

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Issue #152 - March 2010

The Sunflower is a monthly e-newsletter providing educational information on nuclear weapons abolition and other issues relating to global security. Help us spread the word and forward this to a friend.

Visit www.wagingpeace.org/donate to help sustain this valuable resource by making a donation.

To receive our free monthly e-newsletter subscribe at www.wagingpeace.org/subscribe

- **Perspectives**
 - [A Nuclear Weapons Convention](#) by David Krieger
 - [Nagasaki Appeal 2010](#)
- **US Nuclear Weapons Policy**
 - [Five NATO Countries to Demand Removal of US Nuclear Weapons from Europe](#)
 - [Japanese Legislators Call for US Sole Purpose Policy](#)
- **Nuclear Proliferation**
 - [Russia Announces New Nuclear Doctrine](#)
- **Nuclear Insanity**
 - [Activists Breach US Nuclear Weapons Site in Belgium](#)
- **Missile Defense**
 - [Sub-Par Missile Defense Contractors Chastised](#)
 - [Missile Defense Protest Quashed by Military Police](#)
- **Nuclear Energy and Waste**
 - [Vermont Senate Votes to Close Nuclear Power Plant](#)
 - [Nuclear Loan Guarantees Have a 50 Percent Default Rate](#)
- **Military-Industrial Complex**
 - [US to Increase Arms Sales to India and Pakistan](#)
- **Resources**
 - [Deadly Climate Change from Nuclear War](#)
 - [Confronting Nuclear War](#)
 - [NATO's Strategic Concept, the NPT, and Global Zero](#)
 - [Hiroshima Peace Media Center](#)
- **Foundation Activities**
 - [Peace Leadership Program Update](#)
 - ["DC Days" Lobbying Trip](#)
 - [Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest Ends April 1](#)
 - [Call for Submissions: Speak on Video to UN Diplomats](#)
 - [NAPF Summer Internship Application Deadline Is March 15](#)
- **Quotes**

Perspectives

A Nuclear Weapons Convention

by David Krieger

This speech was delivered by David Krieger to the 4th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on February 8, 2010.

A Nuclear Weapons Convention is a treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons. Such a treaty does not yet exist, except in the form of a model treaty developed by non-governmental organizations and introduced by Costa Rica and Malaysia to the United Nations General Assembly. The model treaty shows that a Nuclear Weapons Convention is possible from a technical perspective. What it does not demonstrate is its feasibility from a political perspective.

If the goal is a world free of nuclear weapons, then a Nuclear Weapons Convention is the best vehicle for achieving this goal. When speaking about a Nuclear Weapons Convention, I generally add “a treaty for the phased, verifiable, irreversible and transparent elimination of nuclear weapons.” Let’s discuss those qualifiers.

To read more, [click here](#).

Nagasaki Appeal 2010

We have gathered from around the world at the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons for the fourth time to demonstrate our determination that Nagasaki be the last place ever to suffer a nuclear attack. At the first Assembly in 2000, we heard atomic bomb survivors say, “We want to see nuclear weapons abolished in our lifetime.” Since then, ten years have passed without their wish being realized. Hearing again the voices of survivors, we renew our resolve to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. Their stories remind us of the suffering of victims created at the every stage of the nuclear cycle from uranium mining to weapons production and testing.

To read more, [click here](#).

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Five NATO Countries to Demand Removal of US Nuclear Weapons from Europe

In a move intended to spur global nuclear disarmament, five members of NATO plan to call on the US to remove all of its nuclear weapons that remain on European soil.

Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Norway and Luxembourg are planning the move in order to influence the debate within NATO about the usefulness of nuclear weapons. Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme issued a statement saying, “The Belgian government wants to seize the chance provided by the US president’s call for a world without nuclear weapons.”

There are thought to be about 200 US nuclear weapons in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and Turkey.

Borger, Julian, "[Five NATO States to Urge Removal of US Nuclear Arms In Europe](#)," *The Guardian*, February 22, 2010.

Japanese Legislators Call for US Sole Purpose Policy

A letter from 204 Japanese legislators to President Obama calls upon the president to implement a "Sole Purpose" policy for US nuclear weapons in return for a Japanese assurance not to seek nuclear weapons of its own.

A "Sole Purpose" policy is one in which nuclear weapons are retained solely for the purpose of deterring others from using such weapons. Such a policy would effectively rule out the first use of nuclear weapons, including the threat or use against chemical, biological or conventional forces.

Ware, Alyn, "[Japan and NATO Are Ready for the US to Reduce Nuclear Weapons](#)," *The Huffington Post*, February 18, 2010.

Nuclear Proliferation

Russia Announces New Nuclear Doctrine

A new military doctrine signed by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev says, "Russia reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in response to the use of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction against it and its allies, as well as an aggression against the Russian Federation with the use of conventional weapons jeopardizing the very existence of the state."

