

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Issue #191 - June 2013

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## Perspectives

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### **Hiroshima: City of Hope**

by David Krieger

Hiroshima is a place made sacred by pain, suffering, forgiveness and perseverance in the cause of peace of its hibakusha (survivors of the atomic bombing). I would like to say to the hibakusha at the symposium that your efforts and your messages matter, that your words and deeds have touched people's hearts throughout the world, including my own, and continue to do so. You have the power of truth and compassion on your side.

To the young people at the symposium, I want to stress how important it is to have hope and to carry on working for peace and a world free of nuclear weapons in the spirit of the hibakusha. I would like to impress upon you that Hiroshima is a city of hope and it is, at least in part, your responsibility to carry forward that hope. Without hope, our way would be lost and our future bleak.

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

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### **Regional Nuclear War Can Spur Climate Change, Famines Around the World**

by Robert Kazel

Alan Robock, senior professor in environmental science at Rutgers University, was a young scientist studying nuclear winter in the 1980s. Today, the 63-year-old researcher is warning anyone who will listen that although the Cold War ended in the early 1990s, and the risk of a Third World War now appears to be reduced, the danger of nuclear winter persists.

NAPF spoke with Robock about his new research, and why he thinks his findings are just as urgent as the well-known nuclear winter studies of the 1980s. He also discusses his frustration that his efforts to stir the interest of government officials, and even fellow scientists, often have been met with what appears to be apathy. The following is an edited version of the conversation.

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

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### **Lessons from the U.S.-Korea Nuclear Crisis**

by David Krieger

The high-profile nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula, pitting the reigning heavyweight nuclear champion, the United States, against the bantamweight nuclear contender, North Korea, is not finished and is deadly serious. The posturing and exchanges that the world has been witnessing are capable of spiraling out of control and resulting in nuclear war. Like the Cuban Missile Crisis more than half a century ago, this crisis demonstrates that nuclear dangers continue to lurk in dark shadows across the globe.

This crisis, for which the fault is shared by both sides, must be taken seriously and viewed as a warning that nuclear stability is an unrealistic goal. The elimination of nuclear weapons, an obligation set forth in the Non-Proliferation Treaty and confirmed by the International Court of Justice, must be a more urgent goal of the international community. The continued evasion of this obligation by the nuclear weapon states makes possible repeated nuclear crises, nuclear proliferation, nuclear terrorism and nuclear war.

Lessons can be drawn from this most recent crisis about the dangerous reliance by nuclear-armed states on nuclear deterrence and the unrealistic quest for security through nuclear deterrence and nuclear crisis management.

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

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## US Nuclear Weapons Policy

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### **Some U.S. Nuclear Weapons Systems May Face Budget Cuts**

Despite largely being spared the across-the-board "sequestration" cuts to other U.S. government programs, some parts of the U.S. nuclear arsenal might soon be subject to cutbacks.

Calling a new generation of nuclear weapon submarines "the central element of our triad," an unnamed senior Pentagon official said that the new submarines are unlikely to face budget cuts. However, proposed new bomber aircraft and land-based Intercontinental Ballistic Missile systems may face reductions.

Elaine Grossman, "[Nuclear Arsenal Subject to Pentagon Cuts, But New Subs May Escape Ax](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, May 24, 2013.

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## Nuclear Proliferation

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### **Japanese Reprocessing Plant May Start Soon**

Japan's preparations for a massive nuclear-fuel reprocessing plant have been met by objections from the Obama administration, which fears the move may trigger a race for nuclear technologies and weapons in North Asia. The Rokkasho reprocessing facility is capable of producing nine tons of weapons-usable plutonium annually, enough to create 2,000 nuclear weapons.

Although Japan claims its program is civilian, American officials fear it may cause neighboring countries like China, South Korea and Taiwan to develop and expand their own nuclear-fuel technologies. After having invested more than \$21 billion in the facility since its construction began in 1992 and after numerous delayed startups due to technical and financial problems, the Rokkasho facility is likely to begin operating soon under the leadership of recently elected pro-nuclear power Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe.

Jay Solomon and Miho Inada, "[Japan's Nuclear Plan Unsettles U.S.](#)," *Wall Street Journal*, May 1, 2013.

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## Nuclear Insanity

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### **Air Force Officers Temporarily Relieved of Nuclear Launch Duties**

The 91st Missile Wing at Minot Air Force Base received the equivalent of a "D" grade during its inspection in March when it was tested on its mastery of Minuteman III missile launch operations. The inspection was publicly announced as a success. However, 17 officers were quietly removed from standing "alert" in the underground launch capsules, ready to launch the nuclear missiles upon presidential order.

