Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

5th Annual
Frank K. Kelly Lecture
on Humanity's Future

A Right to Live Without Violence, Nuclear Weapons and War

By Mairead Corrigan Maguire

Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future

The Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future was established by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in 2002. The lecture series honors Frank Kelly, a founder and senior vice president of the Foundation, whose vision and compassion are perpetuated through this series. The lecture is presented annually by a distinguished individual to explore the contours of humanity's future and what we can do today to help shape a more positive and promising future for our planet and all its inhabitants.

The lecture presented in this booklet is the fifth Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future. It was presented by Mairead Corrigan Maguire at the University of California at Santa Barbara on February 21, 2006.

The 2005 lecture was delivered by Dr. Robert Jay Lifton on "America and the Human Future: Surviving Vietnam, 9/11, and Iraq." The 2004 lecture in this series was presented by Dame Anita Roddick on "Kindness as a Key to Humanity's Future." Professor Richard Falk gave the 2003 lecture on "American Civil Liberties and Human Rights Under Siege." Frank Kelly, for whom the lecture series is named, gave the inaugural lecture in 2002 on "Glorious Beings: What We Are and What We May Become."

Frank Kelly has had a remarkable life. He has been a science-fiction writer (later inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame), a journalist, a soldier in World War II, a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, a speechwriter for Harry Truman, the assistant to the US Senate Majority Leader, vice president of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions and a leader in the campaign to create the US Institute for Peace. He co-founded the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in 1982. He is the author of nine books and uncounted articles.

Beyond all of his achievements, Frank has a remarkable faith in humanity and its future. He has lived with a spirit of optimism and hope. He has been a visionary advocate for humanity and has inspired many people through his writing and teaching to take action on behalf of humanity.

The lecture series is endowed to carry forward Frank's vision. If you would like to help support the lecture by adding to the endowment, please let us know. We also invite you to learn more about the Frank K. Kelly Lecture series and about the work of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation by visiting our website: www.wagingpeace.org. Prior lectures in this series are available through the Foundation.

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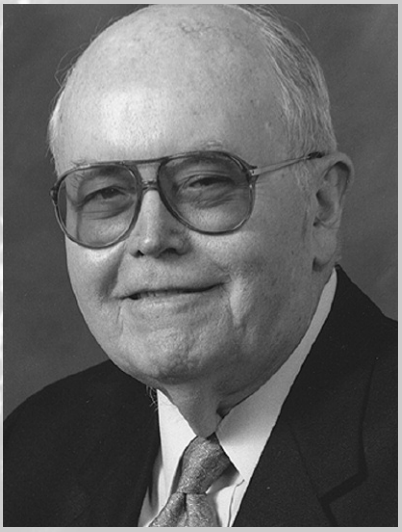
Introduction

By Frank K. Kelly



For me this is a glorious evening to be in the presence of so many wonderful people and to honor a great woman from Ireland, the home of my ancestors, a land of poets and prophets, of saints and scholars, of warriors and statesmen, of brave men and inspiring women. I wish to express my personal gratitude to Mrs. Maguire, who came all the way from Belfast to give this lecture tonight.

If this planet continues to exist, the Kelly lectures may go on for many years, sponsored by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, created by David Krieger and a few other Santa Barbarans (including myself) 24 years ago. The great Albert Einstein said that the dropping of atom bombs on two cities in 1945 changed everything except our way of thinking—and could lead to an unparalleled catastrophe, the possible end of life on earth. We established this Foundation to wake up the people of the world, to prevent that catastrophe.

Mrs. Maguire's lecture is on "A Right to Live Without Violence, Nuclear Weapons and War." She has staunchly advocated peace through the "troubles" in Belfast from 1969 to 1998. In 1976, with Betty Williams and Ciaran McKeown, she organized weekly peace marches and demonstrations that brought out more than 500,000 people in Northern Ireland, England, and Southern Ireland. She co-founded the Community of the Peace People. Peace came to Ireland in that year.

