

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Putting U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policies on Trial in the Court of Public Opinion

by David Krieger

The International Court of Justice, the highest and most authoritative court in the world, has stated that the use of nuclear weapons would be illegal if such use violated international humanitarian law. Failing to distinguish between civilians and combatants would be illegal, as would any use resulting in unnecessary suffering. Additionally, the Court found that any threat of such use would also be illegal. It is virtually impossible to imagine any use or threat of use that would not violate international humanitarian law.

US nuclear weapons policy fails to meet the standards of international humanitarian law and to live up to its treaty obligations in the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Until the issue of US nuclear weapons policy can be properly litigated in a US domestic court, US policies related to the threat or use of nuclear weapons need to be put on trial in the most important court in the world, the court of public opinion. It is US citizens who may well determine the fate of the world, by their action or inaction on this most critical of all issues confronting humanity.

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

The World Is Over-Armed and Peace Is Under-Funded

by Ban Ki-moon

Last month, competing interests prevented agreement on a much-needed treaty that would have reduced the appalling human cost of the poorly regulated international arms trade. Meanwhile, nuclear disarmament efforts remain stalled, despite strong and growing global popular sentiment in support of this cause.

The failure of these negotiations and this month's anniversaries of the atomic bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki provide a good opportunity to explore what has gone wrong, why disarmament and arms control have proven so difficult to achieve, and how the world community can get back on track towards these vitally important goals.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

U.S. General Suggests Cut in Nuclear Weapon Reserves

Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has indicated that he would likely support reductions in the number of nuclear weapons held by the United States in its reserve stockpile. He said, "We have more backup systems in terms of weapons systems than we actually have deployed. Some of that is a reasonable hedge [but] there is probably room for reductions."

Treaties such as the New START treaty between the U.S. and Russia have typically only addressed deployed strategic nuclear weapons. The U.S. has approximately 2,800 nuclear weapons in its reserve stockpile, along with thousands more awaiting dismantlement.

Bender, Bryan, "U.S. General Asks Cut in Nuclear Arsenal," [Boston Globe](#), August 6, 2012.

Nuclear Disarmament

Truman's Grandson Visits Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of U.S. President Harry Truman, who ordered the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, visited the two cities in August. Daniel said that he decided to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki because he needed to know the consequences of his grandfather's decision as part of his own efforts to help achieve a nuclear-free world. He said he hoped to hear stories from survivors about how they overcame their adversity.

He did not apologize for his grandfather's action, but viewed the trip as "a good first step to healing old wounds." He is the first relative of Harry Truman to visit the cities.

Yamaguchi, Mari, "Truman Grandson Visits Hiroshima A-Bomb Memorial," [The Guardian](#), August 4, 2012.

Iran Hosts Non-Aligned Movement Conference

From August 26-31, Iran hosted the 16th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). NAM brings together countries not aligned with or against any major powers. The summit was attended by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and over 120 "nonaligned" nations. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi opened the summit by reiterating NAM's goal of the abolition of all nuclear weapons worldwide by 2025.

Later in the summit, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei addressed the controversy surrounding Iran's nuclear program. He said, "Our motto is nuclear energy for all and nuclear weapons for none."

"Iran Opens Nonaligned Summit with Calls for Nuclear Arms Ban," [Washington Post](#), August 26, 2012.

Nuclear Proliferation

Pakistani Air Force Base Comes Under Attack

Minhas Air Force Base, where some of Pakistan's nuclear weapons are likely stored, was attacked in August by gunmen armed with automatic weapons, grenade launchers and explosives. Pakistani officials have denied that any of the country's approximately 100 nuclear warheads are stored at the base.

It is not known whether the attackers were specifically targeting Pakistan's nuclear weapons or the country's military in general. Eight attackers and one Pakistani security official were killed.

Walsh, Declan, "Pakistani Air Force Base with Nuclear Ties Is Attacked," [The New York Times](#), August 16, 2012.

Nuclear Insanity

State Department Offers \$10,000 for Arms Control Ideas

The U.S. State Department has launched the Innovation in Arms Control Challenge, which seeks new ideas from "garage tinkerers and technologists" to support arms control and nonproliferation efforts.

"We're basically trying to see what's out there," said an unnamed administration official. "What available technology is out there that can help us? What is being put into practice in other areas - it could be unrelated to arms control - that actually would have similar implications for what we're trying to do?"

