

Symposium: The Protection of Children in Urban War Areas

The Hamburg Declaration, the initiative founded by Frank Werner, Hans-Joachim Gießmann and Doris König in 2006, aims to achieve an effective ban on the use of lethal weapons in urban areas. To support this objective, the IFSH and the Institute for Theology and Peace (IThF), in co-operation with the association "Hamburger Erklärung e.V.", organised on 7 and 8 November 2008 a symposium titled "The protection of children in urban war areas" in the premises of the Patriotische Gesellschaft in Hamburg. The event brought together experts from research, politics, the Church, the military and civil society to discuss ethical criteria as well as political, legal, social and other appropriate instruments for the protection of children in (particular urban) war areas.

The symposium was opened by the chairman of the Patriotische Gesellschaft, Jürgen Mackensen, who praised the initiative and expressed his support for the promotion of human development and wellbeing through tolerance. Considering the goals of the initiative, Ms Frank Werner, chairman of the Hamburger Erklärung e.V., underlined the need for a further development of the rules of international humanitarian law. Are such legal innovations necessary, can they be achieved with other means and what are their implications? And can such requests be actually implemented? According to Prof Michael Brzoska, director of the IFSH, these are the main questions that need to be investigated. The vice-director of the IThF, Gerhard Beestermöller, demanded that civilians, particularly children, be not made target of direct violence. Senator Dietrich Wersich, responsible for the department of social affairs, recalled the tragic experience of WWII with its destructive impact, and called the Hamburger Erklärung an important step towards the civilization of war.

The first panel discussion dealt with the strategies and technologies of urban warfare and its consequences. Captain Heinz-Dieter Jopp expressed doubts over the possibility to discriminate between civilians and combatants: in his view, it is the enemy who determines where and how to combat. Götz Neuneck (IFSH) criticised the fact that highly engineered countries use weapons which kill brutally and indiscriminately, and mentioned the deployment of nuclear weapons against towns as an example. According to the sociologist Wolf Dombrowsky peace is the basic condition of modernity, without which the sustenance of urban agglomerations would collapse.

Gerhard Beestermöller moderated a panel on "Children in war". Yvonne Kemper, from Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, described the difficulties linked to the demobilisation and reintegration of child soldiers. The director of Transition International, Irma Specht, explained the causes behind the recruitment of children by armed groups, among other things, poverty, the malleability of children's personality, the vicious cycle of war experience and de-cultivation. The physician Hubertus Adam strongly campaigned for offering therapeutic help to war-traumatised children to facilitate reconciliation processes. According to the theologian Fernando Enns, in order to effectively protect the children, the removal of the causes of new wars – such as poverty, unemployment and the lack of perspectives – need to be removed and a focus to be put on development by civilian means.

In a further panel discussion, moderated by Doris König, Knut Ipsen, expert of international law and former president of the German Red Cross (DRK), and Sabine von Schorlemer, Professor for International law, tackled the possibilities and limits of legal instruments in the protection of children from the involvement in, and the consequences of, urban warfare. Under the moderation of Michael Brzoska, Robert Heinsch (DRK), the social scientist Sabine Kurtenbach and Yvonne Kemper discussed, among other issues, the options for achieving the goals of the Hamburg Declaration. The final part of conference focussed on the political

perspectives of the initiative, and saw the participation of MEPs Winfried Nachtwei (B90/Grüne), Paul Schäfer (LINKE) and Marcus Weinberg (CDU).

After the conference, a reception offered by the senate was opened by Senator for Urban Development Anja Haiduk.

The event was sponsored by the German Foundation for Peace Research as well as by Hannelore and Helmut Greve.

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OSCE Round Table at the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 18/19 December 2008, the Head of CORE, Wolfgang Zellner, participated in a round table at the Kazakh MFA in Astana which dealt with the preparation of the 2010 Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship. Participants included representatives of the Dutch, Belgian and Spanish as well as the forthcoming Greek and Lithuanian Chairmanships, officials from the OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE Centre in Astana, scholars and leading representatives of the Kazakh MFA, among them the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kairat Sarybay. In a gesture of unusual transparency, Ambassador Askar Tazhiyev from the Kazakh MFA outlined the preliminary priorities of the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship, stressing Kazakhstan's support for the mandate of ODIHR and an enhanced participation of Eastern countries in the OSCE's Election Observation Missions. The meeting - the second of this kind – was a very productive opportunity to bring together past and future OSCE Chairmanships.

