



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION



NUMBER 02

A Monthly Newsletter for Strengthening
Awareness of Nuclear Abolition

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IPS, the global news agency, brings you independent news and views on nuclear abolition. In this newsletter you will find in-depth reports by IPS correspondents and project partners from around the world as well as columns by experts, in addition to special sections for news from international NGOs and a review of the global media for a glimpse of what is happening on the ground. Join us in helping strengthen awareness about the abolition of nuclear weapons – and encourage your friends and colleagues to subscribe to this free monthly newsletter.

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By Thalif Deen

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By Matthew Berger

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That speech, which included a call for a new strategic arms reduction treaty with Russia and an end to nuclear weapons testing, will resonate throughout a two-week meeting of a preparatory committee for the 2010 review conference on the four-decade-old Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which deals with halting the spread of existing nuclear weapons technology, dismantling nuclear arsenals, and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology. MORE >>

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WHAT OTHERS SAY

CIVIL SOCIETY'S PERSPECTIVE

Groups Seek World Court Opinion on Nukes

By Thalif Deen

UNITED NATIONS, May 11 (IPS) - A coalition of international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) - the second in 13 years - on the legality and use of nuclear weapons.

Christopher Weeramantry, a former ICJ judge and president of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA), says more than a decade has passed since the Court unanimously declared that nuclear weapons have the "potential to destroy all civilisation and the entire ecosystem of the planet."

Based in The Hague, Netherlands, the Court is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Its 15 judges are elected for nine-year terms by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Although the ICJ pronounced against nuclear weapons, there has been a continued readiness not only to develop them but also to maintain existing arsenals.

The five declared nuclear powers are the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia, while the three undeclared powers are India, Pakistan and Israel. Both Iran and North Korea are on the sidelines.

The July 1996 opinion said that "there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control."

The organisations seeking a new ICJ advisory opinion include IALANA and the International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School.

The move is being backed by the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy (LCNP) and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

"Given the failure to act and ongoing debates about what conduct is legally required for states to meet the good faith negotiation obligation, it is time to return to the Court to obtain guidance for the disarmament enterprise and to ensure that the legal obligation is effectively implemented," says a legal memorandum submitted by the groups.

The 192-member U.N. General Assembly, however, would have to adopt a resolution asking the ICJ to provide an opinion. This is what was done for the first opinion on nuclear weapons back in 1996.

John Burroughs, executive director of LCNP, told IPS the first opinion has been far more influential than is commonly realised.

There is very wide acceptance of the ICJ's unanimous conclusion that Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) requires states to pursue and to conclude negotiations on complete nuclear disarmament.

"That is, there is not only a duty to make best efforts through negotiation, there is a duty to succeed through negotiations in eliminating nuclear arsenals," he added.

In votes on the annual General Assembly resolution following up on the ICJ resolution, there have also been votes on separate paragraphs welcoming the ICJ conclusion regarding the nuclear disarmament obligation.

Burroughs said almost all countries, including India and Pakistan, have voted for that paragraph. Only three countries have voted against it: the United States, Russia and Israel.

In the legal memorandum making a case for a second ICJ opinion, the two groups say that because of conflicting views and failures of implementation, the world is in need of clear guidelines as to what state behaviour is required to meet the nuclear disarmament obligation.

The long-promised complete nuclear disarmament, which the ICJ referred to in its 1996 advisory opinion, is not only a political commitment but also a binding legal undertaking. >>>



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"Therefore, the ICJ, as the principal organ of the United Nations, should be called upon to articulate much-needed legal guidance resolving current controversies over how to implement the obligation," says the memorandum. "It should provide the world community with the insights needed to turn the promise into reality."

Weeramantry points out that recent statements at the highest international and national levels have raised hopes that the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons "is not illusory but within reach".

Among these are Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's five-point proposal for progress on disarmament announced in October 2008 and U.S. President Barack Obama's categorical statement in Prague in April pledging "America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons."

"The fact that the goal of a nuclear-free world is altogether attainable renders it all the more imperative that the route prescribed by the Court should be meticulously followed," he added.

And the 2010 NPT Review Conference, whose two-week long preparatory meetings conclude Friday, "offers an outstanding opportunity to pursue this objective," Weeramantry added.

Burroughs told IPS that the 1996 ICJ opinion has filtered into public and professional discourse.

He said it is taught as part of a course on law of armed conflict in West Point, the U.S. military academy.

What IALANA and the International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School are recommending is that the General Assembly seek clarification from the Court on the legal implications of the disarmament obligation.

Burroughs said among the questions proposed were whether compliance in good faith with the disarmament obligation requires immediate commencement of multilateral negotiations leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

This is a position held by a large majority of governments, but refused by some nuclear weapons states.

Another question: Would a lack of compliance in good faith with the obligation be demonstrated by planning and implementing long-term retention, maintenance, and modernisation of nuclear arsenals, delivery systems, and supportive technical complexes?

"Today the nuclear weapon states are investing large sums in, and planning for, maintaining nuclear forces for decades to come," he said.

This hardly seems compatible with an intent to achieve disarmament, he added. But the Court can comment on the legal aspects of this problem.

Another question: Does the obligation apply to all states - thus including states outside the NPT, notably India and Pakistan?

The Court's 1996 opinion leaves this question open. Some of the judges, including President Mohammed Bedjaoui, in their separate opinions said, yes the obligation does apply to all states.

The Court could clarify this important matter, Burroughs said. (END/2009)



Mayors Gather at U.N. to Lobby Against Nukes

By Matthew Berger

UNITED NATIONS, May 6 (IPS) - The issue of nuclear disarmament being discussed with new vigour in the halls of the U.N. as the third and final preparatory committee leading up to the 2010 review conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) meets over the next two weeks.

Mayors for Peace, an international network of local officials, held an event Tuesday as part of the NPT preparatory sessions to promote its 2020 Vision Campaign calling for the abolition of all nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

They are just one voice of many calling for concrete, time-based disarmament, but they hold the unique position of representing the world's cities - the potential targets of nuclear attacks.

The Mayors for Peace gathering is one of many side events and comes at a time when there is growing talk of abolition of nuclear arsenals, a goal long viewed by many policy-makers as admirable but unrealistic.

Speaking to the gathered mayors and diplomats via a video message, Hans Blix, former head of the International Atomic Energy Agency and of the commission that searched for WMDs in Iraq in 2002, said, "It is a very timely moment that you are meeting."

He described the disarmament process as coming out of "a period of sleep-walking or, even worse, sliding backwards."