Since 1976 she has insisted "that a peaceful and just society can be achieved only through non-violent means" and "the path to peace lies in each of our hearts." In 1976 Betty Williams and Mrs. Maguire were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Since then, Mrs. McGuire has received many awards for her leadership, including the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 1991 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award.

My deepest hope for humanity comes from the rise of women in many fields. They have changed the atmosphere in many nations. They have taken their rightful places and they have taught many men how to live peaceful and productive lives.

The woman I present to you now is a truly glorious being connected with the Creative Being who shaped this universe and our planet. I also believe that every one of us here tonight is a glorious being because we have become aware of our connections to one another and to the God of love.

I have lived for 91 years. I have seen human beings show great courage and heroism in two world wars, through the terrible Depression of the 1930s, and through many other crises in every period of history. I am sure that you will find Mrs. Maguire as inspiring as I do. Please join me in saluting her now for her gifts and for her work and her wonderful achievements.

A Right to Live Without Violence, Nuclear Weapons and War

By Mairead Corrigan Maguire

I am very happy to be here with you. I am particularly pleased to give this Frank Kelly lecture and to thank Frank Kelly, David Krieger, and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation for their inspiring work on nuclear disarmament.

I believe nuclear weapons are a great threat to humanity, so your task of telling the truth about them is very important. For all of us, we are called to seek truth and live that truth with as much integrity as possible. Often when people tell the truth they have to pay a price for doing so. Two truth-tellers of our generation are currently paying a very high price. In Burma, for speaking out for human rights and democracy, the Nobel Peace Laureate, Aung Sang Suu Kyi, remains imprisoned in her home for 10 years. In Jerusalem, Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli Nuclear Whistleblower, is not allowed to leave Israel. In 2004, Mordechai Vanunu completed 18 years (12 in solitary confinement) in an Israeli prison for telling the world that Israel had a nuclear program. Upon his release the Israeli government put illegal restrictions on Mordechai Vanunu, forbidding him to speak to foreigners, foreign media, or to leave Israel. Mordechai Vanunu followed his conscience, and tried to warn us against the dangers of another possible form of holocaust, a nuclear one. I believe Israel should let Vanunu go. He is not a threat to national security. Vanunu was a junior technician at the Dimona nuclear plant 20 years ago and as he has repeatedly said he has no nuclear secrets. In refusing to let Mordechai go, the Israeli government continues its injustice of punishing a freed man.

Many governments will go to great lengths to silence their own citizens who challenge their illegal policies. Governments only have to summon the words "national security" and they feel it gives them legitimacy to do what they like. They can remove civil liberties (as is happening here in America), impose imprisonment and sometimes even literally "get away with murder." To challenge one's own government when it ignores moral and ethical values is true patriotism. To speak truth to power and be willing to suffer takes courage. That is why many people take inspiration from Aung Sang Suu Kyi, Mordechai Vanunu, and others, imprisoned for working for human rights and democracy. For those of us who have our freedom, we have a responsibility to speak out against injustices and abuse of power, wherever it comes from, but particularly from our own governments. There are many threats to freedom in our world today. Sadly, I believe that the American government's current foreign policies are among the greatest threats to the freedom, safety and security of the world. Many of their policies are causing the suffering of millions of people, not only in America, but throughout the world. They constitute a form of international terrorism, which is tragically fuelling insurgency and terrorism in many parts of the world.

