



Welcome to Global Action's Holiday 2011 Newsletter!

The second half of 2011 has proven to be a period of extraordinary opportunities: leading discussions on linkages between women's participation and atrocity crime prevention, examining the role of media in policy debates at the UN, monitoring the First Committee on International Security and Disarmament in the General Assembly, and much more.

Most recently, Global Action was pleased to co-organize a seminar in Quito with the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador on combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALWs). In attendance were Andean region governments, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, military personnel, and other experts from around the region, all of whom were seeking greater regional cooperation to eradicate the illicit trade in SALWs. A full report from the seminar will be shared in our next Newsletter. Also while in region,

Global Action visited the UN-mandated University for Peace meeting with students, highlighting linkages between gender, the arms trade, and disarmament, and promoting avenues for mutual cooperation with the Costa Rica-based institution.

Additionally, our social networking project, "Disarmament Dialogues" continues to provide opportunities to engage various constituencies worldwide on critical issues of human security. We are always open to further interaction on our Twitter (@DisarmDialogues) and Facebook page. As a complement, we have launched an [informal blog](#) to serve as a platform of exchange for our on-going work at UN headquarters and beyond. We invite you to consult the blog and offer your comments.

Through the indispensable support of our media consultant Lia Petridis Maiello, we have begun a process of brokering conversations between UN-based journalists, UN secretariat staff, diplomats and NGOs on how to promote more honest and transparent reporting of UN activities. Our hope is to learn more about what UN-based journalists do, explore the obstacles they face, and find ways to help them craft stories that combine what the UN accomplishes with knowledge of its often complex working methods.

As we look forward to another year of exciting new opportunities, we are mindful of the many forms of generous support we have received throughout 2011. We thank you and wish you a peaceful and prosperous new year.

Women, Peace and Security Update

Linking Women's Participation and the Prevention of Atrocity Crimes November 14, 2011



In our efforts to fully implement our MOU with the [Rutgers University Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights](#), Global Action was 'on stage' recently in Newark for a presentation focused on our efforts to link the prevention of atrocity crimes and the full participation of women in all conflict prevention and response measures. The focus is a new group organized by Women's Project Director Melina Lito that brings together UN and NGO officials from the gender and genocide prevention communities to find ways to influence next year's General Assembly debate on 'third pillar' response capacities under the RtoP framework. We anticipate a truly global process to ensure a diversity of recommendations to discuss with diplomats. We hope that our agreement with Rutgers will result in a robust, cutting-edge,

fully-funded program that offers hope and mentoring for a new generation seeking to eliminate the threat of mass atrocities.

2011 Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security October 28, 2011

A month of celebrations for the 11th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 came to a close on 28 October 2011 with the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security. This year's theme was *Women's Participation and Their Role in Conflict Prevention and Mediation*. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UN-Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet let, and ECOSOC President Ambassador Lazarus Kapambwe of Zambia were among the main presenters, followed by Orzala Ashraf Nemat who spoke on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Women Peace and Security (NGOWGWPS).



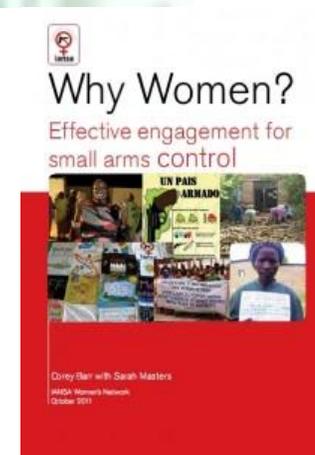
Overall, a number of delegations applauded the work of UN Women and discussed the progress of their respective National Action Plans. Attention was also paid to the role of civil

society in initiating dialogue around these issues as well as acting as critical players in building the capacity necessary to help women participate. This debate is a good annual reminder of the importance of integrating women, peace and security into the Council agenda on a regular basis as well as highlighting the cross-cutting issues involved with securing women's active participation and full political access.

For a full report, please click [here](#).

