

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

## Issue #146 - September 2009

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## Perspectives

### **New Hope for Nuclear Disarmament**

by David Krieger

*Dr. Krieger delivered these remarks at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 15th Annual [Sadako Peace Day commemoration](#) in Santa Barbara, California on August 6, 2009.*

This is the 15th year that we have commemorated Sadako Peace Day in this beautiful garden created by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and La Casa de Maria. It is a garden inspired by a young girl, Sadako Sasaki, who was two years old when she was exposed to radiation from the atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. Ten years later, Sadako succumbed to radiation induced leukemia.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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### **Japan Ready for No Nukes**

by Shingo Fukuyama and Hiromichi Umebayashi

The goal that Obama articulated of “a world without nuclear weapons” was overwhelmingly supported by the Japanese public. Yet, the way the Japanese government views US extended nuclear deterrence, otherwise referred to as the “nuclear umbrella,” is turning out to be a key sticking point, which may end up blocking progress on nuclear disarmament.

Sixty-four years after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the anti-nuclear sentiment in Japan remains strong. Over 1,400 local authorities (about 80 percent) have made nuclear-free pledges. If the Obama administration moves decisively to get rid of “the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War,” the joy of the vast majority of the Japanese people will overwhelm the reservations of an unrepresentative clique in the Japanese bureaucratic system. So, Mr. Obama, act boldly. Grasp the opportunity that is before you. Japan is ready.

[Click here](#) to read more.

## Historical Perspectives

### **In the Shadow of Hiroshima**

by Dharendra Sharma

On August 6, 1945, in total disregard of the basic tenets of science and civilization, the first Atom Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, which created a new war paradigm: destroy an entire city. On August 9, the second atom bomb destroyed the city of Nagasaki. The sole purpose of creating the nuclear bombs was to destroy and dominate other human beings. The law of war was, for 5,000 years of human history, not to attack unarmed civilians. Women, children, the sick and wounded were always protected. There were thousands of wounded war victims and the sick in Hiroshima and Nagasaki hospitals. Tens of thousands of unarmed citizens irrespective of gender, class, race, region and religion were killed instantly. This law of warfare was violated by a technically advanced nation that claimed, “In God We Trust,” and swore by the Christian morality.

[Click here](#) to read more.

## US Nuclear Policy

## North Korea Invites US Envoys for Nuclear Talks

North Korea has invited two top US envoys to visit for direct negotiations about its nuclear program. The US government is strongly considering sending special envoy Stephen Bosworth and chief nuclear negotiator Sung Kim. In the past, US officials have repeatedly said they are willing to hold talks with North Korea only as part of six-country disarmament negotiations.

Herskovitz, Jon, "[North Korea Invites US Envoys for Nuclear Talks](#)," *Reuters*, August 25, 2009.

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## Egypt Rejects US Nuclear Umbrella

Egypt categorically rejected an undeclared US offer to guarantee defense of the region against nuclear weapons as part of a comprehensive Middle East peace plan at the US-Egyptian summit on August 18. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an exclusive interview that "Egypt will not be part of any American nuclear umbrella intended to protect the Gulf countries." Mubarak emphasized that a US nuclear umbrella would imply acceptance of a regional nuclear power (Israel).

Mubarak's statement conforms with Egypt's 35-year-long campaign aimed at the establishment of a "nuclear free Middle East." The Egyptian initiative, based on the nuclear threat in the Middle East coming from Israel, has drawn support from the League of Arab States, representing all 22 Arab countries.

Mahdy, Fareed, "[Egypt Rejects US Nuclear Umbrella](#)," *Antiwar.com*, August 20, 2009.

## Nuclear Proliferation

### Pakistan Reaffirms Safety of Its Nuclear Arsenal

Shaun Gregory, a professor at the University of Bradford (UK) who is part of the university's Pakistan Security Research Unit, published a scholarly article claiming that militants have attacked Pakistani nuclear facilities three times since 2007.

Pakistani officials said no nuclear weapons were involved in any of those incidents and brushed aside the concerns that Pakistan's atomic weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists. Top US military officials said this week they are "comfortable" that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is secure. According to reports, the Bush Administration secretly spent almost [\\$100 million](#) on a highly-classified program to help Pakistan secure its nuclear weapons.

