

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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- Perspectives
  - Visiting Hiroshima by David Krieger
  - The Arms Trade Treaty Opens New Possibilities at the UN by John Scales Avery
  - World's Most Evil and Lawless Institution? The Executive Branch of the U.S. Government by Fred Branfman
- US Nuclear Weapons Policy
  - Pentagon Issues Nuclear Employment Strategy
  - Former Dutch Prime Minister Confirms Presence of U.S. Nuclear Weapons
- Nuclear Disarmament
  - U.S. Conference of Mayors Passes Nuclear Abolition Resolution
- Nuclear Proliferation
  - U.S. and Russia To Sign New Deal on Nuclear Material
  - 25,000 Guards Protect Pakistani Nuclear Weapons
- Nuclear Insanity
  - A Nuclear Response to Cyber Attacks
  - General Claims Nuclear Bomber Runs Ease Tensions with North Korea
- Missile Defense
  - Missile Defense Is Key to U.S.-Russia Nuclear Reductions
- Military-Industrial Complex
  - New Zealand Fund Excludes Nuclear Weapons Companies
- Resources
  - Global Zero Video Brings Together Celebrity Voices
  - A Criticality of Conscience
  - Nuclear Abolition Week: July 6-13
- Foundation Activities
  - Sadako Peace Day Is August 6
  - Guernica Magazine Features NAPF Peace Leadership Director
  - Letter in LA Times Opposing Manhattan Project National Park
- Quotes

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## Perspectives

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### **Visiting Hiroshima**

by David Krieger

I recently visited Hiroshima to give a speech. It is a city that I have visited many times in the past, and I am always amazed by its resilience. The city represents for me the human power of recovery and forgiveness.

The most impressive part of the experience of being in Hiroshima, though, is not the statues, the cenotaph, the peace flame or the museum exhibits. It is the survivors of the bombing with their remarkable spirit of forgiveness. Many of the survivors have mastered English and other languages so as to be able to travel the world and share their memories of the bombing. They do so in order to prevent their past from becoming someone else's future. Though the survivors are growing elderly, their good will and their concern for the future is evident. They deserve our respect and our commitment to creating a world without nuclear weapons.

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

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### **The Arms Trade Treaty Opens New Possibilities at the UN**

by John Scales Avery

On 2 April, 2013, the Arms Trade Treaty, which had been blocked for ten years in the consensus-bound Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, was put directly before the United Nations General Assembly, and was passed by a massive majority. This historic victory opens new possibilities for progress on other seemingly intractable issues. In particular, it gives hope that a Nuclear Weapons Convention might be adopted by a direct vote on the floor of the General Assembly. The adoption of the NWC, even if achieved against the bitter opposition of the nuclear weapon states, would make it clear that the world's peoples consider the threat of an all-destroying thermonuclear war to be completely unacceptable.

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

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### **World's Most Evil and Lawless Institution? The Executive Branch of the U.S. Government**

by Fred Branfman

America has a secret. It is not discussed in polite company or at the dinner tables of the powerful, rich and famous.

It is a matter of indisputable fact that the U.S. Executive Branch has over the past 50 years been responsible for bombing, shooting, burning alive with napalm, blowing up with cluster bombs, burying alive with 500 pound bombs, torturing, assassinating, and incarcerating without evidence, and destroying the homes and villages of, more innocent civilians in more nations over a longer period of time than any other government on earth today.

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

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## **US Nuclear Weapons Policy**

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### **Pentagon Issues Nuclear Employment Strategy**

The Pentagon has released a report to Congress on the Nuclear Employment Strategy of the United States, which calls for reducing the role of "launch under attack" and additional reductions in deployed strategic nuclear warheads.

However, the guidance retains some Cold War posture characteristics, such as the requirement of the U.S. to maintain significant counterforce capabilities against potential adversaries. According to Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists, this requirement "undercuts efforts to reduce the role and numbers of nuclear weapons." The guidance also reaffirms a need for retaining a triad of strategic nuclear forces (bomber aircrafts, ballistic missile submarines and ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles) and for retaining non-strategic nuclear weapons forward-deployed in Europe.

The report states that the U.S. cannot adopt a policy at this time that would make deterrence of nuclear attack the "sole purpose" of U.S. nuclear weapons. The report does not elaborate further on this issue.

Elaine Grossman, "[Fresh U.S. Nuclear Guidance Relies on Some Cold War Elements](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, June 21, 2013.

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## **Former Dutch Prime Minister Confirms Presence of U.S. Nuclear Weapons**

For decades, there has been widespread speculation about the presence of nuclear weapons on Dutch soil. Recently, former Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers confirmed that some 22 US nuclear weapons are stored underground at the Volkel air base in Brabant.

