

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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- Perspectives
 - Nuclear Roulette Has No Winners by David Krieger
 - Days of Blank Checks Are Over for Nuclear Weapons Establishment by Kevin Martin and Jay Coghlan
- US Nuclear Weapons Policy
 - The Prophets of Oak Ridge
 - Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act
- Nuclear Disarmament
 - Egypt Walks out of NPT Conference
- Nuclear Proliferation
 - Questions Around North Korea's Nuclear Capabilities
- Nuclear Insanity
 - Japan Refuses to Sign Statement on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons
 - U.S. Plans Nuclear Missile Test in May
 - Hiroshima Prefecture Issues Disarmament Grades
- Resources
 - Still Assuring Destruction Forever
 - Don't Be Stupid, Be Safe
 - Good Faith: Essential for Nuclear Disarmament and Human Survival
 - The Ultimate Wish: Ending the Nuclear Age
- Foundation Activities
 - NAPF President David Krieger to Speak in Hiroshima
 - Disarmament Video Contest Winners Announced
 - NAPF Peace Poetry Contest Deadline is July 1
- Quotes

Perspectives

Nuclear Roulette Has No Winners

by David Krieger

The United States and North Korea are playing a dangerous game of Nuclear Roulette. The U.S. is taking actions that threaten North Korea, such as conducting war games with U.S. ally South Korea, including practice bombing runs that send nuclear-capable B-2 bombers from Missouri to the Korean Peninsula. The North Koreans, in turn, are blustering, declaring they are in a state of war with South Korea, which technically is true since a truce and not a peace agreement ended the Korean War in 1953. North Korean leaders have also cancelled the “hot line” with Seoul and are threatening nuclear attacks on the U.S., its troops and its allies.

Nuclear Roulette has no winners. It is a game that no country should be playing. But the leaders of countries with nuclear weapons tend to believe these weapons make their own country more secure. They do not. They risk everything we hold dear, all we love, and they undermine our collective sense of decency.

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

Days of Blank Checks Are Over for Nuclear Weapons Establishment

by Kevin Martin and Jay Coghlan

Many of America's Cold War weapons are in the hands of one of its most obscure government agencies - the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). The agency's obscurity to most taxpayers is exceeded only by its astonishing failure to acknowledge political and fiscal reality.

The NNSA, apparently indifferent to federal belt-tightening, thinks it needs a big raise. Stuck in the Cold War, the hey-day of nuclear spending, the agency in charge of the nation's nuclear weapons is calling for more spending in almost every category.

The nuclear weapons budget request is \$7.87 billion, in real terms a 16.7 percent increase above last year's levels, virtually unheard of in all other federal agencies given our nation's fiscal constraints. That large increase is especially ironic given the agency's chronic cost overruns and mismanagement in both construction projects and nuclear weapons programs. The agency also plans to increase its nuclear weapons budget to \$9.29 billion by 2018.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

The Prophets of Oak Ridge

Three members of Transform Now Plowshares face up to 35 years in prison for their nonviolent action in July 2012 at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee. The action exposed serious security vulnerabilities at the facility, which is an integral part of the United States' nuclear weapons complex. The most serious charge they face is commonly known as the sabotage act, which alleges intent to injure the national defense of the United States. The charge carries a maximum of 25 years in prison.

The *Washington Post* recently published an [extensive piece](#) profiling the three activists: Sister Megan Rice, an 83-year-old nun; Michael Walli, a 63-year-old Catholic Worker; and Greg Boertje-Obed, a 57-year-old former U.S. Army officer.

Jury selection begins on May 6, with the trial scheduled to begin on May 7.

["Ramsey Clark on Nuclear Weapons and Update on Charges,"](#) *Transform Now Plowshares*, April 29, 2013.

Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) has introduced the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2013 as H.R. 1650 in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill requires the U.S. to negotiate an international agreement to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons by 2020 and to redirect the funds to human and infrastructure needs.