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Lecture: "Climate Change and Security"

Prof Geoffrey D. Dabelko, Director of the Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP), visited the IFSH from 17 to 19 December 2008 within the CLISAP cluster of excellence on climate research of the University of Hamburg. The ECSP is a non-partisan policy forum on environment and security issues, founded in 1994 at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Dabelko first met IFSH staff members, giving a presentation on "Environmental Change and Security"; he then discussed the main research priorities in the field of climate change and security, the focus of the CLISAP C-3 programme, and was finally invited to the General Staff College to talk about changes in the US climate policy.

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Seminar on Kosovo at the German Armed Forces Command and Staff College

On 16 December 2008, Jens Narten gave a presentation at the German Armed Forces Command and Staff College in Hamburg on "Kosovo in Transition: Political Developments Before and After the Declaration of Independence". The presentation was part of an advanced training of 80 high-rank officers of the German Army in preparation for their forthcoming deployment to Kosovo in the framework of NATO's KFOR mission.

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Panel discussion on “Research Needs in the Context of Climate Change and Security”

On 5 December 2008, Michael Brzoska participated in a panel discussion on “Research Needs in the Context of Climate Change and Security” at the Union of Academies of Sciences and Literature in Mainz. The discussion took place during a research conference organized by the Landeszentrale für Umweltaufklärung Rheinland-Pfalz in cooperation with Adelphi Consult.

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Pugwash Member Named Obama’s Scientific Advisor

The longstanding chairman of the Pugwash Executive Council, John P. Holdren, will become the next US President’s scientific advisor and will also assume the direction of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Holdren is member of different academies of sciences, director of the Woods Hole Research Center and president of the American Academy of the Advancement of Science AAAS. Götz Neuneck, who has been an active member of Pugwash and its Executive Council for many years, congratulated him on behalf of the German Pugwash Group. He particularly pointed to the unique chance to implement at the highest political level the ideas and proposals jointly worked out in the recent years. John Holdren replied with a message of thanks.

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M.P.S. / DAAD Workshop at the University of Ljubljana

On 23-29 November 2008, nine M.P.S. students along with other members of the Academic Network Southeast Europe convened in Ljubljana, Slovenia, to participate in the workshop entitled “Neighborhood Cooperation and Bridge-Building Peace Policy: The Role of Slovenia”. The briefings, lectures and discussions held by representatives of various ministries, NGOs, international actors, as well as university professors and students covered a wide range of topics. Highlights included presentations from the Center for European Perspectives, the International Trustfund for Demining and Mining Victims Assistance and the Minister of Defence, Dr Ljubica Jelušič.

The M.P.S. students gave a presentation entitled “Art as a Means to Peace: Dealing with the Past, Present and the Future in South East Europe”. Two days were spent in the Primorska region, where the participants visited the Adriatic city of Piran, the Postojana caves and the Vipava military barracks. The seminar is part of a long-term project of the IFSH on building an academic network in South-East Europe. It is supported by funds from the DAAD as a part of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe. The current partners are the Universities of Ljubljana, Sarajevo, Novi Sad, Rijeka, Zagreb, Prishtina, Skopje and Tetovo. The University of Podgorica in Montenegro is likely to join the network soon.

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Visit of the President of the Pugwash Conferences Jayantha Dhanapala

From 25 to 28 November 2008, Götz Neuneck, as representative of the German Pugwash branch, accompanied the President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and former Under-Secretary of the United Nations Jayantha Dhanapala to Berlin during his visit to Germany. On the agenda was, besides talks with representatives of the Federal Government, a lecture in the Foreign Office’s Rathenau Room, meetings with

members of the Sub-Committee for Disarmament and Nonproliferation and visits to several foundations to inform about recent activities of Pugwash. The public events at the German Society for the United Nations (DGVN) and at the Humboldt University were well attended. The Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995, organizes workshops on conflict resolution issues.

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Israeli Journalists Report from Occupied Palestine

On 26 November 2008, Gideon Levy and Catrin Ormestad, known for their contributions to the daily Haaretz, spoke at the premises of GIGA about their work at the invitation of the IFSH, the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and the Hamburg Society for the Promotion of Democracy and International Law. In their presentation entitled "Israeli Reports from Occupied Palestine", the two Israeli journalists spoke about the situation in the Gaza Strip, the imminent humanitarian disaster due to the Israeli blockade, and the attitudes within Israel's society towards the occupation. Dr Martin Beck (GIGA) and Dr Margret Johannsen (IFSH) moderated the event, which was also supported by the Hamburger Stiftung zur Förderung von Wissenschaft und Kultur and organized with the help of Anne Hinz (University of Trento), a former M.P.S. student. In the ensuing discussion, Gideon Levy argued that Germany, being a friend of Israel, should not shy away from criticizing the Israeli occupation policy out of an excess of considerateness.