Mr. Lubbers said that he first knew about the bombs when he was working for the air force at Volkel in 1963. In a documentary for National Geographic, Lubbers stated, "I would never have thought those silly things would still be there in 2013."

"[US nuclear bombs 'based in Netherlands' - ex-Dutch PM Lubbers](#)," *BBC*, June 10, 2013.

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## **Nuclear Disarmament**

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### **U.S. Conference of Mayors Passes Nuclear Abolition Resolution**

The U.S. Conference of Mayors, the nonpartisan association of U.S. cities with populations over 30,000, passed a resolution at its annual conference on June 24 calling on the United States to provide leadership in the global elimination of nuclear weapons and to redirect military spending to meet domestic needs.

The resolution highlights several important new multilateral disarmament initiatives and calls on the President and the U.S. government to demonstrate good faith by constructive participation in those initiatives, including a High Level Meeting at the UN General Assembly on September 26 and a follow-on conference to the February 2013 Oslo Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, to be hosted by Mexico in early 2014.

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

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## **Nuclear Proliferation**

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### **U.S. and Russia To Sign New Deal on Nuclear Material**

U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin are expected to sign a new agreement to secure and destroy nuclear material to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. According to Ben Rhodes, a spokesman for the National Security Council, Russia had been reluctant - for "well founded concerns" - to extend the 1992 Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction agreement, which recently expired. Former Democratic Senator Sam Nunn, co-author of the 1992 Nunn-Lugar agreement, noted that the new deal leaves out chemical and biological weapons and expressed his belief that the two countries would find ways "to work together on these critical issues."

Roberta Rampton, "[Obama, Putin To Sign New Deal On Reducing Nuclear Threat](#)," *Reuters*, June 17, 2013.

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## **25,000 Guards Protect Pakistani Nuclear Weapons**

During a debate on the 2013-14 budget in Pakistan's National Assembly, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said, "A special security force of 25,000 personnel, who have been specially trained and provided sophisticated weapons, has been deployed to protect (the nuclear assets)."

He also assured lawmakers that Pakistan's "strategic assets program" is based on strong foundations and meets international standards for security and management of nuclear assets.

"[Pakistan Deploys 25,000-Strong Force to Protect Nuclear Arsenal](#)," *The Times of India*, June 22, 2013.

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## **Nuclear Insanity**

### **A Nuclear Response to Cyber Attacks**

U.S. officials have said that in the event of "large-scale, brutally effective [cyber] attacks on critical elements of the U.S. military and civilian infrastructure that would impose significant loss of life and tremendous degradation of our national welfare," they would consider retaliating with a nuclear attack.

In a recent op-ed for the *Washington Post*, former counterterrorism czar Richard Clarke and former Clinton NSC official Steve Andreasen argue that the United States should definitively take the threat of nuclear retaliation off the table in response to major cyber-attacks. Otherwise, Russia or China will likely adopt a similar policy, meaning that escalation to nuclear war is still just the press of a button away.

Elbridge Colby, "[Cyberwar and the Nuclear Option](#)," *The National Interest*, June 24, 2013.

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### **General Claims Nuclear Bomber Runs Ease Tensions with North Korea**

A U.S. Air Force general said the appearance of nuclear-capable B-2 and B-52 bombers in military exercises with South Korea earlier this spring had the intended effect of easing tensions with North Korea.

Air Force General Garrett Harenak claimed, "The value of nuclear deterrence is no better shown than in the recent flyovers of the Korean Peninsula by bombers based in the United States." Other officials are worried that such a blatant show of force could convince North Korea to pursue long-range nuclear weapons even more aggressively.

Elaine Grossman, "[U.S. General: Nuclear-Capable Bomber Cameo Quietened North Korea](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, June 7, 2013.

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## Missile Defense

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### **Missile Defense Is Key to U.S.-Russia Nuclear Reductions**

Following President Barack Obama's suggestion to cut US and Russian nuclear arsenals by one-third, voiced on June 19th in Berlin, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that other nuclear weapon states also should take part in the process. Further, Lavrov said that the U.S. and Russia should discuss strategic stability as a whole, including both nuclear and non-nuclear weapons systems. Lavrov stated that Russia continues to have concerns over U.S. missile defense components that are planned or already deployed near the Russian border.

Lavrov also identified the U.S. "Prompt Global Strike" program, which would allow the U.S. to strike targets with conventional weapons anywhere in the world in under an hour, and NATO's edge in conventional forces as issues that must be addressed in conjunction with talks for further nuclear weapon reductions.

["Russia: Nuclear Cuts Proposed by Obama Will Require Factoring In Other Weapons,"](#) *Associated Press*, June 21, 2013.

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## Military-Industrial Complex

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### **New Zealand Fund Excludes Nuclear Weapons Companies**

The New Zealand Superannuation Fund has excluded a group of nuclear base operators from its \$22 billion investment portfolio.