The total prize money offered in the State Department's contest is \$10,000.

The U.S. military spends approximately \$1.9 million per minute, according to the [American Friends Service Committee](#).

Dougherty, Jill, "Loose Nukes? Got a Solution? Contact the State Department," [CNN](#), August 28, 2012.

Missile Defense

Russia Continues to Warn U.S. Over Missile Defense

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has issued another warning to the U.S. and NATO about their plans to deploy an antimissile system in Europe. Lavrov said, "Any unilateral and unlimited buildup of the missile capability by one state or a group of states would lead to the preservation of Cold War hangovers, damaging strategic stability in violation of all the [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] members' obligations not to strengthen their security at the expense of others."

Lavrov continued, "It is our principle that clear legal guarantees are necessary that the emergent system will not be directed against the Russian nuclear deterrence forces - guarantees, moreover, that are verifiable under mutually approved technical criteria."

Lavrov's recent comments are similar to those he made in a [letter to NAPF President David Krieger](#) in March 2012.

"Russia Warns West on Antimissile Effort," [Global Security Newswire](#), August 21, 2012.

Nuclear Testing

International Day Against Nuclear Tests

August 29 marked the 21st anniversary of the closure of the Soviet Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site in modern-day Semey, Kazakhstan. In a resolution initiated by Kazakhstan, the United Nations declared August 29 as the International Day Against Nuclear Tests.

From 1949 to 1991, the Soviet Union conducted 456 nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site. Only in recent years, however, has the full impact of the nuclear radiation on health been revealed. An estimated 1.5 million people been exposed to the radiation, the majority of whom have suffered from poor health as a consequence. The descendants of those exposed are affected as well; many Kazakh children are born with deformities and diseases.

Khamitova, Nadezhda, "Nuclear Legacy a Warning to Today's World," [The Astana Times](#), August 2012.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

Russia Announces Massive Radioactive Dumping in Sea

Russia has dumped an alarming number of decommissioned nuclear reactors and radioactive waste into the Kara Sea, north of Siberia in the Arctic Ocean. The Norwegian newspaper *Aftenposten* released a list of the waste, which includes "17,000 containers of radioactive waste, 19 ships containing radioactive waste, 14 nuclear reactors, 735 other pieces of radioactively contaminated heavy machinery, and the K-27 nuclear submarine with its two reactors loaded with nuclear fuel."

A Norwegian-Russian expert group will lead an expedition to map the waste. According to Igor Kurdrik, an expert on Russian naval nuclear waste, the most critical task of the expedition is to locate the sunken K-27 nuclear submarine. The K-27 was sunk by the Soviet Navy in 1981 for disposal, its two reactors still filled with spent nuclear fuel. It now poses a dangerous risk of exploding beneath the Kara Sea.

Digges, Charles, "Russia Announces Enormous Finds of Radioactive Waste and Nuclear Reactors in Arctic Seas," [Bellona](#), August 28, 2012.

War and Peace

Do Advanced Conventional Weapons Make Nuclear War More Likely?

U.S. Strategic Command hosted a conference in August that explored whether deployment of advanced conventional weapons actually make a nuclear conflict more likely. The advanced weapons would make up the "prompt global strike" mission, with the idea that the weapons could hit distant targets in less than 60 minutes.

Retired General James Cartwright, former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that using a nuclear weapon in such a scenario "may not be proportional [and] it may not be appropriate for the neighbors."

Hans Kristensen, director of the Federation of American Scientists' Nuclear Information Project, warned against developing and deploying prompt global strike weapons. He said, "It seems more likely that prompt global strike would push them even further toward more prompt-launch capabilities."

He continued, "In fact, [the adversary] would have to conclude that a strike against their nuclear deterrent could come before the conflict had escalated to nuclear use."

Grossman, Elaine, "Jury Out: Do Advanced Conventional Weapons Make Nuclear War More Likely?" [Global Security Newswire](#), August 22, 2012.

Resources

Confronting the Bomb: A History of the Nuclear Disarmament Movement

Lawrence Wittner, a NAPF Associate, has written a book entitled [Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement](#). The book tells the dramatic, inspiring story of how citizen activism helped curb the nuclear arms race and prevent nuclear war.

In a [book review](#) published by the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Tad Daley writes, "[Do you] think it sounds too dreamy to imagine that someday people power might transform our small world into one world -- a federal republic of the Earth? Then read Lawrence Wittner's book.... And think again."