WAR, INVASION AND OCCUPATION

Many years ago, I met the late Professor George Wald, an American Nobel Laureate. He told me that most American people, like people everywhere, want peace. They do not want nuclear weapons, or their sons and daughters to go to war. However, he explained that the American government is run by the military-industrial

complex, and the economy is built on a war footing, with one in six people working for the military-industrial machine. It follows that when a government's economy is built on militarism and war, and it is big money and business, they need to find an enemy. Thirty years ago the enemy was "communism" and the nuclear arms race was at its height. Then came the end of the Cold War, and we all had great hope that peace was possible. We were all naive enough to think that America would disarm its nuclear weapons and we could spend the disarmament savings tackling the real enemies of poverty and injustice. Instead, the US government identified a new enemy. The enemy is called "terrorism." A new war has been proclaimed on "terrorism" and we are assured by the Bush administration and the Pentagon that we have entered the age of ongoing wars. The President is blind to the irony of his position, not seeing the terror he is engaged in, in Iraq, and how he follows a terror tradition begun in the Middle East 20 years ago by Reagan and Rumsfeld.

In 1999, when I visited Iraq, I witnessed first-hand the destructive power of American/UK foreign policy. The horror of what I witnessed will stay with me forever. At the Amiriya Shelter in Baghdad, we saw the photographs of over 400 people, mostly women and children, who were incinerated during the first Gulf War. Two American bombs were dropped on this shelter on February 12, 1992 (the end of Ramadan and Ash Wednesday). Also, at Mansour Hospital in Baghdad we saw children slowly dying from malnutrition and disease, and the doctors had not enough drugs or anesthetics. Over half a million children under the age of five died because of the combined action of the first Gulf War (when US/UK Allied Forces used air bombardment to take out most of the Iraqi infrastructure, plus the effect of the economic trade sanctions). Not only the Iraqi children were dying but a whole nation was slowly being destroyed. Our delegation was told there were no weapons of mass destruction as UN Inspectors had done their job so well that the Iraqi government was no threat to anyone outside its own borders. We knew this truth about nuclear weapons; why then did Bush and Blair lie to us all?

People knew about the suffering of the Iraqi people, both under the cruel dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, and the cruelty of the Allied Forces, who used depleted uranium weapons, polluting Iraqi land and rivers, and resulting in many children being born with deformities. It was such policies of the West, and the treatment of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, that angered many people around the world, and particularly our Arab brothers and sisters, who saw the suffering inflicted on their own people.

The death and suffering brought about by the September 11, 2001 bombings in America (which themselves were equally reprehensible) should have been a wake-up call to Western governments that alternatives to their violence had to be used if there was to be a real solution to the problems. Sadly, the old ways of violence and war kicked in and the American government's war on terrorism and tactics of "shock and awe" only added to the suffering. The British government had already learned that you don't fight terrorism with force, having just helped to end 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland through dialoguing with representatives of paramilitary groups. There was an alternative to war, but the American government had its own agenda.

"In February 2003, 11 million people took part in 80 countries and more than 600 urban communities, calling for no war."

People mobilized in opposition to the Afghanistan war and the invasion and occupation of Iraq. In February 2003, 11 million people took part in 80 countries and more than 600 urban communities, calling for no war. Yet, the USA/UK governments ignored the UN and went to war illegally. I believe Bush and Blair should be held accountable for illegally taking the world to war and for crimes against humanity.

The whole world knows that the invasion and occupation of Iraq was not about regime change, weapons of mass destruction or "war on terrorism." It was what all wars are about—power. Power to make money, defense dollars, oil dollars and the power to control the region.

The invasion and occupation of Iraq has resulted in the growth of the nationalist insurgency, who perceive themselves as fighting for the freedom of their country and to end the US-led occupation. When people experience violence and injustice upon themselves or others, their own anger, pain and frustration can turn into violence, and so the cycle continues until someone has the courage to break the violent cycle by dealing with the root causes.

In November 2004, the siege of Fallujah by the US military, when they used illegal white phosphorus chemical weapons on civilians and destroyed three-quarters of the city, will go down in history as another example of the madness of militarism. Such barbarity only serves to increase the insurgency movements and feeds the cycle of violence. The cost of the invasion in terms of human life is horrific. Hundred of thousands of Iraqi civilians and many Afghan people dead, over 2,000 dead American soldiers and 16,500 injured (300 of which were brain injuries), over 100 dead British soldiers. Each and every one of these lives sacred. No other country in the world sacrifices its youth to "full spectrum dominance," that is, ongoing unnecessary militarism and war. No other country has bases in so many countries (700 US military bases in 130 countries).

