

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Issue #194 - September 2013

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Perspectives

Nukes Are Nuts

by David Krieger

When asked by a reporter why nuclear weapons are useless, Colin Powell, former US secretary of state and four-star general said: "Because they're such horrible weapons. And so no sane leader would ever want to cross that line to using nuclear weapons. And, if you are not going to cross that line, then these things are basically useless." In other words, one could say, nukes are nuts.

There are innumerable global security issues that need to be addressed, some of which are poverty, terrorism, the climate crisis, pollution of the oceans, loss of biodiversity and forest depletion. Not one of these issues can be addressed with nuclear weapons. In fact, nuclear weapons draw much-needed resources away from solving these global problems. Nukes are nuts.

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

Hiroshima Peace Declaration

by Mayor Kazumi Matsui

Indiscriminately stealing the lives of innocent people, permanently altering the lives of survivors, and stalking their minds and bodies to the end of their days, the atomic bomb is the ultimate inhumane weapon and an absolute evil. The hibakusha, who know the hell of an atomic bombing, have continuously fought that evil.

Even as their average age surpasses 78, the hibakusha continue to communicate their longing for peace. They still hope the people of the world will come to share that longing and choose the right path. In response to this desire of the many hibakusha who have transcended such terrible pain and sorrow, the rest of us must become the force that drives the struggle to abolish nuclear weapons.

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

Nagasaki Peace Declaration

by Mayor Tomihisa Taue

People of younger generations, have you ever heard the voices of the hibakusha, survivors of the atomic bombings? Have you heard them crying out, "No more Hiroshimas, no more Nagasakis, no more wars, and no more hibakusha?"

You will be the last generation to hear their voices firsthand. Listen to their voices to learn what happened 68 years ago under the atomic cloud. Listen to their voices to find out why they continue to appeal for nuclear abolition. You will find that, despite much hardship, they continue to fight for nuclear abolition for the sake of future generations. Please consider whether or not you will allow the existence of nuclear weapons in the world today and in the future world of your children. Please talk to your friends about this matter. It is you who will determine the future of this world.

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

Contra Attack Syria

by Richard Falk

Why is the rationale for an American-led attack on Syria insufficient?

–it does not take account of the fact that a punitive attack of the kind evidently being planned by Washington lacks any foundation in international law as it is neither undertaken in self-defense, nor after authorization by the UN Security Council, nor in a manner that can be justified as humanitarian intervention (in fact, innocent Syrian civilians are almost certain to loom large among the casualties);

–it presupposes that the U.S. Government rightfully exercises police powers on the global stage, and by unilateral (or ‘coalition of the willing’) decision, can give legitimacy to another unlawful undertaking; it may be that the United States remains the dominant hard power political actor in the region and world, but its war making since Vietnam is inconsistent with the global public good, causing massive suffering and widespread devastation; international law and the UNSC are preferable sources of global police power than is reliance on the discretion and leadership of the United States at this stage of world history even if this results in occasional paralysis as evidenced by the UN’s failure to produce a consensus on how to end the war in Syria.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Plans for Expensive Nuclear Weapon Program Move Ahead

On July 19, President Barack Obama and the Pentagon announced that the U.S. can reduce the size of its strategic arsenal by one-third while still maintaining a "nuclear deterrent." In addition, Congress has ordered the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Pentagon to achieve around \$500 billion in defense-related budget cuts over the next ten years.

However, the NNSA and nuclear weapons labs continue to plan a “life extension program” for 400 B61 nuclear bombs, 180 of which are currently in other NATO countries in Europe. Earlier this year, President Obama requested \$537 million for the B61 life extension, which the Senate cut by \$168 million. The total cost of this plan could be more than \$10 billion, making the cost of each bomb twice its weight in gold.

Daryl Kimball and Jay Coghlan, "[Udall Needs to Rethink Huge Spending on B61](#)," *Albuquerque Journal*, August 8, 2013.

Activists Blockade German Military Base Hosting U.S. Nuclear Weapons

A successful blockade by non-violent activists from around the world took place on August 11 at the German military base Büchel, where twenty U.S. B61 nuclear bombs are hosted. The U.S. is planning a life extension program for these weapons, which are remnants of the U.S.-Soviet Union Cold War. The life extension program will cost some \$10 billion.

Joining the blockade were peace activists from the Dutch group IKV Pax Christi, who handed out cheese at each gate of the base. Frau Antje told reporters "'Cheese not nukes' is our message. Of course it is a joke, but with a serious undertone: it is bizarre that plans are being made to place new nuclear weapons in Germany and the Netherlands."

"[Successful Blockade at Nuclear Weapon Base Büchel](#)," *No Nukes*, August 11, 2013.

Nuclear Disarmament

Snowden Issue Could Harm U.S.-Russia Nuclear Negotiations

The relationship between the United States and Russia has grown tense after Russia granted temporary asylum to U.S. whistleblower Edward Snowden.

