada.
- They will also participate in a multinational hospital research pilot study that will collect data on small arms injuries from hospitals in 8-10 countries, Pending funding,

Zambia

Zambia Healthworkers for Social Responsibility (ZHSR)

- ZHSR's Dr Robert Mtonga just had a chapter published in a new book entitled *Hide and Seek: Taking Account of Small Arms in Southern Africa* edited by Chandré Gould and Guy Lamb.
- Dr Mtonga was asked to participate by The Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy (CENFAD) at Temple University in a survey of experts on the related issues of small arms and light weapons (SALW) proliferation and its effects on development.
- ZHSR participated in the July Global Week of Action carrying out media, school and public campaigns in the form of discussions, write-ups and cultural dances.
- ZHSR has been involved in the collection of data on SALW, and recently worked with Gun-Free South Africa and the Center for Conflict Resolution of South Africa on a project researching the Proliferation of Firearms in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- ZHSR collected data from six SADC countries on behalf of IANSA towards understanding the regional dynamics of SALW.
- Has also been participating in Regional workshops on SALW, helping shape the SALW agenda in the region and beyond; presented a workshop on the Landmine Campaign on behalf of ICBL at the CIVICUS World Assembly in Gaborone, Botswana in March.
- ZHSR is collecting data for the "One Bullet Stories".
- Dr Robert Mtonga presented a paper at the symposium on "Conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes Region: Periscoping Wars in Africa, and the Way Forward", at the IPPNW World Congress in Beijing in September.
- ZHSR is the Landmine Monitor researcher for Zambia, annually collects data on landmine incidents and related issues in Zambia, and participated in the recent Landmines Summit in Nairobi.
- ZHSR is currently working with the Small Arms Survey of the Graduate Institute Small Arms Division in Geneva, Switzerland, profiling some aspects of the costs of Small Arms Injuries to the Health System in Zambia.
- They will participate in a multinational hospital research pilot study that will entail collecting data on small arms injuries from hospitals in 8-10 countries, and allow for comparative analysis, pending funding,

India

IPPNW affiliate Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD), Delhi

Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament & Environmental Protection (IIPDEP), Nagpur

In the past year, IDPD and IIPDEP have conducted more than 16 symposia or workshops in major cities and border towns, hospitals and meeting halls that have brought together over 1000 physicians, medical students and others. Most events incorporated both SALW and nuclear disarmament components. Others focused on data collection and documentation of landmines and small arms victims, or on risk education.

IDPD - In the first half of 2004 IDPD's work in the region was defined by efforts to bridge the Indian/Pakistani divide. IDPD 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.

- A seminar titled 'Physicians for Peace and Development' bringing Pakistani and Indians together in Karachi was planned for June 2004, but due to visa complications and political intervention, had to be held in Punjab.
- IDPD released the 200-page book *South Asia in Quest for Peace and Health* at the International seminar on "War, Violence and Health- South Asian Perspective" at New Delhi in February.
- IDPD actively participated in the World Social Forum and participated in the workshop on Small Arms organised by IANSA and Oxfam.
- IDPD's Dr Arun Mitra co-convoked the symposium "Armed Violence in South Asia: From Small Arms to Nuclear Weapons" at the IPPNW World Congress in Beijing in September.
- IDPD is collecting data for an Indian "One Bullet Story."
- They are currently conducting a competition for posters with medical students on the theme *Build Schools Hospitals and a Future - Not Bombs, Missiles and Death*.
- In Spring 2004 an international delegation of IPPNW physicians and medical students from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Sweden, and the US, took part in a 6-day series of "Dialogues with Decision Makers" mission and meetings with government leaders, parliamentarians, medical professionals, and the media in the capital cities of India and Pakistan.
- A 26-member delegation of the IDPD will go to Pakistan on 10 December 2004 to participate in "Indo Pak Doctors Meet On Peace And Health" to be held at Karachi on 12 Dec.
- Next national conference of the IDPD will be held on 5-6 March 2005 at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) in South India. Proposed state meetings : Bangalore (Karnatka) - 9 January 2005; Rajasthan - February or April 2005.

IIPDEP

- Dr Balkrishna Kurvey conducted a workshop on "Mobilising the Medical Community on Small Arms Issues" at the June Vienna conference "The Role of Public Health in the Prevention of War-related Injuries" .
- He presented "The Continuing Toll of Landmines" at the IPPNW World Congress in Beijing in September.
- Dr Nalini Kurvey presented "Proliferation of Small Arms and its effects in South Asia" at the symposium "Armed Violence in South Asia: From Small Arms to Nuclear Weapons" in Beijing.
- Dr Balkrishna Kurvey is Coordinator of Indian Campaign to Ban Landmine and served as a delegate of the ICBL to the November Nairobi Summit for a Mine-Free World.
- Dr Nalini recently presented at the international "First Meeting of Signatories to Geneva Call's Deed of Commitment" in Geneva, Switzerland arranged by Geneva Call and Program for the Study of International Organizations. As a result of IIPDEP efforts, the National

Socialist Council of Nagaland, the oldest and most powerful NSA in North-East India, signed the Geneva Call, banning the use of anti personnel landmines.

- IIPDEP has been actively collecting data on firearms and landmine casualties for better understanding the epidemic of armed violence in South Asia, and for participating in the global dialogue of the prevention imperative. They are focusing their research on the India/Pakistan border, and are coordinating data collection across provinces.

Pakistan

Pakistan Doctors for Peace and Development (PDPD)

PDPD under the direction of Dr Tipu Sultan, works with Indian colleagues on cross-border efforts such as Dialogues with Decision Makers meetings with policy makers, medical community meetings, and other such fora to address the health impacts of SALW/landmines, and nuclear tensions in South Asia.

Norway

Norske Leger mot Atomvåpen

NLA has focused on fundraising in our national small arms initiatives in 2004. They have, in cooperation with the IPPNW Central Office and the Ugandan and Zambian affiliates, submitted a proposal to the Norwegian official development aid bureau which we hope will raise money for groundbreaking public health work in Uganda and Zambia.