"The spiritual leaders in the Iraqi community have an important role to play in helping bring a nonviolent resolution to the conflict."

But there is also a strong resistance to the war mentality among ordinary Americans. In this respect I pay the highest tribute to those people who today languish in prisons, both inside and outside America, because of their nonviolent acts of civil disobedience against the outrageous policies of warmongers. Among them I include refuseniks and conscientious objectors everywhere, and parents like Cindy Sheehan (USA) and Rose Gentle (Britain) who have spoken truth to power at great personal cost.

The continued presence of US/UK troops in Iraq exacerbates the violence. A further offensive by the Allied Forces, which means mass arrests, house raids and bombing of civilians, continued illegal detentions, torture and abuse is being resisted with violence by insurgency groups. The American government should state it has no strategic interest in Iraq, and its intention to withdraw all US troops and bases immediately, stop bombing and provide sufficient funds to the Iraqi people to rebuild basic infrastructure. They should close Guantanamo Bay (where some detainees are currently on hunger strike and being forcibly fed), end illegal detentions and torture in US detention facilities, and set up a fair and speedy judicial process for detainees. The American government claims it wishes to bring democracy to Iraq but refuses to extend any legal rights to those held in illegal camps such as Guantanamo.

Talking to the insurgency groups and helping the development of Iraqi peace and human rights groups will be necessary. The spiritual leaders in the Iraqi community have an important role to play in helping bring a nonviolent resolution to the conflict. Suicide bombings and insurgency violence only add to the suffering of the Iraqi people. The Iraqi civil community has the power to demand an end to occupation and all forms of insurgency violence, including suicide bombing, and to use nonviolence as a means of solving these problems. This is how the Northern Ireland conflict was stopped; not by the government removing basic civil liberties, not by militarism, or paramilitarism, but through upholding high standards of justice and by the politicians and Irish and British governments talking to the representatives of paramilitary groups. In Northern Ireland, the political dialogue continues today and, although still slow and painful, we know that the war is over. The Northern Irish civil community played a role in stopping the violence; it now has a role to play in helping to build trust and reconciliation.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Of concern to people around the world is the American nuclear weapons policy. Many people see this policy as based upon hypocrisy and double standards and as fuelling a second nuclear arms race. With some 6,000 active and operational nuclear warheads, 2,000 on hair trigger alert ready to be launched with 15 minutes warning, the Bush administration refused to relinquish the option of first use of nuclear weapons, even against non-nuclear weapons states. It continues to ignore its obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The Bush administration has withdrawn from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in order to pursue destabilizing missile defense programs and has not supported a verifiable Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. Has the office of the President no integrity left? Has the office been sold into the business of making money for arms manufacturers? The United States is the great block to nuclear disarmament, preferring instead to point the finger at Iran and North Korea. The hypocrisy of the American government increasing its nuclear weapons while going to war against Iraq based on the Bush administration's lie that Iraq had nuclear weapons and was a threat to the American people, is not missed by the international

community; nor is the current saber rattling of America against Iran.

In Britain, too, Tony Blair plans to replace Britain's Trident nuclear missiles. Originally the Trident cost £12.5 billion. The cost of replacing them now will be more, and much of this will be paid to the Pentagon by British taxpayers, as Britain does not own but leases these missiles from the Pentagon. Replacing Trident means ignoring Britain's obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Nuclear weapons are hopelessly irrelevant to the threat of terrorism, and the collapse of the Cold War has removed even the theoretical justification for anyone possessing strategic nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are unethical, immoral and illegal. Continuation of building these weapons ignores the fact that the world has changed. Most of the conflicts, as Britain has experienced on its own doorstep in Northern Ireland, are ethnic/political in nature, and you cannot drop a nuclear bomb or hellfire missiles from a predator drone in an ethnic/political conflict! And this principle should apply equally to Northern Ireland, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Nuclear weapons are hopelessly irrelevant to the threat of terrorism."