Walsh, Declan, "[Pakistan Denies al-Qaida Targeting Nuclear Facilities](#)," *The Guardian*, August 12, 2009.

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## Burma Nuclear Claims Under Scrutiny

A report by *The Age*, based on interviews by Professor Desmond Ball of the Australian National University and journalist Phil Thornton with defectors from Burma, reveals that Burma was building a secret nuclear reactor with North Korea's assistance. US non-proliferation experts have called on the International Atomic Energy Agency to seek clarification from the Burmese Government over its nuclear program. It is known that in the past North Korea had provided Burma with high technology materials now barred by the UN Security Council.

Davies, Anne, "[Atomic agency urged to examine Burma nuclear claims](#)," *The Age*, August 5, 2009.

## Nuclear Insanity

## Americans Agree With the Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb on Japan in 1945

Sixty-one percent of Americans believe the United States did the right thing by dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 64 years ago, according to a new survey by Quinnipiac University. Out of 2,409 registered voters polled, only one in five believe dropping the bomb was a mistake. Older voters, men and Republicans favored the attacks more than younger people, women and Democrats.

Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute, said American support has remained firm over the decades, though it was down from 85 percent approval in a Gallup poll conducted shortly after the bombings.

[“Poll: WWII Atom Bombs ‘Right Thing to Do,’”](#) *Associated Press*, August 5, 2009.

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## Pakistan Lifts Restrictions on A.Q. Khan

A court in Pakistan has lifted the final restrictions on Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the infamous Pakistani nuclear scientist. Having spent a few years under house arrest for running a nuclear proliferation network, Khan is now allowed total freedom of movement. In 2004, Khan, considered the father of the Pakistani atomic bomb, confessed to sharing nuclear secrets with Libya, North Korea and Iran. The scientist later claimed that his confession was “forced.” Khan was first pardoned by former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and most restrictions on him were loosened in February 2009.

[“Curbs on Nuclear Scientist Lifted,”](#) *BBC News*, August 28, 2009.

## Nuclear Energy and Waste

### British Reprocessing Industry Faces Problems

Throughout its more than 50-year history, British reprocessing has been an expensive and needless enterprise. In its sixteenth year of operation, the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (THORP) at the British Sellafield nuclear complex has been afflicted by multiple accidents and unplanned closures - some due to worker error and some due to technical problems. Even when operating normally, THORP has been able to convert only 14 percent of recovered uranium into new fuel for export. An even smaller percentage of plutonium has been reused, leaving Britain with a stockpile of more than 100 tons of separated plutonium. Any profits derived from reprocessing are outweighed by its toll on the environment and other problems.

Forwood, Martin, [“Britain's Reprocessing Boondoggle,”](#) *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, August 19, 2009.

## Military-Industrial Complex

### New Missile Defense Systems Operating Unit Established

Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co. has established a new missile defense systems operating unit based in Huntsville, Alabama. The new unit includes program management, engineering and production facilities in Huntsville and Courtland, Alabama, as well as program operations in Denver and Sunnyvale, California. Ret. Army Major General John W. Holly was named Vice President for Missile Defense Systems and will lead the new operating unit, the company said.

[“Lockheed Martin Sets Up New Missile Defense Systems Operating Unit,”](#) *Associated Press*, August 25, 2009.

## Youth and Student

## International Youth Dialogue for Nuclear Disarmament

The International Youth Dialogue for Nuclear Disarmament will link youth, professionals and experts from the peace, foreign policy, health and environmental communities via live video conference. Venues include Philadelphia, Mexico City, Moscow, Geneva and Santa Barbara. The core aim of the dialogue is to foster youth leadership, idea sharing, and cross-cultural understanding through citizen diplomacy and to build a comprehensive campaign for nuclear disarmament on this basis of cooperation. Special attention will be given to the upcoming NPT Review Conference in 2010, a US-Russian treaty to succeed START I, missile defense and space weapons.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is organizing the Santa Barbara venue, and Foundation President David Krieger will be a featured speaker. Other speakers include Dr. Hans Blix, President of the World Federation of United Nations Associations; Alyn Ware of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament; and student leaders from Physicians for Social Responsibility, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and Ban All Nukes Generation USA. The dialogue will take place on October 26- 27, 2009, from 10am to 2:30pm EST. [Read more and register to attend.](#)

## Resources

### A Million Minutes for Peace

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, together with Odyssey Networks and the United Nations, asks you to join in observing the International Day of Peace (IDP) on September 21.