Why Women? Effective Engagement for Small Arms Control October 25, 2011

The Global Action team was recently interviewed by Corey Barr, an independent consultant for the International Action Network Against Small Arms, on the role of women in small arms and light weapons (SALWs) disarmament and non-proliferation programs and policy making. We were pleased to contribute to the report that IANSA has produced encouraging the full implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution 65/69 (2010) "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control" adopted at last year's session of the GA, a resolution that is a clear complement to Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) regarding "Women, Peace and Security."



The publication outlines current conditions of engagement and leadership for women in disarmament as well as the negative roles women can play in promoting gun violence and undermining peace and security. Ms. Barr recognizes several challenges faced by women in this field, including unequal positioning, exclusion from legislation and policy, a lack of issue knowledge, as well as sidelining gender in the disarmament discourse. Nonetheless, the author offers important areas for action such as education, advocacy and awareness-raising, technical training for women, and adequate addressing of societal masculinities.

For access to the full publication, please click [here](#).

Third Committee of the GA Discusses the Advancement of Women October 10-12, 2011

The Third Committee of the General Assembly on Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs held a three-day session discussing the theme of “The Advancement of Women” during the week of 11 October 2011. The session included presentations from UN Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. Member states, relevant UN agencies, and international organizations also provided statements.

For a full summary of the discussion, please click [here](#).

Disarmament Update

First Committee of the GA Comes to a Close October 31, 2011

This year’s General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security met from October 3 through 31. Delegations undertook some of the most difficult issues facing the international community at present—nuclear disarmament, conventional weapons control, and disarmament machinery among others. After general debate and issue-specific discussion finished up, delegations took action on resolutions.



Each year the hope is that the international community can come together in this deliberative body to not only make commitments to disarmament, but also implement those commitments in national policies. It remains to be seen if the commitments adopted this year will be implemented, but the worth of the Committee in and of itself is clear. As High Representative for Disarmament Sergio Duarte stated at its opening, “...the Committee has the capability to make its own independent contribution to advancing multilateral norms in disarmament.” As has been the case in previous years, Global Action contributed to the *First Committee Monitor*, a weekly digest produced by Reaching Critical Will of reporting and analysis on the Committee’s work. Global Action focused specifically on discussions related to

conventional weapons such as transparency in armaments, military expenditure and the arms trade.

All issues of this year’s *Monitor* are available [here](#) on the Reaching Critical Will website. Also available are statements and voting results.

Global Action was also pleased to present one of the NGO statements to the First Committee on the ‘Implementation of the NPT Action Plan including the Middle East WMDfz.’

For access to all the presentations from civil society, please click [here](#).

Re-defining the Human Security Debate through Social Media July-August 2011

GAPW has been featured in the most recent newsletter (July/August 2011) of our partner the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC). Our International Coordinator Katherine Prizeman provided an article discussing how human security concerns have been redefined through new media and social technology widening public discourse on issues of global concern from mass atrocity crimes to disarmament. Commonly known as Web 2.0, social media tools and networking technologies have altered the rules of engagement for diplomacy, both official and unofficial. Human security challenges no longer fall exclusively under the purview of state officials and UN staff, but are open to a growing number of academics, advocates and avid networkers.

GAPW has embraced this media movement as it has helped to expand our communication opportunities to better service and engage with diverse global constituents and advocate for the integration of new perspectives into policy at UN Headquarters. We believe that an expansive network of diverse communication tools is indispensable to the work of a multifaceted human security agenda.



For the full newsletter from BICC, please click [here](#).

Putting US Military Expenditure into Perspective

There are several developments from budget fights in Washington to Wall Street protests in communities as diverse as San Diego,

California, Stillwater, Oklahoma and Casper, Wyoming that call into question the massive military spending that promotes global insecurity and robs communities of the capital needed to educate their children and create healthier, more sustainable lifestyles.

Following in the footsteps of GAPW co-founder Randy Forsberg, Alex Carlin has revised an earlier piece co-written with Forsberg that examines the vast amounts of US military spending that is less about defending the US homeland and more about fulfilling core foreign policy objectives. Massive military expenditures overseas - including military operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the presence of US military personnel and bases in dozens of other countries — constitute an enormous (and often needless) portion of the regular defense budget. Carlin breaks down the most recent numbers and helps us take charge of a budget that is much more likely to bankrupt our children than provide the security we seem to crave.

