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* EVENTS:

*Melbourne, War never again Art Show Fundraiser , Sat,19th May,3pm

*Newcastle, 23rd June, Dr Vince Scappatura:"US soft power influence in Australia"

*Hobart, 21st September, "Drumming for Peace" - WILPF Tas

Trump sabotages international peace agreement with Iran



ABC Report: 9th May 2018

Donald Trump's decision to violate the Iran nuclear deal and reimpose US sanctions will not lead us immediately to disaster. That may come later.

Right now, America is on one side of the argument while its key allies including the UK, Germany and France, stand with Iran. Australia, by the way, also opposed scrapping the deal.

The leaders of the UK, Germany and France, say as a result of the deal "the world is a safer place". And, while Donald Trump seeks to hurt Iran economically, they are working with Iran to see what they can offer to keep

the Iranians in the deal, "including through ensuring the continuing economic benefits to the Iranian people".

The most immediate effect of the US decision will be the re-imposition of sanctions against Iran's oil industry and its banking sector which will kick in over several months. The sanctions previously had a crushing effect on Iran's oil exports and since the nuclear deal was implemented oil exports have more than doubled.



Media Release

11th May, 2018

Dangerous military escalation in the Middle East follows Trump dump of Iran agreement

" President Trump's cancellation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreement over nuclear weapons, signed in 2015 between Iran and other nations has already led, as expected, to further military escalation in the Middle East," Mr Nick Deane speaking on behalf of the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) said today. "This is an extremely dangerous situation," he continued.

IPAN joins other influential groups like the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in condemning US President Trump's announcement that the United States is withdrawing from the JCPOA.

"For world peace, Trump's decision is the most damaging and dangerous thing he has done yet. It threatens to further destabilise the Middle East; it could well put an end to efforts to 'de-nuclearize' the world and puts the coming talks with North Korea in jeopardy."

“How can we expect North Korea to have faith in any agreement signed by the USA, when, after only three years the USA has reneged on the Iran agreement? So what hope is there for a successful outcome from the coming talks?

“IPAN welcomes the statements from Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the Foreign Minister Julie Bishop in support of retaining the deal but they need to speak out more strongly to President Trump against his rash action,” said Mr Deane.

“As the Nobel Peace prize winner ICAN put it, now is a time for making agreements to stop the spread of nuclear weapons - not tearing them up!”

“Israel is already a nuclear-armed state and is the sworn enemy of Iran. However, Israeli military experts have reportedly advised their government that Trump's move puts their nation at heightened risk of open conflict.”

“Thanks to Donald Trump, the world is an even more dangerous place today than it was two days ago!” said Mr Deane.

Media Interviews: Contact Nick Deane 0420 526 929

Media release



ABC News Report
**Peace at last. It sounds too good to be true,
and it may be.**

But the language of unity after the threat of catastrophic war just a year ago is remarkable.

The two sides will work towards signing a peace treaty formally ending the Korean war, sixty five years after the armistice was signed.

Both Koreas will work towards the denuclearisation of the peninsula.

The tone and language spoke of, "one nation, one language, one blood".

"We can make a better future with our hands together," Kim Jong-un said.

ABC News Report

**Kim Says He'll Give Up Weapons if U.S.
Promises Not to Invade**



North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, told President Moon Jae-in of South Korea when they met that he would abandon his nuclear weapons if the United States would agree to formally end the Korean War and promise that it would not invade his country, a South Korean government spokesman said Sunday.

In a faith-building gesture ahead of a summit meeting with President Trump, Mr. Kim also said he would invite experts and journalists from South Korea and the United States to watch the shutdown next month of his country's only known underground nuclear test site.

In releasing three Korean-American prisoners prior to the US-North Korean Summit meeting, North Korea has now set the stage for the summit, experts say, by meeting American preconditions to release the prisoners, stopping nuclear and long-range ballistic missile tests, and agreeing to discuss the prospect of denuclearization.