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Policy Briefing on Civil-Military Cooperation

Two papers wrote by IFSH members of staff were presented to different audiences in November. On 2 November, Michael Brzoska presented in the European Parliament in Brussels the results of a work on civil-military cooperation, and participated in a joint public hearing of the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Development on "Security and Development".

Brzoska's presentation ist available online at

http://www.ifsh.de/pdf/aktuelles/2008-11-05_Civil_military_Brussel_Nov_4.pdf

On 24 November 2008 the Foundation Development and Peace (SAF) organized a policy briefing with Prof Michael Brzoska and Dr Hans-Georg Ehrhart in the Representation of the Federal State of Brandenburg in Berlin. The topic was the presentation of a new SEF brief titled "Civil-Military Cooperation in Post-Conflict Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. Recommendations for practical action". Comments were given by Colonel Rudolf Holderer (Head of the Department for Civil-Military Cooperation at the Ministry of Defence) and Dr Hans-Joachim Preuß (Secretary General of Deutsche Welthungerhilfe). The Policy Paper is available online under

http://www.sef-bonn.org/download/publikationen/policy_paper/pp_30_de.pdf

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Pugwash Workshop in Antwerp

On 21/23 November 2008 Oliver Meier participated in a Pugwash Workshop in Antwerp dedicated to the topic "Nuclear Weapons in Europe: Time for Disarmament?". 23 experts and diplomats from Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey, Russia, the UK and the

United States joined the event with the aim of exploring ways for the gradual further reduction of the number of nuclear weapons in Europe, with a special focus on tactical nuclear weapons. Panel discussions focussed on the nuclear strategies of Russia and the United States, the nuclear weapons policies of France and the UK as well as the European arms control agenda.

Oliver Meier made an intervention during the panel on tactical nuclear weapons. The meeting concluded with a discussion of the possibilities for further action. It was pointed out that the change of administration in Washington, NATO's decision to begin deliberations of a new Strategic Concept in 2009, and the upcoming review conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in Spring 2010 provide a unique political constellation which could enable further progress on nuclear disarmament, including on the remaining tactical nuclear weapons in Europe.

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Presentation on "Missiles and Politics" at the TU-Munich

On 20 November 2008, Götz Neuneck held a lecture about "Missiles and Politics - The ambivalence of missile technology" at the Technical University in Munich. The Department of Space Technology, directed by the former ESA astronaut Ulrich Walter, celebrated the 65th birthday of Professor Robert Schmucker. IFAR and Prof Schmucker cooperate especially in the field of proliferation of long-range missiles in developing countries.

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CORE Workshop on Secular-Islamic Dialogue in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

The workshop dedicated to good governance in secular states having a muslim majority, which took place in Bishkek on 15/16 November 2008, pursued the dialogue initiated by CORE on the relationship between secular elements and islamic components in Central Asia. The workshop, organised by CORE in co-operation with the Institute for Strategic Analysis and Prognosis of the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, and sponsored by the German Foreign Office, was attended by participants from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Russia and Germany. The discussions focussed on relevant political issues, like the rights and responsibility of national religious authorities and other religious organisations.

Furthermore, on 17 November 2008 the book "Secularism and Islam in the modern state: what unites them?" was presented in Almaty, Kazakstan. The volume, published by CORE, the Kazak Institute for Strategic Studies (KISI) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Almaty Office, summarises the results of a similar workshop which took place in Almaty in 2007.

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Workshop on WMDs in Zagreb

"The Role of Independent Scientists in Assessing the Threat of WMD" was the topic of the NATO Advanced Research Workshop, which took place on 13/16 November 2008 in Zagreb, Croatia. Thirty participants from the United States, France, Britain, Russia, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and the Czech Republic dealt with the question of how independent scientific expertise is introduced in the threat assessment of NATO and non-NATO nations. Götz Neuneck (IFAR) was member of the programme committee, and presented the role of scientists in the introduction of missile defense.