It is commonly understood that military spending, while perhaps beneficial in local contexts, is the least cost-effective way to promote economic growth in the US or any other nation. Despite this fact, global military budgets continue to expand. And in cases such as the US where modest defense cuts are being contemplated, voices from politics, policy and the military are raised in protest. Many believe in the pursuit of a globalized military based in part on US entitlement and in part on the dubious assertion that ‘we need to fight them over there so we don’t have to fight them over here.’

At the UN, we spend considerable time discussing with diplomats how best to fulfill a core principle of the international security system - undiminished security at the lowest possible levels of armament. Carlin’s piece helps point the way towards fulfillment of that challenging principle.

Alex Carlin’s updated article on US military spending is available [here](#).

Article XIV Conference on the CTBT September 23, 2011

State parties to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) came together to discuss at the fringes of the high-level meetings of the 66th session of the General Assembly to discuss how to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT. There have been several such conferences since 1999, when states parties came together for the first time under the treaty’s Article XIV provisions for adoption and ratification. States have met in alternating calendar years since the inaugural Article XIV conference. Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Tibor Toth, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the conference.

For the full report, please click [here](#).

The Secretary-General's High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security September 22, 2011

On Thursday, September 22, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened a High-Level Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security during the opening week of the General Assembly's 66th session. The meeting's aim was to discuss strengthening the global nuclear safety regime as well as ensuring maximum safety standards for nuclear power. The discussion was prompted in part by the Japanese Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station disaster in March 2011.



Among many proposals from the member states, the Secretary-General called on the General Assembly to create a United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, the Rio+20 Conference to incorporate this issue into their sustainable development agenda, the 2015 NPT Preparatory Committee to allocate time to discuss nuclear energy and safety, and the

IAEA to strengthen its role as a central player in the discussion of nuclear energy safety standards. The SG also called for greater linkage between the international nuclear response system and the international humanitarian coordination system. The plenary meeting was followed up by two parallel sessions with member states. The points of consensus during the meeting were considerable: strengthening the IAEA, applying the highest safety standards to all nuclear power plants, and ensuring public confidence and trust.

GAPW acknowledges that early notification of accidents is important, but it is not sufficient. Improving international safety and security standards related to construction, maintenance and rapid responses to accidents is likewise essential, but does not in and of itself represent full, 'good faith' compliance with our responsibility to protect civilians within and beyond borders from radiation and other impacts from nuclear catastrophe. Citizens worldwide demanding inexhaustible supplies of accessible, affordable energy must begin to make judgments on that energy similar to those they make every day in their families - the points at which risk mitigates desire. Whether nuclear energy poses risks greater than fissionable fuels and their extraction industries is open to debate. The consequences of nuclear mis-step, however, are not.

For full commentary on the meeting, please click [here](#).

Prior to the meeting, the UN Secretariat released a system-wide study on nuclear power. It is available [here](#).

For the Secretary-General's opening remarks, please click [here](#). His closing remarks are available [here](#).

Other country statements are available on the RCW website [here](#).

Civilian Protection Update

Day-long Strategy Session for Preventing Atrocity Crimes in the South Sudan Region November 1, 2011

Global Action recently hosted two of our partnership organizations, Our Humanity in the Balance ([OHIB](#)) and the League for Educational Awareness of the Holocaust ([LEAH](#)), for a day of briefings by UN officials and NGOs on the current situation in Sudan and South Sudan. Our relationship to LEAH has evolved as they have begun negotiations with OHIB directed towards a joint deployment in areas in and around South Sudan that have been subject to violence initiated against the Nuba people by the Sudanese government. Once organized and funded, this deployment will provide relief supplies to the Nuba camps that have cropped up along the South Sudan border, but will also provide opportunities for fact-finding and relationship building for subsequent activity in the region, including LEAH's ambitious monitoring system.

The South Sudan deployment is one of the educational and technical projects proposed by OHIB and endorsed by LEAH under its new strategic plan. While we believe that the benefits of deployment are many — including relief provisions for populations under siege as well as enhanced credibility with other genocide prevention organizations and agencies - it is the comprehensiveness of LEAH's approach that sets it apart. For us, the combination of direct service, monitoring, policy engagement, education and character development add up to a program with diverse focal points and prospects for fruitful collaboration.