Report

IPAN (ACT) RALLY- TUESDAY 8TH MAY, PARLIAMENT HOUSE LAWNS, CANBERRA.

IPAN calls for the immediate review of the \$3.8 billion arms exports program.

The Australian Government has announced a \$3.8b program to provide finance to encourage an Australian arms export industry. It has also announced plans to increase Australia's 'Defence' budget to 2% of GDP (in line with US President Trump's call), regardless of whether this spending is needed or the most effective way of ensuring Australia's security.

“IPAN disagrees with this direction and calls for a review of the arms export program to consider options such as redirecting the funds from arms manufacturing and export to other manufacturing export industries, or scrapping it altogether,” said Ms Kathryn Kelly, spokesperson for the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network.

Australian Military Sales Catalogue

Australian Military Sales Office



2018, Edition 2

Satirical Video clip- Australian Government weapons- of- war sales pitch

Put the following URL in your browser to view :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhfgQzMVJxl>



IPAN (Vic) organises for quick reponse anti-war protest

"In the event of an imminent major military conflict, or war actually breaking out, we urge everyone to rally outside the State Library in Swanston Street, Melbourne, from 5pm that evening – bring banners and placards – family and friends"

Independent and Peaceful Australia Network

Keep Australia Out of U.S. wars!

Dear IPAN affiliates, members and friends,

On January 25th this year, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* reported that the hands of the “Doomsday Clock” had been moved to 2 minutes to Midnight. In their opinion this was the closest the world has been to nuclear conflagration since the Cold War days of 1953.

Provocation or miscalculation could easily lead to war in Syria, the Korean Peninsula, the South China Sea or Eastern Ukraine, and the current war in Syria is already “war by proxy”, involving the US, Israel and Turkey along with Russia and Iran, and Saudi Arabia also flexing muscle.

While these tensions seem remote from Australia, our foreign policy tags

along with whatever position taken by the dangerously unpredicted United States and its NATO allies.

Australia can be threatened by nuclear war, especially if our troops and ships and planes are directly involved in American military planning. The Pine Gap spy base near Alice Springs is very much a potential nuclear target, as is Darwin where thousands of US marines are in training and ships, planes and other weapons are based.

We may not be able to stop war breaking out, but we can keep Australia out of it if we mobilise enough people early enough!

In the event of an imminent major military conflict, or war actually breaking out, we urge everyone to rally outside the State Library in Swanston Street, Melbourne, from 5pm that evening – bring banners and placards – family and friends.

Please circulate this email to your organisations and social media links so that the maximum number of people are made aware of this contingency plan and are prepared to mobilise against the threat of war.

If you'd like to be added to the urgent email list please email ipan.victoria1@gmail.com, or contact Shirley 0417456001, Kisten 0412906459 or Fiona 0430907714.

Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN –Vic)

ipan.victoria1@gmail.com.



**Filippino and Jeju
Island women meet in
South Korea for anti-
militarisation
conference**

Report from Sung-Hee Choi:

On May 9. A small but warm and meaningful gathering was held. The title of the talk was "Philippines and Jeju Women Talk about Militarism" We thank Merci Llarinas Angeles, Corazon Valdez Fabros, and Prescilla Tulipat for a solidarity visit. Here I want to share Merci's beautiful poem which was recited by Merci, Cora, and Prescilla in the event today:

THE PEACE WOMEN PARTNERS VISION

When women from the margins meet
No words are needed
For we are united by experiences
of violence in our homelands

And our VISION:

Never again should there be a war
that orphans children of any nation
Never again should a mother
see her child die in her arms
Never again should a woman's mind and body
be colonized by patriarchy

We are women from different tribes, races and cultures
With a Mission to build a peaceful world
free from all forms of violence against women

- enabling women to tell our stories
- creating a culture of peace
- providing resources for women's body mind emotions and spirit
- strengthening women's organizations
- creating partnerships with all who work for peace.