In his message to mark the World Day of Peace on January l, 2006, Pope Benedict condemned countries like the United States, Britain and France that insist on the necessity of nuclear weapons for alleged security. Pope Benedict said, "In a nuclear war there would be no victors, only victims." He said the money saved by nuclear disarmament "could then be employed in projects of development capable of benefiting all their people, especially the poor."

As long as the USA continues its nuclear arms development, its non-compliance with the NPT, and threatens other countries, it offers an incentive to non-nuclear weapons states to attempt to get nuclear weapons and join the "big boy's elite nuclear club." Of concern to the world is the fact that the Israeli government is a nuclear power and is threatening Iran with a first-strike policy. Israel's nuclear adventure continues to put the Middle East in grave danger of a nuclear arms race. Should Israel carry out its recent threat to bomb Iranian nuclear facilities (or the USA does this), it could lead to a military and political catastrophe for the Middle East. Israel has about 200 nuclear weapons (the same as Britain) and as it was the first country to obtain such weapons in the region, it has a moral responsibility to tell the truth that it has them and start leading the movement to create a Nuclear Free Zone in the Middle East.

Last April, some of us protested at the Dimona nuclear plant in Israel, calling for it to be open to UN Inspection and bombs to be destroyed. Israeli jets flew overhead, and a train passed into the Dimona nuclear site. This brought back to me vivid memories of my visit to Auschwitz concentration camp, with its rail tracks, trains, destruction and death. I felt sad, but later took hope from the words of an Israeli professor when he said to me: "It is possible to rid the entire Middle East of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction; we can and we should begin to do this NOW..." A nuclear-free Middle East and world is not a dream. The strategy is set out in the Nuclear Weapons Convention. All that is needed is the political will, led by America and Israel, from a position of power, to make it happen. If Iran decides to go down the road of building a bomb it will fuel tension and the nuclear arms race in the Middle East. They, too, should do their part in encouraging dialogue in order to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and take seriously the task of justice and reconciliation with Israel.

We know that human beings mimic and imitate each other, and if one country gets a bomb, someone else wants it. So how do we stop this madness? Everyone has a part to play, and everyone has responsibility. University scientists and arms developers have a responsibility for designing and making weapons. If everyone refused to be a link in the chain in the killing machine—as Mordechai Vanunu did—the chain could be broken and the killing machine stopped. Currently the Pentagon has a "targeted killing" program to kill suspected terrorists with drone-fired missiles. These are unmanned Predator Drone aircraft equipped with Hellfire missiles, which are operated by CIA or Pentagon officials at computer consoles in the United States. They have been the cause of many civilian deaths; one used in Pakistan killed 18 civilians. It must be asked in what prestigious universities in America and in other countries, have scientists designed such killing machines. These scientists must take responsibility for their actions and stop their misguided rationalization of the killing of human beings.

I am reminded of the words of Galileo:

"If only I had resisted! If only the scientists could have

developed something like the Hippocratic Oath of the physicians, a vow to use their knowledge for the welfare of humanity alone. As it now stands, the best one can hope for is a race of inventive dwarfs who can be hired for anything….I surrendered my knowledge to those in power, to use or not to use, or to misuse, just as suited their purposes."

We have to abolish nuclear weapons. No government can be trusted with them; not the USA, Britain, Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea or Israel. Nuclear weapons have been used twice, at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The "justifications" for these slaughters was the greater good of the United States. The same justification could be made again not just by the USA, but by every country possessing nuclear weapons.

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VIOLENCE OF POVERTY

Militarism and war condemn the poor to misery by usurping money, which could provide human security in the form of health and education for all. Surely, the measure of a country's greatness is how it treats its children, the materially poor and weak in its own communities. Recently the US administration requested some $450 billion for the military. How can the US government justify this while 20 million Americans live below the poverty line, and some of their schools don't have pencils for their children? (I once was asked by an American teacher to collect money to buy school pencils.)