Russia has identified the expansion of NATO near its borders, the deployment of US missile defense elements near its borders and the growing number of nuclear powers as threats to its security.

"[Russia Announces New Nuclear Doctrine](#)," *One India*, February 6, 2010.

Nuclear Insanity

Activists Breach US Nuclear Weapons Site in Belgium

Activists from the peace group Vredesactie penetrated deep onto Kleine Brogel Air Base in Belgium where the US Air Force currently deploys up to 20 nuclear bombs. The group of activists climbed the outer base fence, walked across the runway, got through a double-fenced security perimeter and walked one kilometer to the shelter where the US nuclear bombs are kept.

The activists were on the base for over one hour before being stopped by base authorities. [Click here](#) to watch a three-minute video the group made during their action on the base.

Moran, Rick, "[Serious Security Breach at US Nuclear Weapons Site in Belgium](#)," *American Thinker*, February 7, 2010.

Missile Defense

Sub-Par Missile Defense Contractors Chastised

David Altwegg, Executive Director of the Missile Defense Agency, made public comments expressing his displeasure with missile defense contractors after the latest failed test of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system on January 31.

Altwegg said, "We continue to be disappointed in the quality that we are receiving from our prime contractors and their subs - very, very disappointed." The GMD system was estimated by the Government Accountability Office to cost \$35.5 billion. Costs of quality problems and failed tests are ultimately passed on to American taxpayers.

Grossman, Elaine, "[On Heels of Failed Intercept Test, Missile Defense Leader Excoriates Contractors](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, February 2, 2010.

Missile Defense Protest Quashed by Military Police

A small group of 11 protestors gathered outside the main gate of Vandenberg Air Force Base on January 31 to protest a test-launch of the missile defense system. The protestors, who were legally on a public highway, were immediately approached by Military Police. The MPs arrested eight of the 11 protestors, primarily for refusing to show ID.

One protestor, a woman in her 80s from Santa Barbara, was handcuffed and thrown to the ground, where a MP held her with his knee in her back. She was subsequently transferred to a local hospital for treatment of a shoulder injury inflicted during the arrest.

The test, which cost at least \$150 million, was meant to simulate an attack against the United States by Iran. The test failed, as described in the previous article.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

Vermont Senate Votes to Close Nuclear Power Plant

The Vermont State Senate voted 26 to 4 to close the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant when its operating license expires in 2012. Entergy, the corporation that now owns Vermont Yankee, was seeking a 20-year extension to operate the plant until 2032.

Vermont Yankee, which has always faced strong opposition from activists in New England, has recently come under fire for major underground tritium leaks after they testified that there was no underground piping on site that carried tritium.

Vermont State Senator Randolph Brock said, "If the board of directors and management of Entergy were thoroughly infiltrated by antinuclear activists, I do not think they could have done a better job of destroying their own case."

Wald, Matthew, "[Vermont Senate Votes to Close Nuclear Plant](#)," *The New York Times*, February 24, 2010.

Nuclear Loan Guarantees Have a 50 Percent Default Rate

A study by the Congressional Budget Office shows that the chances of default on government-backed loan guarantees for new nuclear power plants are "very high - well above 50 percent."

The Obama administration plans to provide over \$54 billion in loan guarantees for new nuclear power plants. The first loan guarantee of \$8.33 billion was awarded to Southern Company for two proposed nuclear reactors in Georgia.

The economics of the nuclear industry are so shaky that Wall Street banks have balked at financing new plants unless the government underwrites the deals. Michael Wallace, co-chief executive of UniStar Nuclear, said, "Without loan guarantees we will not build nuclear power plants."

Sheppard, Kate, "[Energy Sec Unaware that Nuclear Loans Have 50 Percent Risk of Default](#)," *Mother Jones*, February 16, 2010.

Military-Industrial Complex

US to Increase Arms Sales to India and Pakistan

The United States is expanding arms sales to both India and Pakistan, nuclear-armed rivals that just recently restarted peace talks. The Obama administration rationalizes these weapons deals by saying that the deals lead to closer ties with each country and create new jobs for American weapons manufacturers.

India and Pakistan both detonated multiple nuclear weapons in 1998 to enter the "nuclear club" and came close to war in 2001-02, with over 600,000 troops amassed on either side of the border. Strong disagreements between the two nations continue to this day.

Dreazen, Yochi and Amol Sharma, "[US Sells Arms to South Asian Rivals](#)," *The Wall Street Journal*, February 25, 2010.

Resources

Deadly Climate Change from Nuclear War

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation Associate Steven Starr has written an important new article entitled "Deadly Climate Change from Nuclear War: A Threat to Human Existence."

A tiny fraction of the world's operational nuclear arsenals, if detonated within large cities, would generate enough smoke to cause catastrophic disruptions of the global climate and massive destruction of the protective stratospheric ozone layer. Environmental devastation caused by a war fought with many thousands of strategic nuclear weapons would quickly leave the Earth uninhabitable.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Confronting Nuclear War

Bill Wickersham, NAPF Associate and member of the Foundation's [Speakers Bureau](#), and Jared Gassen have just published a new book entitled *Confronting Nuclear War*.