"There was a moment that was missed in the 1990s," he continued, "and now we have a new opportunity."

This idea that the time is ripe for a stronger move toward disarmament was a theme in almost all the speeches. The election of U.S. President Barack Obama and, especially, his speech in Prague last month calling for "a world without nuclear weapons", seem to be the main reasons behind this renewed optimism.

Yano Miyako, a survivor of the 1945 U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima, summed up this sentiment: "Before we could not expect much, but now, yes, we can - because of President Obama's speech."

"I believe that our majority voice has reached President Obama," said Tadatoshi Akiba, mayor of Hiroshima and president of Mayors for Peace.

On May 1, 53 new cities joined Mayors for Peace. It now has 2,870 member cities from 134 countries and regions.

The main work of the 2020 Vision Campaign entails collecting the signatures of local officials on the "Cities Appeal in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol". This protocol would be complementary to the NPT and would solidify national commitments to the "good faith" move toward disarmament required by Article VI of the treaty, which says "each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith" on measures relating to disarmament.

John Burroughs, executive director of the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy, spoke about the legal implications of this phrase.

"'Good faith' means parties are under an obligation to conduct themselves so that negotiations are meaningful. It is critical to the disarmament process," he said.

Akiba echoed this, saying "'in good faith' is not only a legal term but a moral imperative."

Change has not yet definitively come to disarmament, though. "Now we're seeing some movements on U.S.-Russia relations, on fissile materials, but not as yet on global reduction of nuclear weapons," said Burroughs.

There are over 26,000 nuclear warheads in the world today, 95 percent of them in the U.S. and Russia. As long as these weapons exist, Mayors for Peace argues, they might be used, and the only way to prevent this is to abolish them. >>>



If these weapons were used, said Sergio Duarte, the U.N. High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, "They would most likely be used in cities." Local officials would thus be the main ones responsible for providing emergency and medical services.

The role of local officials in the geopolitical arena of disarmament might be called into question, but, as Blix said in his video message, "more than half the world's people live in cities."

Mayor Donald Plusquellic of Akron, Ohio, mentioned how U.S. mayors had to play a central role in coordinating responses following the Sep. 11, 2001, attacks and have taken action at the local level to address climate change when ratification of the Kyoto Protocol faltered at the national level in the U.S.

"Mayors have to justify just travelling to conferences like this when there are so many pressing issues at home, but I really think this is a pressing issue of the day," he said.

Akiba summed up the rationale for the role of cities: "It is the cities that suffer the result of nuclear catastrophes."

Cities also have a key role in providing their citizens opportunities to express their support for disarmament. Akiba mentioned a specific baseball game in Hiroshima dedicated to Mayors for Peace in which all the fans held up signs in support of their disarmament campaign.

However, Duarte cautioned, "The most important single factor that will influence this outcome is, as always, the political will of nation-states."

This August will mark 64 years since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but the effects are still being felt. Yuki, the 12-year-old granddaughter of a bombing survivor, spoke to the gathering: "When I was eight I was attacked by a strange stomachache, and was in the hospital for two weeks."

Her grandmother then said, "Rather than waiting for other countries to give up their nuclear weapons before we give up ours, we must have the courage to take action. What I want people to understand is that what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is not in the past but an opportunity for the future."

The NPT requires a review conference every five years to evaluate the implementation of the treaty's articles. The final count of the Cities Appeal signatures will take place next year at the 2010 NPT Review Conference at U.N. headquarters in New York. (END/2009)

Cuestión nuclear se instala en agenda latinoamericana

Por Daniela Estrada

SANTIAGO, 4 may (IPS) - Gobiernos, expertos y pacifistas de distintas partes del mundo se lanzaron al debate por el desarme nuclear, teniendo como horizonte la nueva conferencia de revisión del tratado de no proliferación de este tipo de armas de destrucción masiva, a realizarse en mayo del año próximo.

Santiago fue por estos días sede de dos actividades muy diferentes, pero que tuvieron un objetivo común: promover en el mundo la cuestión de la no proliferación y el desarme nuclear.

El español Rafael de la Rubia, coordinador de la Marcha Mundial por la Paz y la no Violencia a desarrollarse de octubre a enero en 90 países, se reunió el martes pasado con la presidenta de Chile, Michelle Bachelet, organizaciones locales y medios de comunicación para seguir sumando adeptos a esta iniciativa que tiene como bandera de lucha la erradicación de las armas nucleares.

Posteriormente, entre el viernes y el domingo, se realizó la primera reunión de América Latina y el Caribe de la independiente Comisión Internacional para la No Proliferación y Desarme Nuclear (ICNND, por sus siglas en inglés), que contó con el apoyo de la Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (Flacso).

Este lunes, los comisionados también fueron recibidos por la mandataria chilena. >>>



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De alguna manera, esta coincidencia es sintomática del grado de importancia que ha alcanzado el tema en los últimos meses.

Los gobiernos de Estados Unidos y de Rusia, países que en conjunto poseen 95 por ciento de las 26.000 cabezas nucleares existentes en la actualidad, firmaron a comienzos de abril en Praga una declaración donde se comprometieron a buscar nuevas y verificables reducciones de sus respectivos arsenales.

El presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, y su par de Rusia, Dimitri Medvedev, anunciaron la negociación de un nuevo acuerdo que sustituya el Tratado de Reducción de Armas Estratégicas, conocido por su acrónimo inglés Start y que vence en diciembre. Dicha decisión fue saludada, entre otros actores, por el Parlamento Europeo.

Pero por esas mismas horas, Corea del Norte, que ha reconocido tener un programa de desarrollo nuclear, lanzó sorprendentemente un "satélite de comunicaciones", que según Estados Unidos y sus aliados se trató de un misil balístico de largo alcance capaz de llegar a Alaska.

Esto recordó el riesgo que existe de que se amplíe el número de potencias nucleares en el mundo o que estas armas caigan en manos de grupos terroristas.

Políticos, expertos y activistas coinciden en que el cambio de gobierno en Estados Unidos abrió la posibilidad de avanzar efectivamente hacia un escenario gradual de desarme nuclear. Precisamente, bajo esta premisa trabajan los impulsores de la Marcha Mundial por la Paz y la ICNND, nacida en septiembre de 2008.

Esta última es una iniciativa de alto nivel lanzada por los gobiernos de Australia y Japón, que busca revitalizar los esfuerzos mundiales tendientes a erradicar el armamento nuclear. La presiden el ex ministro de Recursos y Energía y de Relaciones Exteriores de Australia, Gareth Evans, y la ex canciller japonesa Yoriko Kawaguchi.