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Reading of a Book on Israel and Talk with the Author

On 13 November 2008, on invitation of three of the four institutes residing at "Beim Schlump 83" - IFSH, IGdJ and ZNF - and the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation in Hamburg, the Israeli author and journalist Igal Avidan read from his book "Israel. Ein Staat sucht sich selbst" [Israel. A State in search of itself], which appeared on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Israel's proclamation of independence. After the reading, Dieter Bednarz, who is in charge of Der Spiegel's Middle East desk, spoke with the author about the book, which combines reportage with political analysis. In the talk and the following question & answer session, the author spoke about highlights and hurdles in his work and reflected on the reception of the book by the German media.

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Panel discussion:

"The Caucasus War: a Break for Security and Co-operation in Europe?"

On 5 November 2008, a panel discussion dedicated to the war in Caucasus and organised by the IFSH and the German-Russian Society was hosted in the premises of the IFSH. Dr Roland Salchow, deputy chairman of the German-Russian Society, underlined in his opening speech the satisfaction for the numerous participants, who reflected the great public interest for the topic.

The speakers analysed the causes of the conflict from different perspectives. Prof Hans-Henning Schröder, director of the research group on Russia of the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik in Berlin, outlined the transformation process in Russia's domestic policy from Yeltsin to Putin and the parallel changes in Russia's foreign policy. In his view, the immediate cause of the crisis, ie South Ossetia's status, would play only a secondary role in the dispute. Prof Otto Luchterhandt, director of the department for Eastern Law at the University of Hamburg, explained the implications of the war from the perspective of international law, and the violations committed by both Georgia and Russia. In his opinion, Russia's violent reaction is linked to its declining influence on the development of South Caucasus and, more significantly, to the concerns about the secessionistic ambitions of Russia's autonomous republics in Northern Caucasus. Reinhard Mütz (IFS) focussed on the necessary steps to alleviate the conflict, from the stabilisation of the ceasefire to the long-term overcome of the new mistrust between the West and the East in basic issues concerning security and arms control.

The participants agreed that the short war in August 2008 represents a political break in the security relations in Europe. Since the end of the Cold War, this is indeed the first armed confrontation between two states in a regional conflict in which the USA and Russia back different sides. In its own interest, Europe is obliged to adopt a balancing strategy.

The event, moderated by Michael Brzoska, concluded with a reception. The IFSH published a study on the 2008 Caucasus War in the series "Hamburger Informationen". The publication is available online at:
<http://www.ifsh.de/pdf/publikationen/hifs/HI45.pdf>

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Commentary on study dedicated to NATO nuclear weapons

Oliver Meier participated on 12 November in a conference organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in Berlin

entitled "Creating the conditions for further disarmament - What role for NATO?". Oliver Meier commented on the draft of a SIPRI study dealing with the future of deterrence within NATO.

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Publications

Michael Brzoska, Hans-Georg Ehrhart, Zivil-militärische Zusammenarbeit in Konfliktnachsorge und Wiederaufbau. Empfehlungen zur praktischen Umsetzung [Civil-military cooperation in post-conflict management and reconstruction. Praxis-oriented recommendations], in: Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden, Policy Paper 30, November 2008.

This study, assigned by the Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden, recommends to strengthen the cooperation between civilian and military actors in the preparation of deployments abroad and to achieve a clearer division of responsibility in the implementation phase.

The Policy Paper is available online at

http://www.sef-bonn.org/download/publikationen/policy_paper/pp_30_de.pdf

CORE Annual Report 2008

<http://www.ifsh.de/pdf/publikationen/CORE%20Annual%20Report%202008.pdf>

Hans-Georg Ehrhart, Assessing EUFOR Chad/CAR, in: European Security Review, Nr. 42, Dezember 2008.

The article is available online at

http://www.isis-europe.org/pdf/2008_artrel_231_esr42-euforchad.pdf

Heinz-Gerhard Justenhoven/Hans-Georg Ehrhart (Hrsg.), Intervention im Kongo. Eine kritische Analyse der Befriedungspolitik von UN und EU [The deployment in Congo. A critical analysis of the UN and EU peace-making policy], Stuttgart: Kohlhammer 2008.

The volume analyses the interests of the UN and the EU in their policy towards the Democratic Republic of Congo and draw conclusions for future deployments.

See also <http://www.ifsh.de/pdf/aktuelles/WerbeflyerKongo.pdf>

Heather Gilmartin, EU-U.S.-China: Cooperation in the Malacca Straits, in: Hamburger Beiträge zur Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik, Nr. 151, November 2008.

This study examines the difficulties and successes of the security-policy cooperation, in particular in the fight against piracy, in one of the world's most important shipping routes.