Our message rings clear
See the images

Hear our voices

We will not be silenced

We will not accept their wars

We shall pray speak sing dance

write fight for peace

until all flames of war

are extinguished.

Peace and harmony shall reign

over all our lands.

Merci Llarinas-Angeles

Peace Women Partners

Philippines



Report:
WILPF Australia's
Triennial Conference
in Brisbane, 5-6th May



WILPF Australia held its Triennial Conference in Brisbane on the weekend of 5, 6 May, celebrating 103 years of continuous women's work towards peace internationally, and setting priorities for our work in Australia over the next three years.

We were pleased to have as a guest speaker, Gem Romuld, the Australian Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). ICAN was founded in Australia in Melbourne in 2007 with several WILPF Australia women integrally involved in setting up its office.

WILPF is currently on the ICAN International Steering Group, and WILPF's program "Reaching Critical Will", which is based in New York, has been working closely with ICAN to achieve the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the UN in July 2017.

ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2017 "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons".

Gem is pictured at the WILPF Triennial, with the medal which was awarded to ICAN.

The Guardian:
US troops are now in Darwin. But questions remain as to why ?
Nick Deane



Having foreign troops on home territory creates a potential breach in any sovereign nation's defence

The 2018 contingent of more than 1,500 US marines began arriving in Darwin two weeks ago. Every year since 2012 marines have been routinely stationed here, and, under the terms of the force posture agreement between the USA and Australia, they will be here every year until 2040.

This is an extraordinary arrangement, which has come under little public scrutiny. The strategic significance of having the forces of a foreign nation stationed on domestic territory has largely escaped attention. Why this highly unusual deployment has become necessary in peace time has never been properly explained.

Having foreign troops on home territory creates a potential breach in any sovereign nation's defence. The first criterion of independence has to be the nation's capacity to look after itself by conducting its own defence. Under normal circumstances no independent nation entertains the forces of another nation in anything other than the most extreme of situations, such as being under immediate threat from some third party.

In the case of Australia, no such threat exists. The 2016 defence white paper states that there is no more than a remote possibility of a military attack by another country on Australian territory in the foreseeable future. This being the case, there should be some other explanation for such an unusual development. However, successive Australian governments have offered only flimsy reasons.

[READ ON](#)

An Avalanche of Advocates - Richard Butler

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations,

3 May 2018

No comparable country is experiencing a public discourse as heavily managed as ours, towards ignoring the reality of the challenges to order and stability currently posed by the Trump Administration, and to its dismissal of truth, of facts, as the optimal currency for the consideration of serious issues. The US media and public discourse on these realities is, in fact, far more critical than ours, in spite of the extreme pressures of US patriotism.

In these circumstances, any incoming US Ambassador will face a task no more serious than preaching to the choir, although as noted in my earlier blog, the Ambassador will have the job of husbanding the interests of the US arms industry.

READ ON

IPAN accepted as a member of the International Peace Bureau

The **International Peace Bureau (IPB)**, founded in 1891, is one of the world's oldest international peace federations. It is dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. Its current main programme centres on Disarmament for Sustainable Development and within this, its focus is mainly on the reallocation of military expenditure. **IPB** believes that by reducing funding for the military sector, significant amounts of money could be released for social projects, domestically or abroad, which could lead to the fulfillment of real human needs and the protection of the environment. At the same time, it supports a range of disarmament campaigns and supply data on the economic dimensions of weapons and conflicts.

IPB's is comprised of 300 member organisations in 70 countries, together with individual members, form a global network, bringing together knowledge and campaigning experience in a common cause.

Quakers warn of pressures to water down gun controls in Australia

This Alert follows one in July 2016 on this subject (16-07). There have been recent moves to increase pressure to water down gun laws in Australia. A summary of this is given below, along with suggested action in response. According to a report by Ben Smee in *The Guardian* (26 March 2018), gun control advocates have called for federal intervention after a report has shown that states and territories have breached the 1996 national firearms agreement. Gun Control Australia (which issued the report) is seeking a

referendum to make the laws a federal responsibility. This comes at a time when (a) Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton has revealed wanting to set up a committee to allow gun importers to review proposed changes to firearms regulations, and (b) Tasmania's re-elected Liberal Government plans to water down gun laws.