Global Action stands ready to provide assistance on policy and connections with international actors such as OHIB who can in turn enhance the benefits of both initial and longer-term collaborative engagements on all of LEAH's programs. Our judgment is that LEAH, OHIB and their diverse partners are poised to make many significant contributions to the

heavy responsibilities associated with ending the threat of mass atrocities in our time.

Trust but Verify: Building Cultures of Support for the RtoP Norm September 15, 2011

Published in the September 2011 edition of the *Global Responsibility to Protect* Journal of the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, GAPW's Robert Zuber and former staff Ana Carolina Barry Laso explore how trust issues permeate all security policy deliberations, including recent UN discussions around the RtoP norm and implementation of its three 'pillars.' The authors underscore the importance of trust in three areas--trust in the viability of the norm itself, trust in the persons most closely associated with the norm, and trust in the institutions and persons responsible to 'house' and implement the norm. The authors suggest that as the implementation process shifts from promoting state capacity and ensuring more robust preventative capacities, to last resort direct responses to atrocity crimes, the need for dependable bonds of trust between RtoP advocates, and diplomats is vital.



For the full article, please click [here](#).

For access to the whole journal, please click [here](#).

For more information on our partners at the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, please click [here](#).

The Eastern Japan Disaster Six Months On September 14, 2011

At the invitation of our partners from the Soka Gakkai International UN Liaison Office, Global Action hosted a reception and discussion on the March 2011 Japan earthquake and subsequent tsunami disaster. The director of AidTAKATA Mr. Kiyoshi Murakami shared the experience of his hometown Rikuzentakata, a small coastline city in northeastern Japan, which was nearly wiped off the map following the tsunami. Of the 24,000 residents, more than half have been displaced and thousands have gone missing following the catastrophic 30-foot tsunami that flooded the city's coast. Mr. Murakami shared moving photos of the homes destroyed and buildings leveled.



A former UNHCR official, Mr. Murakami set up AidTAKATA to facilitate reconstruction and

rebuilding of Rikuzentakata. AidTAKATA seeks to facilitate not only relief and reconstruction of the city, but also 'green' development so that Rikuzentakata becomes a model city for others that have suffered from the devastating consequences of such natural disasters. The 10-year reconstruction plan articulated by Mr. Murakami seeks to repopulate the city to 100,000 individuals, invite new employment opportunities for a diversified population, incorporate ecological city planning and sustainable energy sources, and build a strong city infrastructure to guard against future natural disasters. Operations include the organization of public forums for national and international journalists, establishment of a local radio station, sponsorship of local micro-finance

projects, and coordination of contacts with international embassies in Toyko. The overall goal continues to be to involve the city's residents directly in the relief and reconstruction of their own community.

GAPW welcomes the opportunity to bring awareness and offer support to on-the-ground relief organizations such as AidTAKATA.

For more information on AidTAKATA, please click [here](#) (currently available only Japanese).

More information on any of our programs can be found on our [website](#).

Thank you for your continued support



Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW) was developed as a UN-based, transnational network of civil society, academic and diplomatic partners dedicated to practical measures for reducing levels of global conflict and to removing institutional and ideological impediments to addressing armed violence, mass atrocities and severe human rights violations at the earliest possible stages.

The GAPW Program Statement grounds its goals of conflict prevention in specific, integrated phases of policy work and pursues program priorities that demonstrate in a concrete way how we can move from an international system based on conflict and power relations to one grounded in law and robust multi-lateral institutions. Over the past decade, we have refined and promoted a comprehensive framework for human security that moves us towards a gradual, but irreversible, global demilitarization.

We continually highlight and integrate advances in early warning, conflict prevention, non-violent conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacemaking, transparency and other confidence-building measures, nuclear and conventional disarmament, and the implementation of legal, diplomatic and other complementary response capacities to address genocide, crimes against humanity, rape as an instrument of war, and other gross violations of human rights. We collaborate with many regional civil society, religious and academic groups to implement and assess tools and strategies to promote local cultures conducive to more peaceful, sustainable living.