The Policy Paper is available online at

<http://www.ifsh.de/pdf/publikationen/hb/hb151.pdf>

Regina Heller, Russia's "Nashi" Youth Movement: The Rise and Fall of a Putin-Era Political Technology Project, in: Russian Analytical Digest No. 50, 18 November 2008, pp. 2-11.

This article analyses the Russian youth organisation "Nashi", created by the Kremlin to generate an "anti-orange" mood among young people in Russia before the 2007/2008 Duma and presidential elections.

The article is available online at

<http://se2.isn.ch/serviceengine/FileContent?serviceID=RESSpecNet&fileid=7857CF61-21D3-9689-EBDD-069FF9AD347F&lng=en>

Oliver Meier, Major Exercise Tests CTBT On-Site Inspections, in: Arms Control Today, Band 38, Nr. 9, November 2008, pp. 32-38.

The article describes an on-site inspection exercise of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization at the former Soviet nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan.

Oliver Meier, The European Union's Policy on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, in: Takako Ueta / Éric Remacle (eds.): Tokyo-Brussels Partnership. Security, Development and Knowledge-based Society. Brussels 2008, pp. 219-229.

The article analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the European Union's nonproliferation policy.

Oliver Meier, U.S., Russia Step Up Chemical Weapons Destruction, in: Arms Control Today, Band 38, Nr.10, December 2008.

The article summarizes the progress made by the United States and Russia in destroying their chemical weapon stockpiles.

Götz Neuneck / Christian Alwardt, The Revolution in Military Affairs, its Driving Forces, Elements and Complexity, IFAR Working Paper Nr. 13, May2008.

The Working Paper contains a comprehensive version of a peer-reviewed article, and describes the motives and elements of the discussion on a Revolution in Military Affairs on the basis of the Iraq war.

Götz Neuneck / Regina Hagen, Raketenschutz oder neues Wettrüsten im All [Missile defence or a new arms race in space], in: Raumfahrt Konkret, Nr. 4/5, 2008, pp. 21-23.

The article describes the newest developments in the functionality of the strategic US missile defense component and its implications for space arms control.

Kathrin Peiffer / Patricia Schneider, Menschenrechte gelten doch auch für Terrorverdächtige. Das Urteil des EuGH zur Umsetzung von VN-Sicherheitsrats-Resolutionen und die Auswirkungen auf die Terrorismusbekämpfung durch gezielte Sanktionen mit Hilfe von Terrorlisten [Human rights also apply to terror suspects. The ECJ's judgment in pursuance of UN Security Council resolutions and the impact on counter-terrorism of sanctions based on terror lists], in: Hamburger Informationen zur Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik Nr. 44, December 2008.

The article deals with the important judgment delivered by the ECJ in September 2008 relating to the terror lists drawn up by the UN, and considers this controversial practice within the UN and the EU in general perspective.

The article is available online at <http://www.ifsh.de/pdf/publikationen/hifs/Hi44.pdf>

Solveig Richter, Wolfgang Zellner, Ein neues Helsinki für die OSZE? Chancen für eine Wiederbelebung des europäischen Sicherheitsdialogs [A new Helsinki for the OSCE? The chances of reviving the European security dialogue], SWP-Aktuell 2008/A 81, November 2008.

The article analyses the crisis of the cooperative security system in Europe after the five-day war in Georgia, and verifies the ability of the OSCE to contribute to revive the European security dialogue.

Link to the abstract: http://www.swp-berlin.org/produkte/swp_aktuell_detail.php?id=10002

The article is available online at

http://www.swp-berlin.org/common/get_document.php?asset_id=5489

Jan Stupl, Untersuchung der Wechselwirkung von Laserstrahlung mit Strukturelementen von Raumflugkörpern [Analysis of the interaction of laser radiation and structural elements of spaceflight objects], Dissertation at the University of Hamburg, December 2008.

The dissertation includes experimental as well as model-based examinations of the interactions of high-energy laser radiation on missiles and satellites.

Staff

Following the successful completion of his doctorate, Jan Stupl left the IFSH for a postdoctoral position at the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford University in California/USA. As a postdoctoral fellow Jan Stupl is part of the Science Programs of CISAC. As he did as a member of the IFAR Working Group, he will continue his interdisciplinary work in the fields of politics and physics. In particular, he will examine the potential dangers for satellites by lasers and the possible limitation of such development by arms control measures.

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Imprint

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