[READ ON](#)



Does ScoMo's Budget include financial support for nuclear waste dumping in Australia ?

-Bevan Ramsden.

There is a one liner in the 2018 May Budget which reads as follows:

“158 National Radioactive Waste Management Facility — funding to complete detailed business case(c) – nfp”

“nfp” means that the amount allocated is not for publication.

To understand why this item requires some clarification and explanation one has to go back to the Howard government days. I refer to the following extracts from “National Insecurity- the Howard Government’s Betrayal of Australia” by Linda Weiss, Elizabeth Thurbon and John Matthews:

“In 2006, John Howard committed Australia to a U.S.-led partnership to promote nuclear energy as a solution to the hitherto “non problem” of global warming. Howard’s objective was to create a receptive environment for a US-centric strategy in which it would appear “natural” for Australia not only to ramp up uranium exports, but also to serve as a recipient of and a receptacle for, other country’s nuclear waste.

Terminological innovation (bought by Howard from Washington) has been key to creating an environment receptive to the plan. Australia would be not be *selling* nuclear fuel but *leasing* it.

And like any good property owner it will expect its *leased* material to be returned – in the form of radioactive waste. Nuclear *leasing* had become the jewel in the crown of Howard's energy strategy."

[READ ON](#)

Australia's perpetual "war-footing" - Henry Reynolds.

(With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations, 7th May)

We should have paid more attention at the time. It was September 2013 and the Abbott government had just been sworn in. The new Defence Minister, Senator David Johnston, gave an interview to a Fairfax journalist which was reported on the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald. The content was truly extraordinary.

He declared that he wanted the forces to be 'battle ready' for future wars in the Middle East or South Asia, adding that he thought Pakistan was 'highly problematic'. He observed that after fourteen years of involvement in overseas conflict the defence forces had 'a strong fighting momentum that should not be lost'. And indeed he said that he planned to maintain and 'augment our readiness' for future fights. With what appeared to be the impending withdrawal from Afghanistan it was essential 'to maintain some interest for the troops. They've got to keep training, got to keep a level of readiness.'

[READ ON](#)

EVENTS:

Melbourne, War never again Art Show Fundraiser, Saturday, 19th May, 3pm
, 62 Lygon St Carlton, per courtesy of Medical Association for Prevention of

War and the International Campaign for prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Newcastle, 23rd June, 7pm, Dr Vince Scappatura: "US soft power influence in Australia" Carrington Bowling Club, Cowper St, Carrington, organised by the Broad Left.

Hobart: WILPF Tas is organising "Drumming for Peace" to be held on UN International Day of Peace on 21 September, from 12-1 p.m. in the Hobart City Mall.

We invite all those who can across Australia to drum something at that time to show the Government we want Australia to sign the UN Ban on Nuclear Weapons.

Voice is produced and edited by the Media Group of the IPAN co-ordinating committee. It is produced for IPAN affiliates to:

- *provide a medium for communication of their campaigns and activities*
- *provide a medium for discussion of issues central to IPAN's objectives*
- *provide affiliates with details of co-ordinating committee activities, media releases, lobbying activities and other actions taken on behalf of IPAN*
- * provide information on issues/events relating to IPAN's objectives*

Contributions to Voice, in information or comment, should be emailed to :

ipan.australia@gmail.com and limited, if possible to 200 words.

The Media Group takes editorial responsibility for choice of content and is responsible to the IPAN co-ordinating committee. **Disclaimer:** Voice publishes a range of articles which reflect the broad movement for an independent and peaceful Australia but not all articles will necessarily reflect IPAN's position."

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