



Welcome to this Jan - Feb 2008 edition of the International EWG e-newsletter.

In this first EWG e-newsletter of 2008 we thought it would be helpful to remind ourselves of our International Programme as it relates to the work of the EWG.

We also wish to draw together all the important work that WILPF members are doing including any written reports about environmental themes across the globe. Please see **WILPF's Voice on Environmental Matters**, in this e-news.

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Clarification on the Nov – Dec 2007 e-news

Please note that we have received two important comments, from Regina Birchem, about errors presented in our previous newsletter. We are very grateful to Regina for the clarification and apologies from us.

1. In the paragraph about Congress: the statement "During the workshop participants viewed a film about Cuba and organic gardening" is really not correct. The film was about "peak oil" not organic gardening. The video was entitled *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*, produced in 2006.

"When Cuba lost access to Soviet oil in the early 1990's, the country faced an immediate crisis feeding the population and an ongoing challenge: how to create a new low-energy society. Cuba transitioned from large, fossil-fuel intensive farming to small, less energy-intensive organic farms and urban gardens, and from a highly industrial society to a more sustainable one."

"This film tells the story of the Cuban people's hardship, ingenuity, and triumph over sudden adversity---through cooperation, conservation and community, told in their own words. As the world approaches Peak Oil, Cuba provides a valuable example of how to successfully address the challenge of reducing our energy use."

For more information go to; <http://www.communitysolution.org/cuba>

2. The second point of clarification is about CSD 16 (2008) and CSD 17 (2009)

CSD - Water and Sanitation are taken up again to make 8 themes overall.

I have some excellent reports and references that just came out about biofuels. One is 'The False Promise of Biofuels' a Special Report by Jack Santa Barbara from the International Forum on Globalization and the Institute for Policy Studies September 2007. They also published a 'Manifesto on Global Economic Transitions' (Editor Jerry Mander) <http://www.ifg.org>

EWG International Priorities

1. Continue with the environmental newsletter to inform about the resource interests of the military industrial complex and the effect on people and the environment of wars and occupations and the un-sustainable production and consumption activities of the military-industrial complex. **[Did you see Edel Havin Beukes' contribution to the UK WILPF Environment seminar, in London Nov 2007? See "Making War on Earth" below]**

2. Continue to contribute to and lobby around the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD). In 2008 the main themes are: Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Drought, Desertification and Africa. In addition, Water and Sanitation.

3. Inform about the Climate Crisis and in particular the contribution of the military sector and the nuclear sector to it and be active in connection with international meetings on Climate. **[See Resources Section below]**

In 2008 by making a statement on global warming that exposes the myths and dangers both of nuclear power and biofuel.

4. Continue to expose the root causes of conflicts around water by informing about the connection "women, water and war" and make a pamphlet on the situation in the Middle East in cooperation with the WILPF sections there during 2008, inform about the water experiences in Bolivia in cooperation with the Bolivian section 2008-9. **Could the Bolivian, Lebanese, Israeli and Palestinian Sections send us some information on water so that we could put together a pamphlet?**

5. Make a statement and a booklet on the different aspects of nuclear energy including: Mining, the situation of indigenous peoples, the pollution, the health and security problems, the connections with both nuclear weapons and uranium weapons, the waste problems and the economy involved. **Could Sections help with this? Could you send suggestions and we could further develop them and circulate them to hear if people support them, want to add something or change them?**

6 Make a statement on the connection between military, development and environment on the environmental day in June 2008.

7 Survey all Sections about the environmental issues specific to their countries and identify any ongoing work/ campaigns and sources of expertise/ anecdotal information. We propose to make these known to all Sections, share good practice and to develop resolutions that will inform further action. We intend this to be a paper exercise conducted, where appropriate, by post not email.

