

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

**Issue #195 - October 2013**

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## Perspectives

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### **Chemical Weapons, Then Nuclear Weapons**

by David Krieger

Everyone can agree that chemical weapons are terrible weapons. When used, they kill indiscriminately and cause their victims to suffer and die horrible deaths. The use of chemical weapons in Syria resulted in US threats to strike the Syrian regime with cruise missiles. Fortunately, this response to the use of chemical weapons was averted, as it might well have caused even more death, injury and displacement for the Syrian people. With pressure from their ally, Russia, the Syrian government agreed to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention and turn over its stock of chemical weapons for destruction.

Chemical weapons are dangerous and deadly weapons, but they are not the worst weapons created by humans. By any measure, the worst weapons are nuclear weapons. They kill by blast, fire and radiation, and they are capable of causing a nuclear winter and sending the globe into an ice age. Even the two relatively small nuclear weapons (by today's standards) used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki each thoroughly destroyed a city.

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

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### **Transparency: The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons?**

by Henrik Salander, Arend J. Meerburg, Miguel Marin Bosch, Paul Meyer and Zia Mian

The arsenals of the nuclear weapon states don't have to be opaque. Transparency, actually, is in the interest of states with and without nuclear weapons and is the best way to build accountability and mutual confidence. Confidence about the size and scope of other states' armaments and accountability (i.e., the ability to monitor any changes in arsenal size and capability) is vitally important for all states, regardless of whether they plan to keep their nuclear arms or want the weapons of other nations eliminated. Confidence and accountability - brought about by reliable public information about the size and make-up of nuclear arsenals and stockpiles of weapons-usable material - may be the only way to make sure that the quest for nuclear deterrence does not get out of hand.

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

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## US Nuclear Weapons Policy

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### **U.S. Launches Six Nuclear-Capable Missiles in September**

On September 22 and 26, the United States conducted tests of the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. The Minuteman III is the United States' land-based missile that is capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to any target on Earth.

Rick Wayman, NAPF Director of Programs, criticized the U.S. for conducting these provocative tests, particularly on significant dates. The first test took place just hours after the end of the International Day of Peace on September 21. The second test took place on September 26, the same day as the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament at the United Nations. Wayman said, "Instead of honoring the significance of these dates and working in good faith to achieve nuclear disarmament, the United States has chosen to test its Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles."

The U.S. Navy also test-fired four submarine-launched ballistic missiles in the Atlantic Ocean on September 10 and 12.

Haider Rizvi, "[U.S. Plan to Test Nuclear Missiles Draws Fire from Peace Activists](#)," *Daily Times*, September 20, 2013.

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### **Cost of New Uranium Facility Continues to Rise**

The estimated cost of a proposed uranium processing facility for nuclear weapons has risen to \$11.6 billion - 19 times the original estimate of \$600 million. The site would produce new secondaries - which intensify the force of a nuclear blast - for U.S. nuclear weapons. The new facility would produce seven times more secondaries per year than currently required for maintenance of the nuclear stockpile.

Ralph Vartabedian, "[Estimate for Uranium Facility Goes from \\$600 Million to \\$11.6 Billion](#)," *Los Angeles Times*, September 24, 2013.

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## **Nuclear Disarmament**

### **UN Convenes High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament**

The overwhelming majority of countries condemned the continued existence of nuclear weapons and called for their banning and elimination at the first ever UN high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013. While some of the nuclear-armed states spoke disparagingly about the meeting's importance, the rest of the international community demanded immediate action to remove the scourge of these weapons of terror once and for all.

The majority of participating states clearly voiced their frustration with the perpetual lack of progress and expressed their sense of urgency at achieving concrete goals. "Our collective efforts to move away from the nuclear abyss have remained too modest in ambition and brought only limited success," warned the President of Austria. "Nuclear weapons should be stigmatized, banned and eliminated before they abolish us."

In an attempt to counter this rising wave of states free of nuclear weapons asserting their agency over the nuclear disarmament question, the nuclear-armed states complained about "distractions" from "existing processes." The nuclear-armed states, and some of their allies that still believe they "benefit" from nuclear weapons, argued that the step-by-step approach to disarmament is the "only" way forward.