Australia es un gran abastecedor de uranio a nivel mundial, mientras que Japón es el único país que ha sufrido un ataque nuclear en la historia. En 1945, en el contexto de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, Estados Unidos lanzó una bomba en la sureña ciudad de Hiroshima y otra en la cercana Nagasaki, donde murieron cientos de miles de personas.

Entre los comisionados de la ICNND figuran el ex presidente mexicano Ernesto Zedillo (1994-2000), la ex primera ministra noruega Gro Harlem Brundtland (en 1981 y en los periodos de 1986 a 1989 y de 1990 a 1996), el ex secretario de Defensa de Estados Unidos William Perry y el ex representante de China ante la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU) Wang Yingfan, entre muchos otros.

Este nuevo organismo eligió a América Latina para realizar su primera reunión consultiva, con miras a la publicación de un informe a fin de año, por su "liderazgo político y moral" en la materia, dijo Evans, copresidente de la ICNND, en Santiago.

Junto a África, el sudeste asiático y el Pacífico sur, la región de América Latina y el Caribe está libre de armas nucleares. En 2003, los 33 países de la región reafirmaron su adhesión al Tratado para la Proscripción de las Armas Nucleares en la América Latina y el Caribe (conocido como Tratado de Tlatelolco), vigente desde 1969.

Por ello, Evans llamó a la región a desempeñar un papel más activo en los debates de la próxima Conferencia de Revisión del Tratado de No Proliferación de Armas Nucleares (NPT, según sus siglas en inglés), a realizarse en mayo de 2010.

Precisamente, entre este lunes y el día 15 se lleva a cabo en Nueva York la última sesión del Comité preparatorio de esta conferencia.

El NPT sólo permite la tenencia de armamento nuclear a los cinco países que contaban con este tipo de tecnología hacia 1968, cuando se firmó el acuerdo, pero con el compromiso de avanzar hacia el desarme. Se trata de China, Estados Unidos, Francia, Gran Bretaña y Rusia, los únicos países miembros permanentes del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU y que tienen derecho a veto.

Pero hoy el grupo de "potencias nucleares" también lo integran India, Pakistán e Israel, países todos implicados en conflictos diplomáticos, mientras que Corea del Norte e Irán están en la mira mundial por sus programas de desarrollo de esta clase de armamento. >>>



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En la conferencia de revisión se deberían fortalecer varios puntos del NPT, principalmente el proceso de "verificación" del cumplimiento de las obligaciones de los países, comentó a IPS Evans.

"En el caso de que un país esté haciendo algo que no debería hacer según el tratado (se requiere que) haya un mecanismo apropiado para llevarlo rápidamente al Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU y que se dé una respuesta eficaz", apuntó.

En este mismo sentido, llamó a ampliar la capacidad institucional de la Agencia Internacional de Energía Atómica, dotándola de mayores recursos.

A juicio de Evans, la no proliferación de armas nucleares, el desarme y la expansión de la energía nuclear civil son temas que deben ser abordados en forma conjunta, porque el límite entre ellos es difuso.

"Uno no puede avanzar muy lejos en la no proliferación a menos de que también tenga compromisos serios en torno al desarme. Sería importante ver a los estados nucleares firmar un compromiso serio en el 2010", acotó.

La agenda de corto plazo de la ICNND --pensada para los próximos cuatro años-- también incluye la total ratificación y aplicación del Tratado de Prohibición Completa de los Ensayos Nucleares (CTBT, según sus siglas en inglés) y el término de "las negociaciones del tratado preliminar sobre material fisionable en Ginebra".

"Además, sería importante resolver los problemas específicos de Irán y Corea del Norte", indicó Evans.

"Es una agenda muy ambiciosa para cuatro años (...) pero con el impulso político que se ha generado con este nuevo liderazgo de Estados Unidos en este asunto, me parece que muchas más cosas son posibles", apuntó.

En esta senda, la Comisión espera que hacia 2025 se hayan reducido al mínimo las armas nucleares en el mundo.

"Tenemos mucho apoyo para esta Comisión, lo que es bastante interesante, porque han habido muchas comisiones anteriores, muchos informes anteriores", sostuvo Evans, quien ya ha visitado "cada uno de los países nucleares".

"Si podemos producir un informe que sea muy pragmático, realista, que considere los problemas políticos y de seguridad que perciben los países y que no solamente hable en abstracto con visiones grandiosas, si producimos un informe que tenga fechas, objetivos, planes de acción, sería bastante influyente", remarcó.

Según Evans, "estos temas son complejos, difíciles", por lo tanto "la presión tiene que venir de tres direcciones. Primero, desde arriba, de Estados Unidos y Rusia, porque ellos tienen 95 por ciento de todas las armas que existen. Sin liderazgo no pasaría nada".

Pero "también tiene que venir desde los grupos pares, desde los gobiernos, incluyendo los latinoamericanos, que tienen un papel importante que desempeñar, y desde abajo, desde la sociedad civil, desde las organizaciones no gubernamentales. Todas estas actividades envían mensajes importantes", concluyó. (FIN/2009)

"Springtime of Hope" Seen for Nuke Disarmament

Thalif Deen interviews JAYANTHA DHANAPALA, former under-secretary-general for disarmament affairs



UNITED NATIONS, May 4 (IPS) - When he addressed a massive gathering in the Czech Jayantha Dhanapala capital of Prague last month, U.S. President Barack Obama made a historic statement pledging that his country will take "concrete steps towards a world without nuclear weapons."

That speech, which included a call for a new strategic arms reduction treaty with Russia and an end to nuclear weapons testing, will resonate throughout a two-week meeting of a preparatory committee for the 2010 review conference on the four-decade-old Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which deals with halting the spread of existing nuclear weapons technology, dismantling nuclear arsenals, and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology.

Jayantha Dhanapala, one of the world's foremost authorities on nuclear disarmament, currently in New York to attend the meeting which concludes May 15, is cautiously optimistic about the state of the nuclear world.

"We are certainly in a springtime of hope after the dark winter of discontent in the disarmament field," said Dhanapala, a former U.N. under-secretary-general for disarmament affairs and president of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs.

In an interview with U.N. Bureau Chief Thalif Deen, he said the rhetoric of the Prague speech by President Obama will have to be matched by action on the issues identified.