Catastrophic Humanitarian Harm

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), of which NAPF is a member, has just published a new booklet about the catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons on our health, societies and the environment. The publication examines the harm caused by nuclear attacks on cities, nuclear testing and nuclear weapons production.

To download the booklet, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

NAPF to Honor Tony de Brum at 29th Annual Evening for Peace

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will honor Senator Tony de Brum of the Marshall Islands with its 2012 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award on October 21 in Santa Barbara, California.

Senator de Brum has worked tirelessly for peace and justice on behalf of his country. He and his fellow Marshall Islanders seek a peaceful world, free of nuclear weapons. They have directly experienced the impact of 67 powerful nuclear weapon tests – *the equivalent explosive power of one-and-a-half Hiroshima bombs daily for 12 years*. They know first-hand about the tragic effects of a world that uses and maintains nuclear weapon systems and how we as citizens of the world can make an impact to end the nuclear-weapon threats that confront us all.

The [Evening for Peace](#) is the Foundation's principal fundraising event. It furthers our mission by raising awareness and support for important education and advocacy work. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available [online](#) or by calling (805) 965-3443.

Youth Seminar on Humanitarian Dimensions of Nuclear Disarmament

In early September, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will hold a youth program on the humanitarian dimensions of nuclear disarmament with generous support from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the NGO Committee on Disarmament. The program will enable several students from Brazil, Mexico, Germany, Austria, Iran, Palestine, Italy, and Romania to meet with government officials to gain an understanding about the different perspectives on the humanitarian dimensions of nuclear disarmament.

The students will also participate in a civil society exchange with representatives from the NGO Committee for Disarmament, who will share their views on how NGOs interact with states, the humanitarian aspects of nuclear disarmament, and the international disarmament movement.

Sadako Peace Day Photos and Video

The featured speaker at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 18th Annual Sadako Peace Day ceremony was Kikuko Otake, a survivor of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and the author of *Masako's Story: Surviving the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima*.

To see photos and video from the event, including Kikuko Otake's full speech, [click here](#).

Letter to the Editor in the Wall Street Journal

NAPF Director of Programs Rick Wayman had a letter to the editor published in the September 2, 2012 edition of the *Wall Street Journal*. The letter was a reply to an op-ed entitled "Nuclear-Weapon States Aren't Created Equal."

The full text of the letter is re-printed on our blog *Waging Peace Today*, which you can [read here](#).

Peace Leadership Program on the Road

NAPF Peace Leadership Program Director Paul K. Chappell is preparing to bring his message to many parts of the United States in the coming months. Paul's Fall travel schedule is below. We strongly encourage you to attend an event if he will be in a city near you. For more information, please call the NAPF office at (805) 965-3443.

September 5-9: Ashland, Ohio
September 11: University of Southern California
September 19-21: University of Rhode Island
September 27-30: Missoula, Montana
October 24-28: Maine (various cities)
November 4-10: University of San Diego
November 17: Soka University of America
November 18: Mission Viejo, California
December 5: Waltham, Massachusetts

Quotes

"Is the symbolism of deploying the nuclear gravity bomb in Europe worth the billions of dollars? Does it make sense to embark on a \$10 billion program to refurbish a weapon that could be put on the table in negotiations with Russia a few years from now? In an age of scarce resources, such questions can't be slighted."

-- *Washington Post* editorial on August 19, 2012, questioning the U.S. plan to upgrade approximately 400 B-61 nuclear bombs at a cost of \$10 billion.

"If you wanted to cap or slow Chinese nuclear modernization, the smart way to do it would be to abandon the futile pursuit of strategic missile defenses and bring China into the same negotiating framework that capped and eventually reduced the U.S. and Russian arsenals."

-- **Stephen Walt**, writing in *Foreign Policy*, argues that China is modernizing its ballistic missiles because of the perceived threat from U.S. missile defense.

"Whether one thinks the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were justified or not, it must be remembered that along with whatever else they were they were massacres of civilians. It was not an incidental or accidental side-effect: it was what they were planned to be. When the scientists at Los Alamos made plans for how to use the atomic bomb, they optimized them for the burning of civilians. This should not be forgotten or glossed over, even if one thinks it was still the right thing to do."

-- **Alex Wellerstein**, an historian of science at the American Institute of Physics, in a [blog post](#) about discussions between Manhattan Project scientists.

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