This tension is expected to impact the September 26 high level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. Tilman Ruff of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons expressed fears that this disagreement could be used by the U.S. as an excuse to stop progress on disarmament. However, others believe that the U.S. and Russia have too much at stake to let Snowden's temporary asylum impact their joint agendas. Dr. Rebecca Johnson of the Acronym Institute weighed in, saying, "Even as the U.S. and Russia engage in a public spat over Snowden, their overriding bilateral interests will be in maintaining some kind of arms reduction relationship."

With 94% of the world's 17,270 nuclear weapons between them, Russia and the U.S. bear a huge responsibility to remove the threat of nuclear war.

Thalif Deen, "[U.S.-Russia Rift Could Impact Upcoming Nuke Talks](#)," *Inter Press Service*, August 7, 2013.

World Future Council to Honor Leading Disarmament Policies

While global military spending currently exceeds \$1.7 trillion annually, one billion people continue to suffer from hunger. More still have no access to safe water, adequate health care or education. By promoting the exchange of best practices, the World Future Council's 2013 Future Policy Award showcases a range of innovative policy approaches to advance disarmament and celebrate policies that create better living conditions for current and future generations.

The aim of the award is to raise global awareness of these exemplary policies and speed up policy action towards just, sustainable and peaceful societies. It is the first award that celebrates policies rather than people on an international level.

Winners will be announced at an event at the United Nations in New York City on October 23. NAPF President David Krieger, co-chair of the World Future Council's Peace and Disarmament Commission, will be one of the award presenters. For more information on the Future Policy Award and to see the full list of nominees, [click here](#).

Latin American and Caribbean Nations Reiterate Urgent Need for Nuclear Abolition

Senior officials of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) met on August 20 in Buenos Aires to discuss the urgent need to achieve nuclear disarmament. At the end of the meeting, they issued a declaration calling for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

The statement read in part, "The region grants the highest priority to the achievement of a complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament and reiterate[s] that the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their complete elimination."

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

Nuclear Proliferation

Forgotten Plutonium Now Secured

A 17-year, \$150 million effort to secure 220 pounds of unprotected plutonium that Soviet authorities had buried at the Semipalatinsk test site has ended. In celebration of the completed project, Kazakh, Russian and American nuclear scientists and engineers gathered at the foot of Delegen Mountain to unveil a stone monument, etched in English, Russian and Kazakh, which read, "1996-2012. The world has become safer."

However, some questions remain. Because plutonium's half-life is 24,110 years, there could be multiple attempts in the future to recover the material from the cemented tunnels and holes. Environmental risks are also a great concern, as the plutonium could contaminate large swathes of land if released. This dangerous legacy of the nuclear arms race may be secured for now, but the future of Delegen Mountain is uncertain.

David Hoffman and Eben Harrell, "[Saving the World at Plutonium Mountain](#)," *Washington Post*, August 16, 2013.

Nuclear Insanity

Queen's Speech in Response to Nuclear War

British civil servants, preparing for World War III in 1983, drafted a speech in which the Queen would speak of the horror of Britain's involvement in a nuclear conflict. The text includes references to the Queen having enjoyed the "warmth and fellowship of a family Christmas" when "the horrors of war could not have seemed more remote."

Other British documents that were recently released recount how all the locks on U.S. nuclear weapons based in Britain had to be changed after a British Royal Air Force technician discovered that his launch key also fit in the slot reserved for an American operator.

Claire Duffin, "[Civil Servants Prepared 'Queen's Speech' for Outbreak of World War Three](#)," *The Telegraph*, August 1, 2013.

Another U.S. Nuclear Weapons Commander Relieved of Duty

The U.S. Air Force has announced the removal of Col. David Lynch, commander of the 341st Missile Wing, which operates approximately 150 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles. His forced transition into retirement follows a failed safety and security inspection that showed inadequate adherence to rules intended to maintain the security of the nuclear weapons.

However, military leaders say the decision to relieve Col. David Lynch of command at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana was not because of the failed inspection, but rather as a result of loss of confidence.

This is the second time in a matter of months that a nuclear weapons commander was removed from his position. Earlier this year, Lt. Col. Randy Olson was relieved of duty at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota following a poor safety review.

"[Military Removes Nuclear Weapons Unit Commander Following Security Failure](#)," *Washington Post*, August 25, 2013.

Nuclear Waste

Radioactive Legacy on Navajo Land

Between 1944 and 1986, four million tons of uranium ore were extracted from Navajo land to be used by the U.S. government to develop nuclear weapons and nuclear power. During this time approximately 2,500 Navajo were employed in uranium mines, suffering numerous health problems as a result.

In 1979, a dam holding liquid radioactive waste from a uranium mine in New Mexico collapsed, contaminating more than 80 miles of riverbed in addition to the surrounding air, water, and land. The radioactive sludge and water remains on the land to this day, causing high rates of birth defects and other critical health issues among the Navajo people.