"At the same time we must not underestimate the opposition to these actions, and civil society should support the [U.S.] president while other countries - especially the nuclear weapon states - must also play their own role in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation," Dhanapala said.

In his Prague speech, Obama warned that while the Cold War between the United States and Russia has disappeared, the thousands of nuclear weapons have not.

"No nuclear weapon war was fought between the United States and the (former) Soviet Union, but generations lived with the knowledge that their world could be erased in a single flash of light," he added.

Obama has also pledged to pursue U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and to put an end to the testing of nuclear weapons.

Dhanapala said the Obama administration and its supporters "must work hard to make the case for ratification in the U.S. Senate, which will require 67 senators voting for it."

Excerpts from the interview follow.

IPS: Do you think there will be any breakthrough on CTBT or fissile ban in a changed environment?

JAYANTHA DHANAPALA: While U.S. ratification will provide a major impetus, let us not forget that eight other countries must either sign or ratify the treaty for it to enter into force.

The main reason why the CTBT was always regarded as a litmus test for nuclear disarmament was because with no test explosions, new generations of nuclear weapons, new designs and new capabilities were effectively halted. Any bargain which undermines this would be a Faustian one, which will be rejected by the disarmament community.

On the fissile material ban, the U.S. policy shift on seeking a verifiable treaty should open the way for the Conference on Disarmament to start negotiating a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) at long last.

IPS: Will there be any significant developments in advancing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)? >>>



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JD: The NPT is an inherently discriminatory treaty which is not sustainable as long as unequal obligations are cast on non-nuclear weapon states vis-a-vis nuclear weapon states, and the latter are allowed to retain their weapons.

Every five years the nuclear weapon states wake up at the time of the Review Conference and seek to paper over the cracks among the parties.

In 2010, the Review Conference faces fresh challenges because of the unresolved problems over North Korea and Iran, the conclusion of the Indo-U.S. nuclear co-operation deal and the failure of the nuclear weapon states to reduce and eliminate their weapons.

The new atmosphere created by the Obama administration with specific steps taken in the next year may help avert the disaster that took place in (the Review Conference in) 2005 (over a proposed agenda).

IPS: What of the ultimate goal of a nuclear weapons-free world?

JD: The incrementalist approach of those who see global zero for nuclear weapons as a mirage-like "ultimate goal" is increasingly being challenged by those who want a Nuclear Weapon Convention negotiated to outlaw nuclear weapons in the same way that biological and chemical weapons were delegitimised.

The former approach will only lead to more proliferation and greater dangers of terrorist groups acquiring nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Posture Review planned by the Obama administration must make a doctrinal change so that we eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in national security leading to global security without these weapons. (END/2009)

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Cuestión nuclear se instala en agenda latinoamericana

LATIN AMERICA: Nuclear Disarmament Back on the Agenda

By Daniela Estrada

SANTIAGO, May 4 (IPS) - Over the last few days, the Chilean capital has hosted two very different activities that, however, had a common objective: promoting global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

The first regional meeting of the independent International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) took place in Santiago May 1-3, with the support of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO). The members of the ICNND met with Chilean President Michelle Bachelet Monday.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46719>

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Groups Seek World Court Opinion on Nukes

[ABRÜSTUNG: Zweites Anti-Atomwaffen-Gutachten von UN-Gerichtshof angestrebt](#)

Von Thalif Deen New York, 13. Mai (IPS) – Internationale Nichtregierungsorganisationen (NGOs) haben angekündigt, sich für ein zweites Gutachten des Internationalen Gerichtshofs (IGH) gegen den Einsatz von Atomwaffen einzusetzen. Das UN-Tribunal in Den Haag soll einen Fahrplan erstellen, der die Länder zum erfolgreichen Abschluss von Abrüstungsverhandlungen zwingt, zu dem sie völkerrechtlich verpflichtet sind.

Mayors Gather at U.N. to Lobby Against Nukes

[ABRÜSTUNG: Bürgermeister fordern atomare Abrüstung – Kernwaffenfrei bis 2020](#)

Von Matthew Berger New York, 7. Mai (IPS) – Die internationale Gruppe 'Bürgermeister für den Frieden' wirbt bei den Vereinten Nationen für ihre Vision einer kernwaffenfreien Welt bis 2020. Bei den UN in New York tagt noch bis zum 15. Mai der Vorbereitungsausschuss für die große Kontrollkonferenz zum Atomwaffensperrvertrag (NPT), die im kommenden Jahr in Wien stattfinden wird.

"Springtime of Hope" Seen for Nuke Disarmament

[ABRÜSTUNG: "Frühling der Hoffnung" – Ex-UN-Rüstungsexperte Dhanapala im Interview](#)

Von Thalif Deen New York, 6. Mai (IPS) – US-Präsident Barack Obama hat mit seinem Vorstoß für eine Welt ohne Nuklearwaffen neuen Schwung in die Diskussion um die atomare Abrüstung gebracht. In einem Interview mit IPS zeigte sich der frühere UN-Abrüstungsexperte Jayantha Dhanapala verhalten optimistisch, sprach aber immerhin vom "Frühling der Hoffnung".

Cuestión nuclear se instala en agenda latinoamericana

[LATEINAMERIKA: Trendsetter der atomaren Abrüstung soll Verantwortung übernehmen](#)

Von Daniela Estrada Santiago, 5. Mai (IPS) – Lateinamerika, die erste bewohnte atomwaffenfreie Zone der Welt, soll nach Vorstellungen der Internationalen Kommission für atomare Nichtverbreitung und Abrüstung (ICNND) in Fragen nuklearer Abrüstung eine Führungsrolle einnehmen.

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Q&A: U.S., Japan Urged to Lead Campaign to Ban Nuclear Arms

Thalif Deen Interviews HIROTSUGU TERASAKI of the Soka Gakkai International

UNITED NATIONS, May 21 (IPS) - The United States, the only country to launch a military strike with nuclear weapons, and Japan, the only country to have suffered nuclear devastation, will have to jointly take the initiative for the creation of an international convention to ban all nuclear weapons, says one of the world's longstanding advocates of nuclear disarmament. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46940>

[Adaptation into Arabic on next page](#)

وكالة الأنباء العلمية انتر بريس سرفيس (أي بي إس)

المدير التنفيذي بالمنظمة النووية السلمية الدولية:
"علي واشنطن وطوكيو قيادة جهود حظر الأسلحة النووية"

بقلم ثايف ديبن/وكالة انتر بريس سرفيس

الأمم المتحدة , مايو (IPS) - علي الولايات المتحدة بصفتها الدولة الوحيدة التي استخدمت أسلحة نووية، واليابان باعتبارها البلد الوحيد الذي عانى من دمرها، أن نترعما مبادرة التوصل لإتفاقية دولية لحظر الأسلحة النووية، وفقا لمنظمة "سوكا غاكاي إنترناشيونال" النووية السلمية التي تضم 12 مليون عضوا في مختلف دول العالم.