NEWS

Making War on Earth

November 2007, UK WILPF seminar in London, UK. The Section drew together a number of contributions to discuss '**The Environmental Consequences of War and Corporate power – a gender perspective**'. Edel Havin Beukes contributed to the event and the Section has produced a wide ranging booklet covering areas including:

- Resource Wars
- The Arms Trade
- Corporate power and militarism – the environmental damage
- Nuclear power and its link to nuclear weapons
- The environment and nuclear weapons
- Climate Change as a Cause of Conflict
- The impact on women

You can download a copy here:

<http://www.ukwilpf.org.uk/NewsArticles/Making%20War%20on%20Earth.pdf>

You can download Edel Havin Beukes' contribution, 'Environment, Militarism & Corporate Power from a Gender Perspective' here:

<http://www.ukwilpf.org.uk/NewsArticles/Edel nov 2007.doc>

Depleted Uranium news sent in by Carol Urner, US Section – source [West Hawaii Today](#) - re the US army and depleted uranium, from test bombing in Hawaii.

HONOLULU - While the state Health Department on Thursday released data showing relatively low radiation readings across the Big Island, military officials told lawmakers they had fast-tracked a plan to identify and clean up depleted uranium at the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA).

Technicians are scheduled to be on the ground doing preliminary work at PTA the last week of January, Col. Howard Killian, deputy director, U.S. Army Installation Command-Pacific Region, told a joint briefing of the House and Senate committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs.

Killian said the military has spent more than \$2.2 million, invested more than 5,000 man-hours and sent more than 16,000 air, plant and soil samples to mainland labs for analysis since depleted uranium was first discovered at Schofield Barracks on Oahu in

2005. The military didn't find out about PTA until last summer, so work there is in its early stages.

"There is no imminent or immediate threat to human health from the (depleted uranium) present on Hawaii's ranges," Killian said.

After the initial scoping of PTA in August, the Army has created a survey based on old maps of the area and determined where the likely target areas were. Some soil samples were taken then, but more soil samples and groundwater samples will be taken as the survey proceeds, an Army spokeswoman said.

Laurence Lau, deputy director of the Environmental Health Administration, said the samples are being split so that two independent labs will evaluate each one to provide cross-checking and for additional reassurances for the public.

The depleted uranium was used in spotting rounds in Davy Crockett weapons systems in the 1960s, and the spotting rounds are most likely to be clustered in an area close to Breadlake Trail.

Lawmakers from the Big Island, however, want to know why the Hawaii National Guard continues to fly B2 bombing missions at PTA since the military's analysis hasn't been completed.

"What bothers me is that you're doing all of this work, and we still continue to do the bombing," said Lorraine Inouye, D-Hamakua, South Hilo, who is heading the Senate committee.

Inouye worried that the planes and bombs would kick up dust that could be contaminated. But Killian said the depleted uranium that's being found is in large metal pieces, not something that goes airborne.

"Is there any place else in the state you could practice your air bombing?" asked Rep. Cindy Evans, D-Kona, who heads the House committee.

Unfortunately not, said Gen. Robert Lee, adding that PTA is large enough to avoid the sites most likely to have traces of the weapons containing depleted uranium. He said the bombers are practicing "pinpoint precision" such as they need to do when enemies shield themselves with innocent civilians. The point is to avoid collateral damage, Lee said.

"They're flying over the training areas versus going into the impact areas," Lee said.

Some in the audience left the 11/2-hour hearing dissatisfied with the answers they heard. Lorrin Pang, a medical doctor, army retiree who specialized in preventative medicine and current employee of the state Department of Health, emphasized he was speaking as a private citizen. He's attended several meetings and isn't accepting the military line, he said.

Pang pointed out that the military never disclosed the presence of depleted uranium until it came out in a lawsuit. He said the Army is concentrating only on the metallic form of

depleted uranium instead of doing a survey to determine what else might have been used at the training areas.

"Because there are so many unknowns, we must take the most cautious approach," Pang said.

Killian acknowledged that the military had been less than accurate when it said no depleted uranium had been used. But he said the Army didn't know.

"The Army did not intend to mislead the public," Killian said.

Learn more - The Army has created a brochure and also has an e-mail address, imcom-pacific-du@hawaii.army.mil, for more information and to air citizen concerns.