The book, which is available to download online at no cost, places the threat of nuclear war as the most serious potential health, environmental, agricultural, educational and moral problem facing the human race. The book also outlines the role of individuals and organizations in the movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

To download the full book or specific chapters, [click here](#).

NATO's Strategic Concept, the NPT, and Global Zero

A new paper by Ernie Regehr, Senior Policy Advisor with Project Ploughshares, reviews the nuclear elements of NATO's current Strategic Concept. It proposes a series of policy changes that would have NATO:

- Welcome and affirm the groundswell of calls for a world without nuclear weapons;
- Confirm NATO's commitment to the objectives of the NPT and declare that the intent of Article VI is a world free of nuclear weapons; and
- Commit NATO to security and arms control policies that conform to Articles I and II of the NPT (by ending nuclear sharing arrangements) and that are designed to achieve the nuclear disarmament promised in Article VI of the Treaty.

To read the full paper, [click here](#).

Hiroshima Peace Media Center

The Hiroshima Peace Media Center, a wing of one of Japan's largest newspapers, the *Chugoku Shimbun*, transmits peace-related reporting via the internet in English and Japanese. It strives to be a global leader in its advocacy for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the advancement of peace in the world.

To read the latest peace news and features from the Hiroshima Peace Media Center, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

Peace Leadership Program Update

Paul Chappell, Director of the Foundation's Peace Leadership Program, visited Ohio in early February, where he gave 14 talks to high schools, colleges, churches, and activist groups in the area. He also had a radio interview on the local NPR station. He heard many important questions about the war in Afghanistan, which he has summarized in an article titled "The US Army's Gandhi Strategy." The article outlines why the US military believes it can succeed in Afghanistan, why our approach there is filled with problems, and how the United States could more effectively combat terrorism.

To read Paul's article, [click here](#).

"DC Days" Lobbying Trip

Rick Wayman, the Foundation's Director of Programs, will take part in the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's DC Days lobbying event from March 14-17. The theme of the event is "Ending the Nuclear Threat: Protecting Our Communities and Our World."

Activists from across the country will come together to learn about issues of nuclear weapons, power and waste and to pass that education on to members of Congress, the Obama administration and the Department of Energy. It is a unique opportunity to gain valuable skills and experience in political activism and advocacy.

To find out how you can get involved in DC Days, [click here](#) or contact Dan Yoken at (202) 544-0217 x2501.

Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest Ends April 1

The 2010 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest is now accepting entries through April 1, 2010. The top three winners will receive cash awards of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250, and winning videos will be shown at the United Nations during the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

Everyone is eligible to enter this video contest, which seeks videos of three minutes or less addressing how humanity can change its modes of thinking to avoid a nuclear catastrophe.

For more information on the video contest, [click here](#).

Call for Submissions: Speak on Video to UN Diplomats

The NGO peace and disarmament community will be showing a 5-minute video at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the United Nations this May, comprised of video clips from people around the world speaking about their desire to live in a world without nuclear weapons. We want you to participate.

Video submissions should answer one of the following questions:

1. Why do you want a nuclear weapon-free world?
2. What worries you about continuing to live in a world that is threatened by the use of nuclear weapons?

You can address your answers to the diplomats who will be watching the video at the Conference, or to the world at large.

Select responses will be edited together for the video, which will be shown during the NGO presentation to the Conference on May 7, 2010. After the Conference, the video will be posted on youtube.com to spread the message that citizens of the world no longer want to live under the threat of nuclear weapons.

For more information on how to submit a video, [click here](#).

NAPF Summer Internship Application Deadline Is March 15

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's summer internship program is accepting applications until March 15. The internship program brings together top level students to work on current global issues in the areas of peace, security and international law. Interns work at our headquarters in downtown Santa Barbara, California.

For more information and application instructions, [click here](#).

Quotes

“Every dollar spent on weapons is one less spent on schools, life-saving medicine, or research into life-affirming technologies.”

-- UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**

“Energy experts at the Rocky Mountain Institute and elsewhere estimate that a dollar invested in increased efficiency could save as much as seven times as much energy than one invested in nuclear plants can produce, while producing ten times as many permanent jobs.”

-- **Harvey Wasserman** in his recent article “[Obama's Atomic Blunder](#)”

“Deterrence exists only if the protagonists, no matter how violent their hostility, are rational and respect a rational code of exchanging signals about possible crossings of the red line, that is threats that will be considered critical...The risk is very high that we may see the government of some nuclear-armed state pass into the control of irrational fanatics, either laymen or purportedly religious leaders.”

-- **Michel Rocard**, former French Prime Minister

Editorial Team

David Krieger
Mozelle Moreno
Vicki Stevenson
Rick Wayman