وأعلن هيروتسوغو تيرازاكي المدير التنفيذي بهذه المنظمة ومقرها طوكيو، في مقابلة مع وكالة انتر بريس سرفيس (أي بي إس) أن المنظمة تخطط لتكثيف حملتها الدولية الهادفة لإزالة كافة الأسلحة النووية من العالم. وشرح أن الحملة التي بدأتها المنظمة في 1957، قد تلقت دفعة قوية إثر تصريحات الرئيس الأمريكي باراك أوباما في الشهر الماضي في براغ بأن "الولايات المتحدة ستتخذ خطوات محددة نحو عالم نون أسلحة نووية".

وقال أن "الرئيس أوباما قد تتول بوضوح ولأول مرة، المسؤولية الأخلاقية التي تقع علي عاتق الولايات المتحدة باعتبارها الدولة الوحيدة التي استخدمت أسلحة نووية". وأضاف أن اليابان، الدولة الوحيدة التي قلست من استخدام هذه الأسلحة، عليها أن تستجيب، من خلال التأكيد بدورها علي مسؤولياتها تجاه مستقبل البشرية.

وشرح أنه "لو إتخذت الولايات المتحدة واليابان موقفا ثابتا إنطلاقا من مسؤولياتهما، فإن ذلك سيخلق تائيرا إيجابيا هائلا علي المجتمع الدولي. وأعرب عن أمله في أن تلعب اليابان دورا قياديا في جهود التوصل إلي إتفاقية دولية لحظر الأسلحة النووية.

وفيما يلي أبرز ما ورد في مقابلة انتر بريس سرفيس (أي بي إس) مع هيروتسوغو تيرازاكي.

أي بي إس: هل تعتبر أن العالم أصبح أكثر قربا من تزع السلاح النووي من أي وقت مضى؟

تيرازاكي: مثلت تصريحات الرئيس أوباما الأخيرة داءا للعيث في عالم دون أسلحة نووية، وأعطت دفعة قوية لجهود إزالة هذه الأسلحة من العالم، وهو ما يجري التبلحث بشأنه حاليا في الأمم المتحدة في نيويورك وسط مناخ جديد ومختلف.

ثمة فرصة حقيقة متلحة الآن، وفي العصر الذي نعيشه حاليا، فإن الأمور الأهم هي أن تكون هناك أهدافا واضحة وأعمالا محددة.

أي بي إس: ما مدي الأمل في أن تتعاون كبري الدول النووية، وخاصة روسيا وفرنسا وبريطانيا والصين، مع الرئيس أوباما في مساعي تكليص دور الأسلحة النووية في إستراتيجياتها الأمنية الوطنية، ووقف تجارب الأسلحة النووية؟

تيرازاكي: هناك العديد من الأمثلة علي أهداف تم تحقيقها رغم إستحاثتها في الظاهر. ويمكن الإستدلال بمثال إلغاء العبودية في القرن التاسع عشر. وفي التسعينات، شهدنا التوقيع علي إتفاقية حظر الأكغام، وبعد ذلك، التوقيع علي معاهدة حظر القنابل والذخائر العنقودية.

Page 2 of 2 | "المدير التنفيذي بالمنظمة البوذية السلمية الدولية: "علي واشنطن وطوكيو قيادة جهود حظر الأسلحة النووية

كان يبدو من غير الواقعي التفكير في تحقيق مثل هذه الأهداف لكنه تم تحقيقها في نهاية المطاف. وبالتالي، فأنا على ثقة أنه في مقدورنا أيضا تحقيق غاية حظر الأسلحة النووية.

أي بي اس: هل تتوقع أن يصبح التوصل إلى إتفاقية دولية لحظر الأسلحة النووية، غاية قابلة للتحقيق قريبا؟.

تيرازاكي: لاشك أننا نأمل ونتوقع أن تتفاوض الولايات المتحدة وروسيا علي خفض حاد لترسانتهما النووية بحلول نهاية العام الجاري. لكنه من وجهة نظر المواطن العادي، فإن مجرد سلاح نووي واحد ينطوي علي إمكانية أن يستخدم، بكل آثاره المدمرة.

لذلك فإننا جميعا في حاجة لإلغاء الأسلحة النووية تماما. نحتاج إلى تحقيق غاية حظر وإلغاء هذه الأسلحة.

أي بي اس: ولكن، ما هي الاحتمالات الواقعية لأن توافق الدول النووية علي إتفاقية من هذا النوع؟.

تيرازاكي: قد يقول الكثيرون أن مثل هذه الغاية غير قابلة للتحقيق، وأن الدول التي تحوز أسلحة نووية لن توافق علي إتفاقية تحظر إستخدامها.

ومع ذلك فإن التوصل إلى إتفاقية من هذا النوع، حتى ولو لم تحظي بتأييد شامل كامل في البداية، سوف يأتي بتغيير عميق علي المناخ السياسي.

أي بي اس: في ماذا تكمن حملتكم المعادية للأسلحة الذرية؟.

تيرازاكي: لقد أطلقنا منذ عامين حملة "عقد الشعوب من أجل إلغاء الأسلحة النووية".

ونظمتنا معارض ومواقع شبكية، ومواد إعلامية وغيرها من أدوات توعية الشعوب والمجتمعات المدنية في العالم، وذلك انطلاقا من إيماننا بأن الشعوب والمجتمعات المدنية يجب أن تحتل مركزا قياديا في جهود المطالبة بإلغاء الأسلحة النووية، وإيصال أصواتهم إلي مسمع أصحاب القرار.

فهناك أعدادا متزايدة من الناس الذين يرفضون الإستمرار في إنفاق كميات هائلة من الموارد المالية والتقنية والبشرية، علي تطوير وإنتاج وصيانة أسلحة غايتها الوحيدة هي إرتكاب مذابح جماعية.

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DISARMAMENT: North Korea Test a Setback to Nuke-Free World

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سباق التسليح الذري:
كم عدد الخمس دول النووية؟ تسعة... أو عشرين!