An email from Lt. Col. Jay Folds, obtained by the *Associated Press*, describes a culture of indifference and an unwillingness to challenge or report those who violate safety rules.

Robert Burns, "[Air Force Sidelines 17 ICBM Officers](#)," *Associated Press*, May 8, 2013.

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### **Peaceful Protestors Convicted of Sabotage**

Three nonviolent protestors, called Transform Now Plowshares, have been convicted in federal court of felony charges that fall under the "federal crime of terrorism," meaning that they must remain in prison until their sentencing in September. The three protestors, ranging in age from 57 to 82, broke into the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, on July 28, 2012, and performed various symbolic acts including spray painting messages and throwing human blood on the walls of a uranium storage compound.

Their conviction on charges of sabotage and vandalism could lead to prison terms of up to 25 years.

For more information on the Transform Now Plowshares, [click here](#).

Frank Munger, "[Y-12 Protesters Must Stay in Jail, Judge Rules](#)," *Knoxville News Sentinel*, May 11, 2013.

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## Nuclear Labs

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### Star Trek Movie Features Nuclear Testing Facility

The new film *Star Trek: Into Darkness* features scenes shot at the classified National Ignition Facility (NIF) of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. While glowing quotes from the Hollywood stars claim that the facility will discover how to produce "clean, limitless energy," this is increasingly less likely each day.

NIF was conceived in the early 1990s and funded out of the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons account. NIF was supposed to simulate the temperatures and densities at the very earliest stages of the ignition of a thermonuclear bomb. This would allow the United States to test the "reliability" of nuclear weapons without actually blowing them up.

NIF continues to be used primarily for nuclear weapons-related tests, as the repeated attempts to achieve nuclear fusion have failed.

Stephen Schwartz, "[Beam Us Up](#)," *Foreign Policy*, May 22, 2013.

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## Nuclear Testing

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### U.S. and North Korea Test-Fire Missiles

After a few weeks of declining threats between the United States and North Korea, both countries conducted missile tests during the week of May 20. North Korea test-fired six short-range missiles between May 18-20, while the U.S. test-fired a Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile on May 23.

In a press release issued before North Korea's tests took place, NAPF President David Krieger criticized the provocative nature of the planned U.S. test. He said, "The government believes that it is fine for the U.S. to test-fire these missiles when we choose to do so, while expressing criticism when other countries conduct missile tests. Clearly U.S. leaders would be highly critical if North Korea were to conduct a long-range missile test, now or at any time. We seem to have a blind spot in our thinking about our own tests."

"[Fueling the Fire in North Korea](#)," *Nuclear Age Peace Foundation*, May 16, 2013.

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## Resources

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### Military Expenditures Around the World

Laicie Heeley, Senior Policy Analyst for The Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, has compiled the most recent available data on each country's and global region's defense spending for the year 2012. The study reveals that the U.S. approved \$645.7 billion in defense budget authority (fiscal year 2013 dollars). That figure is six times that of China's spending, eleven times that of Russia's, and is more than the amount of spending by the next 15 countries combined.

[Click here](#) for a short report, which contains numerous graphs showing the data in different ways.

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## CTBT Diplomacy and Public Policy Course

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) Diplomacy and Public Policy Course, entitled "Proven Treaty, Political Challenge: The CTBT and Multistakeholder Security," will be held from July 15-19 in Vienna and will be live-streamed online.

Special guest lecturers will include:

**Professor Siegfried Hecker**, Senior Fellow and Professor, Stanford University, Director Emeritus, Los Alamos National Laboratory;

**Dr. Daniel Pinkston**, Deputy Project Director, North East Asia, International Crisis Group;

**Dr. James Acton**, Senior Associate, Nuclear Policy Program, Carnegie Endowment.

The course will cover political and diplomatic aspects of the CTBT, its history, and current challenges and prospects for its entry-into-force and universalization. Participants will cover the basics of the Treaty and its verification regime through a series of e-learning modules to be completed prior to July 15, which will then be followed by a live lecture component from July 15-19 in Vienna. The live lecture component will feature CTBTO expert staff, guest lectures and panel discussions, as well as an interactive simulation.