Question

From Carol Urner, US Section – “Will anyone ... be at the CSW? The WILPF workshop on Women, War and Military Budgeting could use some input on human and economic costs of environmental damage done by militarism and war. Please respond via environment@wilpf.ch

WILPF's Voice on Environmental Matters

URGENT REQUEST - We are aware that a lot of work is being done in Sections, for example about Nuclear Power and Water and Conflict. We would also like to see articles on Nuclear energy and nuclear weapons, uranium- mining, nuclear waste and more. **Please** will you help us to bring this information together by sending copies to us? We realise that articles may be written in several languages. We want to try and find a way of bringing WILPF's words together for our own use in lobbying and campaigning but also to inform others in their work. Please send items to Edel Havin Beukes or Lorraine Mirham – our email addresses are listed at the end of this e-news. Or, you can send items to us by post – please email us for our address.

RESOURCES

Given our commitment (Priority 2 in our International Programme) to sharing resources, we offer the following this month:

WILPF International website including Environment pages:

<http://www.wilpf.int.ch/environment/index.htm> especially useful for back copies of the EWG e-news

WISE - World Information Service on Energy - founded in 1978 - source concerning nuclear matters. For more information: <http://www.antenna.nl/wise>. They publish the **Nuclear Monitor** regularly. They have also just made a new poster “Don't nuke the climate”.

Nuclear Monitor has produced a 24 page pamphlet, [“A back-door come-back” Nuclear energy as a solution to climate change?](#) (WISE and NIRS) February 2005.

There is also a pamphlet from them, "[Unfair Aid - The Subsidies Keeping Nuclear Energy Afloat.](#)"

[The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists](#) has published several articles on Nuclear and Climate: "Global Warming, No Nuclear Quick Fix" by Alan Miller & Irving Mintzer from June 1990 is one of them.

<http://www.stopnuclear.org> is new and will be developed into a portal of anti-nuclear news and activities. They say that they want each and every group to join. They ask for logo and 3 lines about the organization and a link to it. Should WILPF do this?

[WEDO – Women’s Environment & Development Organisation](#) – recently called for urgent action on the Kenya crisis. "[Changing the Climate: Why Women's Perspectives Matter](#)" is a resource that draws the links between gender and climate change and suggests why women need to be at the centre of the climate change debate and policymaking.

Updated WILPF material on nuclear issues and Space
<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/corporate/dd/ddindex.html#aerospace>

WILPF DISARM News update - <http://disarm.wilpf.org/>

Also – <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org> have produced a booklet - booklet called: "Model Nuclear Inventory" which deals with nuclear matters. Edited by Jennifer Nordstrom and researched by Ray Acheson. The themes include:

1. Amount, Location, and Operational Plan of Nuclear Weapons.
2. Compliance with article VI of the NPT
3. Location and capability of nuclear facilities
4. Fissile Material Holdings
5. Nuclear Activities
6. International Nonproliferation Efforts
7. Positions Taken in International For a on Various Issues of Nuclear Disarmament

On Depleted Uranium - <http://www.cadu.org.uk/news/26.htm>

BOOK REVIEW

WILPF Publications in the Making! Do you have any reviews for us? Has anyone read Krishna Ahoojapatel's latest book '**Development has a Woman's Face**' details on WILPF's website <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/> – please let us have a review. If you are producing information, please let us know! Imirham@hotmail.com

Ideas for Action

World Social ForUM - this year it is local, national and regional. In 2009 it will be held in Brazil. The European Social Forum will be held in Malmö, Sweden 17-21 September 2008. For more information go to <http://www.wsf2008.net>

Important Date! International Women's Day Disarmament Seminar –

At What Cost? Women, Wars, Weapons and Conflict Prevention

Since 1984, WILPF has worked with other NGOs to organise a seminar linking 8 March – International Women's Day – with disarmament, peace and security issues. Each year, a report and statement from the NGO conference has been read into the record of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the only official oral contribution from NGOs to this body.

Find much more information from the WILPF website here:

<http://www.wilpf.int.ch/events/2008IWDseminar.html>

Reminder - to mark events:

- Chernobyl Day 2008. International action?
- IAEA/WHO International action
- Uranium weapons (DU) International action.
- International Environmental Day 05.06.08

Please help us to make this list longer next time by sending us important dates and ideas for action.

PLEASE JOIN to receive your EWG e- Newsletter, ESPECIALLY IF YOUR SECTION IS NOT REPRESENTED! To email the group and/or receive the e-news, the address is: environment@wilpf.ch REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

AND IDEAS TO: Lorraine Mirham or Edel Havin Beukes

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