We hear about the American Christian Right's family values and morality. This current Bush administration has continued to penalize the poor and reward the rich, yet there is no serious outcry against such injustice, and no demand for the President to nurture the nation's children, by either the Christian Right or the American people. Poverty and injustice are so ingrained within American society that it will take more than charity to solve the problem. Martin Luther King, Jr. understood this well, when he said, "True compassion is more than flinging a coin at a beggar; it comes to see that an edifice which produces a beggar is in need of restructuring."

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Since the Second World War great efforts have been made by the international community in building up an impressive body of international law by means of treaties. However, what we have lately witnessed has been the systematic bypassing of international law and the flagrant and contemptuous flouting of UN conventions and the United Nations itself. No country can appeal to the UN to uphold international laws that will benefit only that one country and flout the UN authority when its resolutions run counter to that country's perceived interests. These international laws and treaties cannot be set aside at the whim of any one government, but must be upheld by all and applied to all. The American government's current practice of acting unilaterally and preemptively, setting aside the Geneva Conventions and due process of law for detainees and renditioning, flouts international law and sends a "green light" to dictatorships around the world. Unauthorized wiretapping of its own citizens denies its citizens their constitutional rights. The American Constitution, so long admired by many in the international community, is now endangered by those enemies of freedom within its own Executive, and only the vigilance of real American freedom lovers and true democrats can save it from destruction and desecration.

NONKILLING, NONVIOLENT CULTURE

Many people around the world agree that we cannot continue to use war and terrorism as ways of solving international conflicts. State terrorism in the form of preventive war waged with modern technology, and the terrorism of "terrorists" and "freedom fighters," both using forms of violence that kill, are unacceptable. We all have to challenge these increasing forms of lethality, and create new politics in order to remove killing from global life. There is another way to solve international conflicts, instead of fight or flight, and it is the way of active nonviolence.

Since the beginning of time there have been examples of nonviolent conflict resolution, but we have not taken nonviolence as a serious means of political change. It is a recorded fact that less than five percent of human beings have ever killed. We are not born with a violent brain. We have to be culturally conditioned to accepting or using violence, and trained to be able to kill. This fact should give us great hope that we can indeed build nonkilling, nonviolent societies by working on all levels of society to remove the disease of violence. It is good news that many governments are recognizing violence as a health issue. Governments, education and media can all help the transition from a culture of violence to a culture of nonviolence.

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Having lived through 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland, I have come to believe that it is our mindsets that must change. In the midst of military and paramilitary violence, I had to ask myself "could I ever kill?" I came to the absolute conviction that my life is sacred, every human life is sacred, and I have no right to take another person's life. It just seems to me that is natural justice. If I don't want another to kill me, why should I believe I could kill them? Life is a gift, a beautiful gift, to be celebrated, joined in and treated with dignity and respect. Also, as a committed Christian, I always have to ask myself, "What would Jesus do?" He would love. He simply loved people so much, that he could never have hurt or killed anyone. Jesus totally rejected all the violence that had gone before him; he came to show a way of nonkilling, nonviolence. I agree with the late great American theologian, Fr. John L. McKenzie: "You cannot read the gospels and not know that Jesus was totally nonviolent." Indeed, the founders of all the great religions, including Islam, were men of peace. I believe there is so much unhappiness in the world, because we have moved away from our roots, which are love, compassion, forgiveness and service to all. We must get back to our roots if we are to find real inner peace and happiness, which is our rightful inheritance as human beings. From these roots we can build nonkilling, nonviolent communities. But these spiritual values of compassion, love and forgiveness need to be extended into our governments' policies so that we connect spirituality and social justice. We must insist that our media, corporations and governments uphold ethical principles, and their policies be based upon real values that uphold human dignity and human rights.