Ray Acheson and Beatrice Fihn, "[High-Level Meeting Issues Resounding Call for Banning and Eliminating Nuclear Weapons](#)," *Reaching Critical Will*, September 26, 2013.

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## **Nuclear Proliferation**

### **Israel Has At Least 80 Nuclear Warheads**

A recent report published in *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* estimates that Israel has enough fissile material to create 115 to 190 new warheads. Nuclear weapon experts Hans Kristensen and Robert Norris write that Israel stopped production of nuclear warheads in 2004 and currently possesses 80 nuclear warheads.

Israel continues to maintain a policy of "strategic ambiguity" on the matter, although they are commonly assumed to be one of the world's nine nuclear powers. Israel has officially neither confirmed nor denied foreign reports on its nuclear arsenal.

Batsheva Sobelman, "[Israel Has 80 Nuclear Warheads, Can Make 115 to 190 More, Report Says](#)," *The New York Times*, September 15, 2013.

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### **India Tests Long-Range Nuclear Missile**

India has successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable missile that is able to reach Beijing and much of Europe. Ravi Kumar Gupta, spokesman for India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), said "The test was successful. It hit the target in a predefined trajectory. It met all the mission objectives."

India's second successful test is an indication of its desire for a viable deterrent against its larger nuclear-armed neighbor, China. India's other main rival, Pakistan, is currently increasing its nuclear arsenal. Actions by both India and Pakistan raise concern about a South Asian arms race, the International Institute for Strategic Studies reported.

Jatindra Dash, "[India Tests Nuclear-Capable Missile with Range as Far as Beijing](#)," *Reuters*, September 15, 2013

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### **Pakistani Leader Backs Military's Pursuit of Full-Spectrum Deterrence**

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has backed a plan to continue developing new nuclear weapon capabilities. Pakistan's main pursuit in terms of full-spectrum deterrence is to continue their focus on producing "smaller nuclear weapons with larger yields."

The announcement came as a surprise, as many believed that after his election Sharif would work to lower tensions with Pakistan's nuclear rival, India.

"[Pakistani Leader Backs Military's Pursuit of Full-Spectrum Deterrence](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, September 6, 2013.

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### **U.S. and Iran Hold High-Level Talks**

On September 26, the United States and Iran held their highest-level meeting in decades, with the Foreign Ministers of both countries meeting face-to-face.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry held an informal half-hour conversation after a meeting that included representatives of China, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom.

While the talks did not solve any of the outstanding issues between the two countries, John Kerry welcomed the "change in tone" of the talks and expressed hope for future negotiations.

"[Historic Iran Meeting Leaves Unanswered Nuclear Questions](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, September 27, 2013.

## Nuclear Insanity

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### Hydrogen Bomb Nearly Detonated Over North Carolina in 1961

A U.S. government document obtained by journalist Eric Schlosser under the Freedom of Information Act describes how close the U.S. came to self-inflicted nuclear disaster in 1961. Two nuclear bombs were on board a B-52 bomber that lost control over North Carolina. Both bombs were released from the plane. One bomb remained unarmed and fell to the ground. However, the second bomb went through all its arming mechanisms except one, and nearly detonated. The failure of a single low-voltage switch prevented the four-megaton bomb from exploding.

["U.S. Plane in 1961 'Nuclear Bomb Near-Miss.'" BBC](#), September 21, 2013.

## Nuclear Testing

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### International Day Against Nuclear Tests

On the fourth International Day Against Nuclear Tests, observed on September 5, several United Nations senior officials repeated their call on Member States to take action to ban nuclear testing.

The International Day Against Nuclear Tests was created to highlight the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons. Vladimir Bozhko, Minister for Emergency Situations of Kazakhstan, said that the "devastating explosive blasts, direct nuclear radiation, thermal radiation and fall-out have made the full rehabilitation of people and environment nearly impossible." As a result, it is imperative to completely eradicate the threats posed by nuclear weapons.

