



Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

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Press Release

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SIPRI YEARBOOK 2006

Armaments, Disarmament and International Security

*SIPRI's annual compendium of data and analysis of developments in **security and conflicts, military spending and armaments and non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament** is launched today at a press conference at*

11:00–14:00, Press Room, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Fredsgatan 6, Stockholm.

SIPRI authors and researchers will be available for interview following a presentation on the book.

Military expenditure, arms production and international arms transfers all on the rise

SIPRI reports that world military expenditure in 2005 reached \$1118 billion in current dollars, a 34 per cent rise in the 10 years since 1996. This increase has been accompanied by a 15 per cent rise in the combined arms sales of the 100 largest arms-producing companies.

SIPRI data on both the volume and financial value of international arms transfers show a sustained increase since 2000–2001. The volume of arms transferred in 2005 was 30 per cent higher than in 2000. Meanwhile, the financial value of the international arms trade has risen from \$27–34 billion in 2001 to \$44–53 billion in 2004.

“The continuing rising trend in all aspects of the defence economy shows that defence and security policies have not been adapted to the real challenges of the new security environment”, says SIPRI Researcher Petter Stålenheim ([email](#)).

No simple solution to conflicts in Iraq and Darfur

In its study of contemporary conflict and multilateral peace operations, the SIPRI Yearbook highlights the complexity of current peace-building operations, particularly in Africa.

Meanwhile, developments in Iraq and Darfur (Sudan) show, in their different ways, how the growth of non-state groups prepared to engage in violence is complicating efforts to manage and resolve some of the key conflicts in the world today.

“The use of extreme violence, including terrorism, by groups motivated by religious claims but with unclear political aims makes the challenge of promoting peace more difficult still”, says SIPRI Project Leader Neil Melvin ([email](#)).

New approaches to the Iran nuclear crisis

SIPRI Yearbook 2006 examines how the challenges to the global nuclear non-proliferation regime—posed by Iran and other states—are stimulating interest in new, international approaches to controlling the nuclear fuel cycle. At the same time, there has been little progress in the UN Security Council towards solving the international crisis over the scope and nature of Iran's sensitive nuclear fuel activities.

“Iran has succeeded in shifting the debate from one about the spread of nuclear weapons to one about the rules governing access to nuclear technology”, comments SIPRI Researcher Shannon Kile ([email](#)).

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*SIPRI, the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute**, conducts independent research on armaments, disarmament and international security. SIPRI Yearbook 2006 is published on behalf of SIPRI by Oxford University Press. Further details are online at yearbook2006.sipri.org*