بقلم شاييف ديبين/وكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس

الأمم المتحدة، مايو (IPS) - في أبريل 2010، وتزامنا مع بداية مفاوضات مراجعة معاهدة حظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية، سيكون عدد الدول النووية في العالم تسعة أو أكثر، وليس مجرد الخمس دول (الولايات المتحدة، روسيا، بريطانيا، فرنسا، الصين) التي تحظى بالعضوية الدائمة وحق الاعتراض في مجلس الأمن الدولي.

فقد حذر محمد البرادعي المدير العام المنصرف لوكالة الطاقة الذرية في فيينا، أن الأعوام القليلة القادمة قد تشهد ظهور 10 إلى 20 "دولة نووية افتراضية" إضافية، ما لم تتخذ خطوات حاسمة نحو نزع الأسلحة النووية في العالم.

وأنت تجربة كوريا الشمالية النووية في الأيام الأخيرة، الثنائية التي تجريها منذ أكتوبر عام 2006، لتقدم دليلا على صحة هذا التحذر. فتعتبر هذه التجربة الجديدة تهديدا للقارة الآسيوية، بل وعقبة قوية في وجه مبادرة الرئيس باراك أوباما للعيش في "عالم دون أسلحة نووية" حسب تصريحاته.

ومن الملفت للنظر أن القوي النووية المعلنة رسميا هي ذات الدول الخمس الأعضاء الدائمين في مجلس الأمن، فيما تصنف الهند وباكستان وإسرائيل وكوريا الشمالية كنول نووية غير معلنة.

فصرح جون بوروغ، المدير التنفيذي لهيئة رجال القانون المعنيين بالسياسات النووية ومقرها نيويورك، أن الخطر الحقيقي يكمن في أن تتسبب التجربة الكورية الشمالية، مضافة إليها البرنامج النووي الإيراني، في شد ساعد الجهات المعارضة لمبادرات نزع الأسلحة النووية، التي شدد علي مدي ضخامة نفوذها في الولايات المتحدة وغيرها من القوي النووية.

وأضاف الخبير القانوني في حديث لوكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس أن "العالم سيضطر إلي إدراك أهمية التحرك العاجل علي جبهة نزع الأسلحة النووية، بغض النظر عن تذبذب جهود الحيلولة دون حصول نول جديدة علي أسلحة نووية".

هذا وكانت روز غوثينمولير، مساعدة وزيرة الخارجية الأمريكية، قد أعلنت في منتصف هذه الشهر أثناء إجتماع اللجنة التحضيرية لمؤتمر مراجعة معاهدة حظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية، أن "الإضمام العالمي لهذه المعاهدة، بما يشمل الهند وإسرائيل وباكستان وكوريا الشمالية، يعتبر هدفا أساسيا للولايات المتحدة".

ويشار إلي أن معاهدة حظر الإنتشار النووي لعام 1968 تهدف إلي الحد من إنتشار الأسلحة النووية، ووقعت عليها 189 دولة، بما فيها الخمس دول النووية المعلنة. لكن الهند وإسرائيل وباكستان كوريا الشمالية لم توقع عليها، وإن كانت هذه الأخيرة قد إنضمت إليها ثم إنسحبت منها.

ويطلع مؤتمر مراجعة المعاهدة في العام المقبل إلي إتفاق كبري الدول النووية علي إتخاذ خطوات محددة لتقليص عدد الأسلحة النووية ودورها في أنظمتها العسكرية، وإطلاق مسرا جديدا لإزالتها والغائها مستقبلا في مختلف أرجاء العالم.

واعتبر الخبير جون بوروغ أن ذلك سوف يسهل بدرجة كبيرة مهمة تعبئة الحكومات من أجل العمل علي إحتواء إنتشار الأسلحة النووية والقدرة علي إنتاجه

Mayors Gather at U.N. to Lobby Against Nukes

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وكالة الأنباء العلمية انتر بريس سرفيس (آي بي إس)

تكثيف جهود نزع السلاح النووي:
عمداء العالم يطالبون بإلغاء الأسلحة النووية في 2020

بقلم ماثيو بير غير/انتر بريس سيرفس

الأمم المتحدة، مايو (IPS) - أطلقت شبكة "العمداء من أجل السلام" الدولية، التي تضم قادة السلطات المحلية في 2,870 مدينة في 134 دولة وإقليم، حملة مكثفة للمراسلة المضغوط عني مختلف المستويات من أجل إلغاء كافة الأسلحة النووية بحلول عام 2020.

فقد اجتمع "العمداء من أجل السلام" هذا الأسبوع في مقر الأمم المتحدة بنيويورك، تزامنا مع الجلسات الجارية لمراجعة معاهدة حظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية، والتي تمتد طيلة أسبوعين حتى 15 مايو، تمهيدا لقمة العام المقبل العالمية حول هذه القضية.

وبهذا يضم المسؤولون عن مدن العلب التي تعتبر هدفا أساسيا لأي جهوم نووي، والذين يترأس شبكتهم تاداتوشي أكيبا عمدة مدينة هيروشيما اليابانية التي وقعت ضحية قنبلة ذرية أمريكية في الحرب العالمية الثانية، يضمون جهودهم إلى المساعي النووية الجارية من أجل القضاء على خطر الأسلحة النووية وحظرها نهائيا.

وذكر أكيبا بأن "المدن هي التي تقع ضحية عواقب الكوارث النووية"، وعليها أن تلعب دورا حاسما في إتاحة الفرصة لمواطنيها للإعراب عن دعمهم لنزع السلاح.

هذا ولقد خاطب هانز بليكس، المدير السابق لوكالة الطاقة النووية الدولية والرئيس السابق لفريق مفتشي الأمم المتحدة الذي كلف بالبحث عن أسلحة دمار شامل في العراق في عام 2002، خاطب المشاركين في الإجتماعات الجارية بهذا الشأن في مقر الأمم المتحدة.

وقال بليكس في رسالة مباشرة بلفيديو لإجتماع للعمداء والدبلوماسيين رفيعي المستوى، أن جلسات مراجعة معاهدة حظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية الحالية تأتي في "نسب توقيت" لتحقيق هذه الغاية، "فقد أضيفت فرصة سانحة في التيسعات، والآن نحن أمام فرصة جديدة"، وهو الموقف الذي تشاطرة غالبية الوفود المشاركة في إجتماعات الأمم المتحدة الجارية.

ويذكر أن آمال إلغاء الأسلحة النووية في العالم قد اكتسبت دفعة قوية بعد إنتخاب الرئيس الأمريكي باراك أوباما، وخاصة خطابه في براغ في أبريل الماضي الذي تحدث فيه عن "عالم دون أسلحة نووية".