The exclusions include publicly listed companies Babcock & Wilcox, Fluor Corporation, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Jacobs Engineering Group, Serco Group and URS Corporation. A private company, Bechtel Group (which the Fund does not currently hold), will also be excluded. Another publicly listed nuclear base operator, Lockheed Martin, was already excluded.

The Fund's Responsible Investment Manager Anne-Maree O'Connor said the Fund's view was that the nuclear base operators were now involved, as part of the life extension programs, in the modification and upgrade of nuclear explosive devices. "This warrants exclusion under the Fund's Responsible Investment Policy."

["New Zealand Superannuation Fund Excludes Nuclear Base Operators,"](#) *New Zealand Superannuation Fund*, June 10, 2013.

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## Resources

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### **Global Zero Video Brings Together Celebrity Voices**

Global Zero, a group of over 300 leaders and experts from around the world, has released a new video featuring celebrities including Alec Baldwin, Whoopi Goldberg, Matt Damon and many more. The two-minute video features each celebrity reciting a portion of a speech delivered by President Obama in 2009 in which he outlined a vision for a nuclear weapon-free world.

To watch the video, [click here](#).

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## **A Criticality of Conscience**

*A Year of Disobedience and a Criticality of Conscience* is a beautifully updated edition of the original photo-documentary book on the demonstrations, civil disobedience, arrests, and trials of thousands of people against the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant during the one-year period between April 29, 1978 and April 28, 1979.

Situated near Denver, Colorado, the Rocky Flats plant was a genuine threat to the life and health of millions of people and was eventually shut down after an FBI raid and a sealed Grand Jury investigation. Rocky Flats remains cloaked in controversy after a compromised Super Fund cleanup and conversion into a National Wildlife Refuge.

The book includes all of the original photographs by Joseph Daniel, the original text and trial transcriptions of Daniel Ellsberg and Keith Pope, and the original poetry of Allen Ginsberg. New material includes a historical update and reflection by LeRoy Moore, and a powerful new Afterword by Daniel Ellsberg and Joseph Daniel that explores the current worldwide nuclear weapons threat, the role of patriotic whistleblowers, and the conflict between national security and government surveillance.

To order a copy of the book, [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.

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## **Foundation Activities**

### **Sadako Peace Day Is August 6**

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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## **Guernica Magazine Features NAPF Peace Leadership Director**

*Guernica Magazine* has published an in-depth interview with NAPF Peace Leadership Director Paul K. Chappell. Author Katherine Rowland discussed with Chappell his tireless work for peace since leaving active duty in the Army in 2009.

Speaking about the importance of the Peace Leadership training that he offers through the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Chappell said, "Activism is the only art form where people think they can just show up to a protest and not have any training and write something on a sign and think they're going to be effective." For more information on the NAPF Peace Leadership Program, [click here](#).

To read the full article in *Guernica Magazine*, [click here](#).

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## Letter in LA Times Opposing Manhattan Project National Park

NAPF Director of Programs Rick Wayman had a letter to the editor printed in the *Los Angeles Times* on June 11. His letter was in response to an op-ed a few days prior that advocated the establishment of a Manhattan Project National Park to commemorate the achievements of the program that developed the first nuclear weapons in the 1940s.

While there are many reasons to oppose such a national park, Wayman's letter focused on one specific reason: the inclusion of the Department of Energy (DOE) as a manager of the park. DOE is still in the business of manufacturing nuclear weapons; such a vested interest suggests that DOE may champion the existence of nuclear weapons rather than question their legacy.

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

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## Quotes

"I speak of peace because of the new face of war. Total war makes no sense in an age where great powers can maintain large and relatively invulnerable nuclear forces and refuse to surrender without resort to those forces. It makes no sense in an age where a single nuclear weapon contains almost ten times the explosive force delivered by all the allied air forces in the Second World War. It makes no sense in an age when the deadly poisons produced by a nuclear exchange would be carried by wind and water and soil and seed to the far corners of the globe and to generations yet unborn."

-- **President John F. Kennedy** in a commencement address at American University on June 10, 1963. The full text of President Kennedy's speech is available [here](#). It is also included as an appendix in the book *Speaking of Peace: Quotations to Inspire Action*, edited by NAPF President David Krieger.

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"The Berlin speech, ostensibly about 'peace with justice,' is another rhetorical gymnastic workout riddled with cognitive dissonance; it means more grist for the grossly distorted disarmament discourse."

-- **Jackie Cabasso**, Executive Director of Western States Legal Foundation, criticizing President Obama's June 19 speech in Berlin. Cabasso's comments, along with others, are available [here](#). The full text of President Obama's speech in Berlin is available [here](#).

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## Editorial Team

Amber Giallo  
David Krieger  
Ekaterina Kuzmina  
Brooks Troiani  
Carol Warner  
Rick Wayman

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