["Citing 'Horrific' Human, Environmental Effects, UN Officials Urge Global Ban on Nuclear Tests," UN News Center](#), September 5, 2013.

## Resources

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### Command and Control

Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation*, has published a book titled *Command and Control*. This book examines the history of nuclear risk, including many accidents and near-disasters.

A review of *Command and Control* by Walter Russell Mead can be found in *The New York Times*. Mead writes "Overall, Schlosser is a better reporter than policy analyst, and his discussion of what we should do about the problem he so grippingly describes is disappointingly thin. Nevertheless, his core recommendation that the United States explore the possibilities of operating a minimal deterrent, the smallest number of nuclear weapons needed to prevent adversaries from contemplating a nuclear attack on us, may be the most hopeful direction in which we can look."

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

Another review of Schlosser's book by Winslow Myers can be found on the [NAPF website](#). In this review, Myers writes, "One of the important points that Schlosser makes, one which former Secretary of Defense William Perry has also emphasized, is that our present moment is not less dangerous because the Cold War has passed and treaties have reduced the overall numbers of warheads, but much more dangerous - because military service in the nuclear weapons sector is considered a career dead-end, and the very lack of post-cold-war tension increases potential carelessness."

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## **Nuclear Abolition Guide for Religious Communities**

The Basel Peace Office has developed a resource guide for Religions for Peace, a global coalition of representatives of the world's major religions. The guide outlines the nuclear threat and describes the important contributions that religious communities can make to the movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

To download a copy of the full guide, [click here](#).

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## **Finalists Announced for Future Policy Award**

Seven disarmament policies from five continents have been shortlisted as final contenders for the 2013 Future Policy Award.

Organized by the World Future Council in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, this year's award seeks to highlight disarmament policies that contribute to achieving peace, sustainable development and security. The Future Policy Award is unique in that it celebrates policies rather than people on an international level.

By promoting the exchange of best practices, the 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.

For more information and a list of the seven finalists, [click here](#).

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## **Foundation Activities**

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### **NAPF Evening for Peace to Honor 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](#).

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### **NAPF Peace Leadership Events Around the World**

NAPF Peace Leadership Director Paul K. Chappell will give a number of lectures and workshops around the United States, Canada and Uganda between now and the end of 2013. If you are interested in attending any of the events, please contact the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation for more information at (805) 965-3443.

Paul will be speaking in Massachusetts, Georgia, New Hampshire, Maine, California, Gulu (Uganda) and New Brunswick (Canada). For the full schedule, including dates and times, [click here](#).

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## David Krieger to Speak in Nagasaki

NAPF President David Krieger will speak at the Fifth Nagasaki Global Citizens Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons from November 2-4 in Nagasaki, Japan. In the opening plenary, Dr. Krieger will speak on "Hubris vs. Wisdom" in relation to nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament. In a subsequent plenary, he will address the topic "Delegitimizing Nuclear Weapons: The Role of Citizens and Hibakusha."

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## Quotes

"While we are encouraged by the increased energy and enthusiasm around the nuclear disarmament debate, we regret that this energy is being directed toward initiatives such as this High-Level Meeting, the humanitarian consequences campaign, the Open-Ended Working Group and the push for a Nuclear Weapons Convention."

-- **Alistair Burt**, U.K. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, reading a [statement](#) on behalf of France, the United Kingdom and the United States at the United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament on September 26.

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"Campaigners like me, from all around the world, are demanding action to finally achieve the outlawing and elimination of nuclear weapons. It is time. It is time to change the status quo. It is time we ban nuclear weapons."

-- **Nosizwe Baqwa** of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, in a [statement](#) delivered at the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament at the United Nations on September 26.

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"There are no good nuclear weapons and no right hands for them, just as there are no good chemical or biological weapons. The nuclear deterrence policies, belied in large measure by first-use doctrines, are predicated on the willingness and capacity to inflict genocidal or omnicidal destruction."

-- **Joseph Gerson** of the American Friends Service Committee, in a [statement](#) delivered to the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament at the United Nations on September 26.

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## Editorial Team

Lulu Dewey  
David Krieger  
Carol Warner  
Rick Wayman