Participants can take part in the course in Vienna or follow online, by watching the live stream or archived videos. Participants who complete all of the course requirements will receive a certificate of successful completion. The course is free-of-charge and open to all interested parties. For further information and registration, [click here](#).

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## Nuclear Abolition Week: July 6-13

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is organizing a global week of action to raise awareness of the unacceptable harm caused by nuclear weapons and the urgent need for a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

Participation in Nuclear Abolition Week is open to anyone. [Click here](#) to read more and start planning an action for the week.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is an ICAN partner organization.

## Foundation Activities

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### NAPF at the NPT

Five individuals represented the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at the 2013 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) PrepCom at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from April 23 - May 6: NAPF President David Krieger; Director of Programs Rick Wayman; Board member Robert Laney; New York Representative Alice Slater; and Geneva Representative Christian Ciobanu. They participated in the official proceedings of the NPT conference as well as numerous side events hosted by NGOs throughout the two-week conference.

The Foundation organized two side events during the first week of the PrepCom. The first, entitled "Advances in Nonproliferation and Nuclear Disarmament Education," featured speeches from two Japanese *hibakusha* as well as Alyn Ware of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and Dr. William Potter of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. The second event, entitled "Nuclear Abolition: A Time for Boldness and Hope," featured five speakers who discussed bold and/or hopeful strategies to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons. Contributions from that panel by [Kimiaki Kawai](#), [Alice Slater](#) and [Jean-Marie Matagne](#) are available online.

NAPF Geneva Representative Christian Ciobanu also coordinated youth from around the world to write a five minute [statement](#) on the youth perspective on nuclear disarmament, which he delivered during the NPT proceedings on April 24 in the Assembly Hall.

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### **Hiroshima: City of Hope**

On May 25, NAPF President David Krieger delivered the keynote address at *Chugoku Shimbun's* symposium celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Hiroshima Peace Media Center. The symposium was entitled "Toward a Nuclear-Free World: Spreading Hiroshima's Message." In his speech, Dr. Krieger conveyed to the *hibakusha* (the surviving victims of the atomic bombings) that their efforts and messages matter and that their words and deeds have touched people's hearts throughout the world, including his own.

David Krieger's speech in Hiroshima appears in the Perspectives section of this newsletter and is available on [our website](#).

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### **Peace Poetry Contest Deadline July 1**

The Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards are 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.

The deadline for submissions is July 1, 2013.

For more information, including instructions for entering the contest, [click here](#).

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### **Sadako Peace Day in Santa Barbara**

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 19th Annual Sadako Peace Day will take place on Tuesday, August 6 at 6:00 p.m. at La Casa de Maria Retreat Center in Montecito, California. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Bob Dodge, a NAPF Board member and founder of Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions.

Each year the Foundation hosts a public commemoration on or about August 6th to remember and pay tribute to the victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during WWII and to all innocent

victims of war. The Foundation sponsors this event involving music, poetry and reflection at Sadako Peace Garden (a special garden created by the Foundation and La Casa de Maria).

Sadako Peace Day is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805) 965-3443.

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## NAPF Statements at the Open-Ended Working Group

In May 2013, the United Nations General Assembly convened a two-week session of an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Geneva Representative, Christian N. Ciobanu, attended the OEWG sessions and made numerous statements on behalf of NAPF and Ban All Nukes Generation, a group of youth around the world working for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Click the following links to see the statements on the [convening of the OEWG](#), the [progress of the OEWG](#), [approaching nuclear disarmament from different angles](#), and [roles and responsibilities for nuclear disarmament](#).

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## Quotes

"A world free of nuclear weapons is in fact not just a normative goal - it must also be a strategic goal, in the highest national security interests of each member of this alliance, and each member of the world community."

-- **Angela Kane**, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, speaking at the annual NATO Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation on May 6, 2013.

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"I know that the British military are not very keen on [nuclear weapons]. I don't think Britain would be more protected by [Trident] and Germany and Japan seem to be managing without [nuclear weapons]."

-- Former UN weapons inspector **Hans Blix**, in the 2013 Joseph Rotblat lecture at the Hay literary festival in the U.K.

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"In addition to overspending on [nuclear] warheads, Mr. Obama has cut the Global Threat Reduction Initiative program, which reduces and protects from terrorism vulnerable nuclear material at sites worldwide, by 15 percent from 2013 levels. His budget is being rewritten by Congress, but in the nuclear area it is a disappointing, and befuddling, measure of his priorities."

-- **The New York Times editorial board** in an editorial [published](#) on May 27.

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