Ms. Norton said, "Today, our country has a long list of urgent domestic needs that have been put on the back burner even though millions of Americans have lost their homes and jobs and sequestration has started. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and that still possesses the largest nuclear weapons arsenal, I urge support for my bill to help the United States lead the world in redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons to be available for urgent domestic needs."

["Norton Reintroduces Nuclear Disarmament Bill,"](#) *Prop1.org*, April 18, 2013.

Nuclear Disarmament

Egypt Walks out of NPT Conference

On April 29, Egypt withdrew from the 2013 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Committee as a result of the "flagrant non-fulfillment of agreed commitments" in the 2010 NPT outcome document, namely convening a conference on the subject of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass-destruction in the Middle East. As part of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, which indefinitely extended the treaty, a key element was a resolution on a Middle East nuclear weapon-free zone.

Ambassador Hisham Badr of Egypt referred to this resolution as the "fourth pillar of the NPT" behind non-proliferation, disarmament and the right to pursue peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Badr said that Egypt wanted to send a "strong message of dissatisfaction with the lack of seriousness in dealing with the issue of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons, a central component of regional, Arab and Egyptian national security, which impacts directly international peace and security."

Tony Robinson, ["Egypt Walks out of NPT Conference,"](#) *Pressenza*, April 29, 2013.

Nuclear Proliferation

Questions Around North Korea's Nuclear Capabilities

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO) disclosed an assessment by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) that concludes with "moderate confidence" that North Korea has the ability to make a nuclear weapon small enough to be delivered by a ballistic missile. The assessment also says that the reliability of such a weapon would be low.

After the disclosure by Rep. Lamborn, James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence, released a statement saying that the DIA assessment does not represent a consensus of the U.S. intelligence community and that "North Korea has not yet demonstrated the full range of capabilities necessary for a nuclear armed missile."

The Defense Intelligence Agency is one of the bodies that claimed most vociferously in 2002-03 that Iraq had nuclear weapons.

Thom Shanker, David Sanger and Eric Schmitt, "[Pentagon Finds Nuclear Strides by North Korea](#)," *The New York Times*, April 11, 2013.

Nuclear Insanity

Japan Refuses to Sign Statement on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

Japan, the only country against which nuclear weapons have been used in war, refused to sign a statement on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons at the 2013 Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom. [The statement](#), organized by South Africa and signed by 74 countries, expresses deep concern "about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons." The statement concludes, "We owe it to future generations to work together to rid our world of the threat posed by nuclear weapons."

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said that Japan did not agree with the statement, given "the security environment in which the country is placed." Suga is referring to the fact that Japan places its faith in nuclear deterrence and relies on the U.S. "nuclear umbrella."

"[Japan Refuses to Back Statement Against A-bombs](#)," *Kyodo*, April 26, 2013.

U.S. Plans Nuclear Missile Test in May

After the widely-publicized postponement of a Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile test in April, the United States has announced plans to launch the missile sometime between May 21-23. U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced the April postponement during the height of tensions between the U.S. and North Korea, saying that the U.S. did not want North Korea to "misinterpret" the nuclear-capable missile test as a provocative act.

While the daily threats between the U.S. and North Korea have died down in recent days, the planned test, which will launch a Minuteman III missile with a mock nuclear warhead from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, will likely still be viewed by North Korea as provocative.

Robert Burns, "[U.S. Preparing for Possible Further N. Korea Actions](#)," *Associated Press*, April 7, 2013.

Hiroshima Prefecture Issues Disarmament Grades

Hiroshima Prefecture has issued a report grading 19 nations on nuclear arms reduction, nonproliferation and nuclear security. In the nuclear arms reduction area, the report ranks the United States second behind the U.K. despite U.S. plans to spend at least \$185 billion over the next decade to significantly extend the lifespan of numerous nuclear weapon systems, and construct new nuclear weapon production facilities and delivery platforms.

"[Hiroshima Gives Disarmament Grades](#)," *Kyodo*, April 12, 2013.