This year, we ask you to join IDP supporters everywhere by signing the Peace Pledge at [odysseynetworks.org](http://odysseynetworks.org) between August 27 and September 18. **Your pledge is simply to observe one minute of silence at exactly 12:00 noon ET on September 21.** The Peace Pledge with its signatories will be presented to the United Nations Secretary-General on September 18.

[Click here](#) to sign the Peace Pledge.

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### The Economics of Nuclear Reactors

The World Information Service on Energy (WISE) and the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) have released a special double-issue newsletter on the economics of nuclear reactors.

The newsletter examines the push to build new nuclear reactors in the United States, the high and rising cost of nuclear reactors and the persistent upward spiral of nuclear reactor costs.

[Click here](#) to read the newsletter in pdf format.

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### Scientists for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World

On August 6, 2009, the International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES) launched a new campaign "Scientists for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World" with 40 initial signatories, 27 of them Nobel Laureates. The petition is a concerted effort to increase scientific as well as public awareness on nuclear weapons issues, and to add weight to calls for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, conferring the obligation on all states to achieve complete nuclear disarmament by 2020. A nuclear weapons-free world is possible, realistic, necessary and urgent - but it will not be attained without the efforts of a large number of committed scientists and engineers.

The petition calls, in part, on “scientists and engineers throughout the world to cease all cooperation in the research, development, testing, production and manufacture of new nuclear weapons.”

INES is an independent non-profit organization committed to influencing the role and the impact that science and technology have on society. [Click here](#) to see the initial signatures, sign the petition and spread the word.

## Foundation Activities

### Sadako Peace Day

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation hosted the 15th Annual Sadako Peace Day commemoration on August 6, 2009 at La Casa de Maria in Montecito, CA. Each year the Foundation remembers the story of Sadako Sasaki and all victims of nuclear weapons. A crowd of over 80 people attended this year’s event.

[Click here](#) to read more and view photos from the event.

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### Free DVD Now Available

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is pleased to announce the official release of its new DVD, *US Leadership for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World*. This new video, available in both English and Spanish, is eight minutes long and details the importance of US leadership to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

The DVD also contains three bonus features: the three [winning videos](#) from our 2009 Swackhamer Disarmament Video contest.

[Click here](#) to preview the video and to order a free copy.

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### Nuclear Files - Key Issue Updates

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s [Nuclear Files](#) website has been updated just in time for the 2009-2010 school year. The website takes an in-depth look at the history of the Nuclear Age through a detailed timeline, primary source documents and relevant research.

[New updates](#) cover all of the nuclear weapons-related issues, including nuclear weapons arsenals, nuclear testing, proliferation risks, international law, nuclear policy and effects on the environment.

With over 300,000 visitors annually, Nuclear Files is a leading source for information on the Nuclear Age.

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### Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance on Our Website

A special collection of articles remembering the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is now available on our website.

[Click here](#) to view the collection.

## Quotes

“War isn’t worth one life. [It is] the calculated and condoned slaughter of human beings.”

-- **Harry Patch**, the last British survivor of World War I, who died recently at the age of 111. Mr. Patch dedicated the later years of his life to spreading a message of peace.

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“Today the world is at another turning point. The assumption that nuclear weapons are indispensable to keeping the peace is crumbling. Disarmament is back on the global agenda – and not a moment too soon. A groundswell of new international initiatives will soon emerge to move this agenda forward.”

-- United Nations Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**, August 3, 2009.

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“The Middle East does not need any nuclear powers, be they Iran or Israel — what we need is peace, security, stability and development.”

-- President of Egypt **Hosni Mubarak**, August 17, 2009.

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“The United States looks forward to expanded consultations and cooperation (with South Africa) as we work together to promote (nuclear) disarmament.”

-- **US Department of State** statement released after the August 26-28 talks between the United States and South Africa on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

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## Editorial Team

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