It wasn't until 2007 that Congress held a hearing to address the impact of uranium mining on the Navajo. As a result of this hearing a joint effort was launched in 2008 to clean up the worst sites. The EPA is currently working on a new five-year plan, to be released in late 2013, to continue the cleanup effort.

The Stream Team, "[A Radioactive Legacy on Navajo Land](#)," *Al Jazeera America*, August 23, 2013.

Resources

The Rush to Bomb Syria: Undermining International Law and Risking Wider War

The Western States Legal Foundation has published a briefing paper entitled "The Rush to Bomb Syria: Undermining International Law and Risking Wider War." The paper, written by WSLF Senior Research Analyst Andrew Lichterman with contributions from WSLF Executive Director Jacqueline Cabasso and WSLF Board Member Dr. John Burroughs, examines the risks and justifications for a U.S. attack against Syria.

The paper concludes, "Giving in to the powerful, omnipresent American war caucus once more by sending cruise missiles against a country that cannot respond in kind is neither a hard choice for an American president nor a good one. It is a course of action that will take many lives with little promise of saving others, and that will once again lead us all down a dangerous road with no visible end. For American elected officials, saying no to the easy, violent options offered by a national security and military industrial complex too long ascendant would be the hard choice, the courageous choice, and the right choice."

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

Illegal, Immoral, Dangerous: Why Congress Needs to Say No

Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies has written an article outlining some of the reasons why a U.S. attack on Syria is ill-advised.

Bennis writes, "Right now, in Syria, that means that members of Congress have the chance to prevent another illegal U.S. war. If Congress should approve it, likely for political or partisan reasons that have nothing to do with Syria, their vote would mean direct complicity in an illegal and immoral war."

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

Foundation Activities

Nuclear Disarmament Education Event at the UN

On August 22, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs hosted a seminar entitled "Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education." The event took place at the Palais des Nations, the United Nations facility in Geneva, Switzerland.

The event was chaired by Jarmo Sareva, Director of the Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support Branch. Panelists included Christian Ciobanu (NAPF's Geneva representative), Ronald Sturm (head of the Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Unit of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of Austria), William Potter (director of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies) and Anda Serban (coordinator of the UN Youth Association of Romania).

[Click here](#) to read the study that was introduced at the event, which includes case studies of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education in four different countries. The study is being translated into all working United Nations languages and will be circulated as a working document to the Open-Ended Working Group.

For more information about the event, including photos, [click here](#).

Peace Leadership Events Around the U.S.

NAPF Peace Leadership Director Paul K. Chappell has a number of trips planned in the coming months to give lectures and workshops on peace leadership around the United States. If he will be in your area, we urge you to contact us and try to attend the events.

On September 18-19, Paul will speak at Carroll University in Wisconsin. From September 27 - October 3, he will be in the Washington, DC area speaking at various locations including St. Anselm's Abbey (Washington, DC), Cedar Hills Unitarian Church (Bethesda, MD), Montgomery College (Takoma Park, MD), and American University (Washington, DC).

Later this year, Paul will speak at various locations in Massachusetts, Georgia, New Hampshire, Maine, Texas, California, New Brunswick and Uganda.

For a full list of Peace Leadership events and other Foundation events, please visit our online [calendar of events](#).

Evening for Peace Honoring Rabbi Leonard Beerman

On Sunday, October 27, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will present its 2013 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award to Rabbi Leonard Beerman at the Foundation's 30th Annual Evening for Peace in Santa Barbara, California. Rabbi Beerman is a unique peace leader; a blend of intellect, integrity, compassion and a deep commitment to peace with justice.

In 1979, Rabbi Beerman and Reverend George Regas co-founded the Interfaith Center to Reverse the Arms Race, an organization that awakened religious leaders and, through them, their congregations to the realization that the abolition of nuclear weapons is a profoundly moral issue.

For more information on the Evening for Peace, including ticket and sponsorship opportunities, [click here](#).

Quotes

Question: Was the U.S. use of nuclear weapons resulting in the mass and indiscriminate killing of civilians in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki a violation of the same international law that you are referring to?

Answer: I'm not even going to entertain that question, Arshad.

-- *Reuters* journalist **Arshad Mohammed** [asking a question](#) to State Department Deputy Spokesperson **Marie Harf** about the U.S. State Department's position on the apparent use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government.

"The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation calls upon the government of Japan to immediately cancel the opening of the Rokkasho reprocessing plant. We urge Japan to reconsider its plans and reaffirm its commitment to fully realize the goals set forth in the NPT."

-- **David Krieger**, NAPF President, in a [letter](#) to Japanese Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae urging Japan not to start its nuclear reprocessing plant, which would produce enough weapons-usable plutonium for approximately 1,000 nuclear warheads each year.

"After my experience, I have come to hate war. War settles nothing."

-- **Dwight D. Eisenhower** (1890-1969), 34th U.S. President. This quote is featured in the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's book *Speaking of Peace: Quotations to Inspire Action*, available online in our [Peace Store](#).

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