I believe it is a fundamental principle that everyone has the right not to be killed and the responsibility not to kill or support the killing of others. To realize a nonkilling, nonviolent world it is necessary to establish or strengthen implementing institutions.

Why can we not have a Nonviolent Security Council, Global Nonkilling Research and Development, Nonviolent Global Rescue and Relief Service, a Global Council of Reconciliation and Restorative Justice, a Nonviolent Global Ecumenical Body or Ministries of Nonviolence and Peace in every country? Currently we have a Nonviolence Peace Force, operating in several countries, and made up of volunteers who believe that local and international conflicts can be solved without military force.

Yes, there are many problems, but what should be obvious is this: In an interdependent, interconnected world, the old politics of militarism, violence and war are becoming redundant. We need now to develop an International Charter for a Nonviolent World on behalf of the human family. Already we see this beginning to take shape in the brave actions of nonviolent activists struggling in their own communities to right wrongs and achieve justice. We should try to keep contact with one another and guard as precious this international community of activists, and the freedom and independence of the Internet that makes this community possible. From this community maybe there will emerge an alternative United Nations not answerable to militaristic governments but to the principles of truth, peace, justice and love.

We can build a world civilization, with a heart, and solve our problems by talking to each other, people to people, governments to governments. So let's send out a clear message from the human family to the United Nations and all governments—No more violence, No more nuclear weapons, No more wars, invasions and occupations and, above all, No war of aggression against Iran. The human family has a right to peace, and the people's movement here in America, and around the world, gives us all hope for a better future.

Mairead Corrigan Maguire

Mairead Corrigan Maguire founded the Community of the Peace People in 1976 along with Betty Williams and Ciaran McKeown. Mairead was the aunt of the three Maguire children who were hit by a getaway car after its driver was shot by a soldier. The deaths prompted a series of marches throughout Northern Ireland and further afield, all demanding an end to the violence. Mairead and Betty went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976.

Prior to this Mairead worked as a private secretary to the Managing Director of a major Northern Ireland firm. She was a volunteer with the Legion of Mary, a Catholic lay organization, where she began her volunteer work with young people and prisoners. She was also one of the co-founders of the Committee of the Administration of Justice, a non-sectarian group heavily involved in the debate over changes in the legal system in Northern Ireland. Since receiving a Certificate in Ecumenical studies from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Mairead has continued her work with interchurch and interfaith organizations. She is Patron of the Methodist Theological College and Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education.

Mairead is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Norwegian People's Prize; honorary doctorates from Yale University, University of South Korea, and College of New Rochelle, New York; and special awards from Trinity University, Washington, DC and St. Michael's College, Vermont. She was a special honoree of the UN Women of Achievement program in 1978 and of the American Academy of Achievement. In October 1990, she was named by Bishop Gerald O'Keefe to receive the 1990 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award in Davenport, Iowa. In 1992, she received the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Distinguished Peace Leadership Award.

Mairead has traveled widely in Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, India, Israel/Palestine, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the US, and recently in Iraq. She has also visited Latin America as the guest of Nobel Laureate Aldofo Perez Esquivel, whom she first nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

A selection of her writings: *The Vision of Peace – Faith and Hope in Northern Ireland*, edited by John Dear, S.J., was published by Orbis Books in 1999.

The Foundation

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation initiates and supports worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, to strengthen international law and institutions, and to inspire and empower a new generation of peace leaders. Founded in 1982, the Foundation is comprised of individuals and organizations worldwide who realize the imperative for peace in the Nuclear Age.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan, international education and advocacy organization. It has consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and is recognized by the UN as a Peace Messenger Organization.

Vision

Our vision is a world at peace, free of the threat of war and free of weapons of mass destruction.

Mission

To advance initiatives to eliminate the nuclear weapons threat to all life, to foster the global rule of law, and to build an enduring legacy of peace through education and advocacy.

www.wagingpeace.org

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