Resources

Still Assuring Destruction Forever

Reaching Critical Will, a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, has published a new report on nuclear weapon modernization entitled "Still Assuring Destruction Forever."

In 2012, Reaching Critical Will published its first report on global nuclear weapon modernization, "Assuring Destruction Forever: Nuclear Modernization Around the World." Non-governmental researchers and analysts, leading and knowledgeable experts about nuclear weapons programs and policies, provided information on the plans of China (Hui Zhang), France (Hans Kristensen), India (M.V. Ramana), Israel (Merav Datan), Pakistan (Zia Mian), Russia (Pavel Podvig), the United Kingdom (John Ainslie), and the United States (Andrew Lichterman). "Still Assuring Destruction Forever" provides an update of the summaries of each of the countries covered by the 2012 report.

To read the new report, [click here](#).

To read the original 2012 report, [click here](#).

Don't Be Stupid, Be Safe

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has launched a new campaign entitled "Don't Be Stupid, Be Safe." The campaign features a two-minute animated video and a petition calling for a treaty banning nuclear weapons. The petition will be presented to governments at a conference in Mexico in early 2014 that will address the catastrophic humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons.

[Click here](#) to go to the campaign website. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is an ICAN partner organization.

Good Faith: Essential for Nuclear Disarmament and Human Survival

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has published a briefing paper by Judge Christopher G. Weeramantry, a member of the NAPF Advisory Council and former Vice President of the International Court of Justice. The paper, entitled "Good Faith: Essential for Nuclear Disarmament and Human Survival," was distributed at the 2013 Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom in Geneva, Switzerland.

Judge Weeramantry writes, "There can be no basis for the disregard or incomplete performance of an obligation [good faith] so deeply ingrained in international law, so clearly undertaken by the nuclear powers, so carefully pronounced by the International Court of Justice and so definitely determining whether humanity will flourish or perish."

To download a copy of Judge Weeramantry's briefing paper, [click here](#).

The Ultimate Wish: Ending the Nuclear Age

A new film produced by Kathleen Sullivan in collaboration with Robert Richter presents moving stories by courageous, inspirational women who survived two major nuclear crises: Nagasaki in 1945 and Fukushima in 2011.

The film, entitled "The Ultimate Wish: Ending the Nuclear Age," raises profound questions about war, technological failure, the courage to survive and the importance of taking positive actions to prevent future nuclear disasters.

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

Foundation Activities

NAPF President David Krieger to Speak in Hiroshima

NAPF President David Krieger will be a keynote speaker at a symposium in Hiroshima, Japan, organized by Chugoku Shimbun to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Hiroshima Peace Media Center. The symposium is entitled "Toward a Nuclear-Free World: Spreading Hiroshima's Message."

Dr. Krieger will address the impacts that nuclear weapons have had on people around the world. A transcript of his speech will be published on the wagingpeace.org website after it is delivered on May 25.

Disarmament Video Contest Winners Announced

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has announced the winners of the 2013 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest. Contestants made videos of three minutes or less about how and why nuclear weapons must be abolished with a sense of urgency.

Congratulations to everyone who entered this year's contest. To view the winning videos, [click here](#).

NAPF Peace Poetry Contest Deadline is July 1

The deadline to enter the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's peace poetry contest is July 1. The Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards is an annual series of awards to encourage poets to explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit. The Poetry Awards include three age categories: Adult, Youth 13-18, and Youth 12 & Under. Guidelines and past winners are available [here](#).

The Foundation has published two books of the winning poems: [The Poetry of Peace](#) (2003) and [Never Enough Flowers](#) (2012).

Quotes

"We are no longer in a period of cyclical provocations...we are in a period of prolonged provocations. I think the risk of miscalculation is higher, and the risk of an escalation is higher."

-- **Gen. Martin Dempsey**, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, referring to the conflict between the U.S. and North Korea.

"If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies."

-- **General Moshe Dyan** (1915-1981), Israeli military leader. This quote appears in the book *Speaking of Peace: Quotations to Inspire Action*, available in the [NAPF Peace Store](#).

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