هذا وتركز حملة شبكة "العمداء من أجل السلام" المعنونة "رؤية 2020"، على جمع أكبر عدد ممكن من التوقيعات على بيان "نداء المدن لصالح بروتوكول هيروشيما وناغازاكي"، اللتان قصفتهما الولايات المتحدة بالقنابل الذرية منذ 64 عاما.

والغاية هي ضم هذا البروتوكول إلى معاهدة حظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية، كأداة للضغط على الدول للوفاء بإلتزامتها تجاه حظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية.

ويشر إلى أن عدد الرؤوس النووية في العلم يبلغ 26,000، تملك الولايات المتحدة وروسيا 95 في المائة منها.



PICKUPS BY WEBSITES

Groups Seek World Court Opinion on Nukes

Several

http://www.google.com/search?q=Groups+Seek+World+Court+Opinion+on+Nukes&hl=en&rls=com.microsoft:en-US:IE-SearchBox&rlz=117GGLJ_de&start=20&sa=N

Mayors Gather at U.N. to Lobby Against Nukes

<http://www.indepthnews.net/news/news.php?key1=2009-05-06 23:54:12&key2=1>

<http://globalgeopolitics.net/wordpress/2009/05/06/disarmament-mayors-gather-at-un-to-lobby-against-nukes/>

<http://blog.heidi-barathieu-brun.ch/wp-archive/1634> (**Economy and Society**)

http://www.ipsnews.net/new_focus/unitednations/index.asp (**TERRAVIVA UN**)

<http://www.ppseawa.org/agggregator/sources/1> (**Pan-Pacific & South-East Asia Women's Association**)

<http://www.otmdems.org/index.php/site/syncnt/> (**Over the Mountain Democrats**)

www.groups.google.com/group/alt.activism.d/browse_thread/thread/f765a7f7903ef8b7

<http://obama.wsj.com/article/06Yt6fC7Le9Uj?q=Obamas+OR+%22Obama+Family%22>

www.onenewspage.com/news/World/20090506/2054488/DISARMAMENT

www.newstin.co.in/rel/in/en-010-013817107

www.globalinfo.org/eng/reader.asp?ArticleId=64734

Several others:

http://www.google.com/search?q=Mayors+Gather+at+U.N.+to+Lobby+Against+Nukes&hl=en&rls=com.microsoft:en-US:IE-SearchBox&rlz=117GGLJ_de&start=20&sa=N

"Springtime of Hope" Seen for Nuke Disarmament

<http://obama.wsj.com/article/04Tne7c6lia7a?q=U.S.+Senate>

<http://content.usatoday.com/topics/article/Places,+Geography/Countries/United+States/04Tne7c6lia7a/1>

<http://asiantribune.com/?q=node/17270>

http://www.silobreaker.com/qa-springtime-of-hope-seen-for-nuke-disarmament-5_2262294888395571229

<http://www.globalsouth.info/news/news.php?key1=2009-05-05%2001:52:03&key2=1>

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<http://www.ipsterraviva.net/Europe/article.aspx?id=7325>

<http://www.ipsterraviva.net/UN/currentNew.aspx?new=5922>

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[DISARMAMENT: 'Civil Society's Role Crucial For Nuclear Abolition'](#)

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Huffington Post - May 27, 2009

(Unfortunately, he followed that with the statement that **nuclear** weapons **abolition** would not "be achieved quickly, perhaps not in my lifetime," suggesting ...

[Philip Taubman: Obstacles to nuclear disarmament](#)

Dallas Morning News - May 16, 2009

One solution suggested by **abolition** advocates would be a form of latent or virtual deterrence, based not on weapons all but ready to launch, ...

[Nuclear Options](#) CounterPunch



[The Fierce Urgency of Disarmament](#)

The Nation. - May 11, 2009

While **nuclear abolition** has broadened its appeal politically--receiving endorsements from conservatives such as former Senator Chuck Hagel, John McCain, ...

[Nobel Peace winners issue declaration](#)

United Press International - May 17, 2009

"The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Declaration of Nobel Peace laureates" asked people around the world to urge their leaders to work toward the **abolition** of **nuclear** ...

[Peace laureates publish declaration against nuclear arms](#) The Japan Times

[Proliferated Nonsense](#)

The National Interest Online - May 20, 2009

It is not even clear that **abolishing nuclear** weapons would produce an unambiguously beneficial result. Perhaps it is only a coincidence, but the six and a ...

[Abolition Follies](#)

Foreign Policy In Focus - May 12, 2009

Like Henry Kissinger and George P. Shultz in their much-cited Wall Street Journal essay, Obama comes to the **nuclear abolition** agenda through realpolitik ...

[The Long Road to Zero](#) Global Security

[A-bomb pianos promote music of peace](#)

The Daily Yomiuri - May 27, 2009

He hopes a concert in the United States, where President Barack Obama advocates the **abolition** of **nuclear** arms, will be a starting point for further recitals ...

CIVIL SOCIETY'S PERSPECTIVE

IPPNW response to the May 25, 2009 nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

IPPNW released the following statement, signed by the Federation's three Co-Presidents.

Released May 28, 2009

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War regrets the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

As an organization of doctors, we deplore the squandering of scarce resources of all the nuclear powers in the time of world wide economic recession on the development of weapons - especially weapons of mass destruction - instead of investing in health, education, economic development and other social needs that provide true security.

Our research has shown how even a small amount of nuclear bomb explosions in a limited nuclear crisis will destroy the crops globally for decades and lead to a world wide famine. Thus, this test is a backward step for regional and global security at a time of renewed international commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

This new test explosion of a nuclear device, coupled with short-range missile tests, does nothing to improve the DPRK's security. To the contrary, the predictable response from North Korea's neighbors and from countries around the world has been to further isolate the country and to demand punitive actions.

IPPNW calls for increased contact and communication with the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and will work with our affiliate, the Korean Anti-Nuke Peace Physicians (KANPP) towards that end. We also call on all parties to show restraint so that this situation does not escalate into a military confrontation.

If the DPRK nuclear tests provoke a nuclear arms race in the region, either through the increased presence of US or other nuclear forces, or through the acquisition of nuclear weapons by other countries in North Asia, the net effect will be greater regional tension and instability, and the risk of an armed conflict that could lead to the use of nuclear weapons.



The government of the DPRK has said it wants to work for a nuclear-weapons-free Korean peninsula. Proposals for a North Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone - which would include Japan and would have the backing of the United States, China, and Russia - have been on the table for several years. We are convinced that the DPRK's own security interests would be best served by halting the development of nuclear weapons and by entering good faith negotiations to bring this nuclear-weapon-free zone into existence.

At the same time, the double standard by which some states have claimed that nuclear weapons are essential to their security while denying that right to others is both reprehensible and unsustainable. The urgent need for a global nuclear-weapon-free zone through the negotiation and adoption of a Nuclear Weapons Convention is the real lesson of this unfortunate decision by a tragically isolated state.

Ime John, Sergey Kolesnikov, and Vappu Taipale
Co-presidents of IPPNW

ICAN: North Korea nuclear test: time for a test ban

25 May 2009

MEDIA RELEASE: The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons this afternoon expressed grave concerns following reports of a nuclear test explosion in North Korea.

"Any nuclear testing is unacceptable and flies in the face of a long-standing international moratorium on testing of these most deadly of weapons," stated Associate Professor Tilman Ruff, Chair of ICAN Australia.

Assoc Prof Ruff was recently part of the Australian government delegation at the United Nations participating in the Preparatory Committee meetings around the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Two other ICAN Australia representatives, Dimity Hawkins and Dr Ruth Mitchell also attended the New York conference as non-government observers.

"It is time for the international community to raise the expectation of the USA and China to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and help bring this vital treaty into force. It is only through international agreements on measures such as the CTBT that we will see North Korea truly isolated and pressured into extinguishing their nuclear weapons programs," stated Assoc Prof Tilman Ruff.

"Today's nuclear test by North Korea, while not wholly unexpected, seriously flies in the face of the international progress around issues of nuclear weapons disarmament and non-proliferation," stated Dimity Hawkins, ICAN Australia Board Member. "Recent statements calling for a world free from nuclear weapons by US President Obama, the Russian President Medvedev and even our own Prime Minister Rudd, were largely supported by the world community at the NPT negotiations at the United Nations in New York just this month. North Korea is seriously out of step with the world view on these weapons and is endangering progress towards this goal."

In April, US President Obama said that his administration would "immediately and aggressively" seek ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) which would effectively create a global ban on nuclear testing. The USA and China, both nuclear weapons states, have failed consistently to ratify this treaty, which requires their participation and that of several other non-nuclear nations to be brought into force. In April 2009 Obama described nuclear weapons as "the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War."

"Unless there is serious progress towards abolishing nuclear weapons we can expect more nuclear tests and nuclear proliferation. The **nine nuclear weapons states*** must make the stated goal of a world free from nuclear weapons a reality," concluded Assoc Prof Tilman Ruff. "Our government should condemn North Korea's test and do everything in their power to pressure our allies to bring the CTBT into force."

*Nations with nuclear weapons are: the USA, Russia, France, China, the UK, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.

Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation:

Center Offers Details and Analysis of Obama Administration's Defense Budget May 8, 2009

Washington, D.C. -- In response to the Obama administration's release of its Fiscal Year 2010 Pentagon spending request, the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation released today a detailed budget analysis.

[The complete analysis is available online.](#)

Consistent with the budget blueprints released on March 2, the administration is requesting \$533.8 billion for the Department of Defense base budget and \$130 billion for "Overseas Contingency Operations" for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. These numbers do not include funding for nuclear weapons through the Department of Energy or miscellaneous non-DOD defense costs, which totaled approximately \$23 billion in FY 2009.

Adjusted for inflation, the \$533.8 billion request is \$9 billion, or 1.7 percent, more than Congress approved for the Defense Department for FY 2009.

"The Obama administration's budget request continues the pattern of growth in defense spending, though notably at a lower rate than we saw during the years of the Bush administration," said Chris Hellman, military policy fellow at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation.

The \$130 billion in funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan marks the first time the war costs have been a part of the White House's annual budget request.

"Until now, the government has funded military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through special supplemental appropriations packages," Hellman added. "The Obama administration identified with its first supplemental request that it would also be the administration's last. The inclusion of war funding up front is a welcome change and offers opportunity for greater transparency and oversight of our defense spending priorities."

The Center's complete analysis of the budget request, which also explores details on the funding of specific weapons programs, is available online.

Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation: Nuclear Posture Commission: Good on Stockpile Reductions, Bad on Test Ban Treaty

May 6, 2009

Washington, D.C. -- In response to today's release of the final report by the Congressional Commission on the Nuclear Strategic Posture of the United States, the **Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation** issued an analysis assessing the good and the bad in the Commission's findings.

The Commission was a twelve-member bipartisan group created by Congress as part of the Defense Authorization Act of 2008. It was co-chaired by former Secretaries of Defense William Perry and James Schlesinger.

"As one might expect given the diverse make-up of the Commission, the final report offers a mixture of good and bad recommendations," said John Isaacs, executive director of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. "I believe the most positive element is the report's endorsement of reducing U.S. and Russian nuclear stockpiles. This endorsement will bolster President Obama's efforts to negotiate a successor to the START treaty, which expires at the end of the year."

[Read the Center's full analysis online.](#)

The Center applauded the Commission report's endorsement of U.S. leadership on nuclear issues and sustaining and strengthening the global nonproliferation regime. However, the Center counted as flaws the report's failure to recommend ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, overemphasis on the importance of extended nuclear deterrence, and the one-sided assessment of the Stockpile Stewardship Program, especially the Life Extension Program.

"The report fails to recognize that the United States needs to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and that doing so will enhance U.S. security," added Isaacs.

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Success for Czech campaign against US Missile Defence: Now for a big turnout at Fylingdales!



As we build up to the Fylingdales demonstration on 13th June there is good news from the Czech campaign against US Missile Defence.

The new interim Czech government has announced it will not attempt to ratify the treaties on a US radar base before October's general election. The previous conservative coalition government which had signed the treaties with the US had to resign after it lost a no-confidence vote in late March. Over two-thirds of Czechs oppose the radar and opinion polls show the Social Democrats, who also oppose the plans are in the lead.

And Czech campaigners were celebrating when the government announced it will remove the three-kilometre razor-wire fence at Brdy - the proposed site for the base. The fence was built in June 2008 after activists occupied the area in protest against the plans.

The dismantling of the fence at Brdy sends a strong message to campaigners in Britain. We need a large turnout at Fylingdales on 13th June to help convince our government to abandon its co-operation with US Missile Defence.