



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2013 ARTICLES

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Viewpoint

Most Inhumane of Weapons by Daisaku Ikeda



TOKYO - I believe that most of the world's citizens would agree that nuclear weapons should be considered inhumane. It is encouraging to see that there is now a growing, if still nascent, movement to outlaw nuclear weapons based on this premise. This was highlighted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), whose Final Document noted a "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons" and reaffirmed "the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law". > Pages 2-3

In-Depth Reports

Saudi Arabia Seen Unlikely to Seek Nukes If Iran Gets One

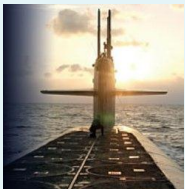
WASHINGTON - Challenging what has become conventional wisdom here, a new report released here Feb. 19 by an influential think tank argues that Iran's neighbours – Saudi Arabia in particular – are unlikely to pursue nuclear weapons if Iran obtains one. The 49-page report, "Atomic Kingdom: If Iran Builds the Bomb, Will Saudi Arabia Be Next?", notes that Riyadh would indeed be "highly motivated to acquire some form of nuclear deterrent to counter an Iranian bomb". > Pages 4-5-6

World's Nuclear Environment Remains Politically Toxic



UNITED NATIONS - The world's nuclear environment has increasingly turned politically toxic, replete with threats, accusations and open defiance of Security Council resolutions. A long outstanding international conference on a nuclear weapons-free Middle East, to be hosted by Finland, is still far from reality. So is a proposed Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) aimed at eliminating weapons of mass destruction (WMD). > Pages 7-8

High-Alert Nukes As If the Cold War Didn't End



BERLIN (IDN) - A new report by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) has come to a worrisome conclusion that the United States and Russia continue to maintain large numbers of nuclear forces on high levels of alert, ready to launch within minutes, as if the Cold War – which is believed to have ended more than two decades ago – was going on unabated. Together with France and Britain, the four countries deploy approximately 2000 warheads ready for use on short notice – more nuclear warheads than held by all the other states in possession of nuclear weapons combined. > Pages 9-10

North Korea Defies World Body with Third Nuke Test

UNITED NATIONS - North Korea, which conducted its third nuclear test on February 11, is following closely in the heavy footsteps of Israel as one of the world's most intransigent nations, ignoring Security Council resolutions and defying the international community. "Israel has the United States as its patron saint," says a Middle Eastern diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, "and North Korea has China's protective arm as an enduring shield." > Pages 11-12

Aiming at Global Disarmament by 2030

BERLIN - An eminent Buddhist leader Daisaku Ikeda is calling for an "expanded nuclear summit" in 2015 to solidify momentum toward a world free from nuclear weapons and become the launching point for a larger effort for global disarmament aiming toward the year 2030. > Pages 13-14-15

Preparing to Fight Off Domsday

ISTANBUL - The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has adopted a new strategy to involve citizens and politicians more actively to push for a global ban on nuclear weapons. The strategy was emphasised at an ICAN conference in Istanbul. > Pages 16-17

What Others Say

U.S. Abandoning Commitment to Nuke-free World? > Pages 18-19

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Most Inhumane of Weapons

By DAISAKU IKEDA

In this column, Daisaku Ikeda -- a Japanese Buddhist philosopher, peacebuilder and president of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) -- presents three proposals for warding off a possible nuclear catastrophe: making disarmament a priority of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); initiating a negotiation process for a Nuclear Weapons Convention; and holding an expanded summit toward a nuclear-weapon-free world.



TOKYO (IPS) - I believe that most of the world's citizens would agree that nuclear weapons should be considered inhumane. It is encouraging to see that there is now a growing, if still nascent, movement to outlaw nuclear weapons based on this premise.

This was highlighted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), whose Final Document noted a "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons" and reaffirmed "the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law".

Following this, in May 2012, sixteen countries led by Norway and Switzerland issued a joint statement on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament.

On March 4-5 this year, an international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons will be held in Oslo, Norway. Prior to this conference, on March 2-3, the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) will organise a Civil Society Forum there to demonstrate that a treaty banning nuclear weapons is both possible and urgently needed.

There have recently been signs, even within the nuclear-weapon states, of changing attitudes regarding the utility of these weapons. In a speech at Hankyong University in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on Mar. 26, 2012, U.S. President Barack Obama stated: "My administration's nuclear posture recognises that the massive nuclear arsenal we inherited from the Cold War is poorly suited to today's threats, including nuclear terrorism."

Further, a statement adopted at the NATO Summit in May 2012 noted: "The circumstances in which any use of nuclear weapons might have to be contemplated are extremely remote."

Both of these statements point to the lessened centrality of nuclear weapons in national security thinking.

The logic of nuclear weapons possession is also being challenged from a number of other perspectives.

It is estimated that annual aggregate expenditure on nuclear weapons globally is around 105 billion dollars. This makes clear the enormity of the burden placed on societies simply by the continued possession of these weapons. If these financial resources were redirected domestically to health, social welfare and education programmes or to development aid for other countries, the positive impact on people's lives and dignity would be incalculable.

In April of 2012, important new research on the effects of nuclear war on the environment was announced in the report "Nuclear Famine". Issued by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), this report predicts that even a relatively small-scale nuclear exchange could cause major climate change and that the impact on countries far-distant from the combatant nations would result in famine affecting more than one billion people.

In view of these developments, I would like to make three proposals to help shape the contours of a new, sustainable society, one in which all people can live in dignity.

First, to make disarmament a key theme of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are under discussion within the United Nations. Specifically, I propose that halving world military expenditures relative to 2010 levels and abolishing nuclear weapons and all other weapons judged inhumane under international law be included as targets for achievement by the year 2030.

Second, to initiate the negotiation process for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, with the goal of agreement on an initial draft by 2015. To this end, the international community must engage in active debate centered on the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons. ➡



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Third, to hold an expanded summit toward a nuclear-weapon-free world. The G8 Summit in 2015 — the seventieth anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — would be an appropriate opportunity for such a summit, which should include the additional participation of other nuclear-weapon states, representatives of the United Nations, as well as members of the five existing Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones and those states which have taken a lead in calling for nuclear abolition.

In this regard, I am encouraged by the following words from Obama’s speech in Korea: “...I believe the U.S. has a unique responsibility to act; - indeed, we have a moral obligation. I say this as president of the only nation ever to use nuclear weapons. ... Most of all, I say it as a father, who wants my two young daughters to grow up in a world where everything they know and love can’t be instantly wiped out.”

These words express a yearning that cannot be subsumed even after all political elements and security requirements have been taken fully into consideration. It is the statement of a single human being rising above the differences of national interest or ideological stance. Such a way of thinking can help us “untie” the Gordian knot that has too long bound together the ideas of national security and nuclear weapons possession.

There is no place more conducive to considering the full significance of life in the nuclear age than Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This was seen when the G8 Summit of Lower House Speakers was convened in Hiroshima in 2008. The kind of expanded summit I am calling for would inherit that spirit and solidify momentum toward a world free from nuclear weapons. It would then become the launching point for a larger effort for global disarmament aiming toward the year 2030. (COPYRIGHT IPS | February 21, 2013)

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/02/most-inhumane-of-weapons/>

TRANSLATIONS

ARABIC

<http://www.ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=2846>

The screenshot shows the Arabic news website 'النشرة العربية' (The Arabic Bulletin) with the main headline: 'السلح الأكثر وحشية في كوكب الأرض' (The most heinous weapon on Earth). The article discusses the international community's stance on nuclear weapons, mentioning the G8 summit and the need for a nuclear-weapon-free world. The website header includes the IPS logo and navigation options for English, Français, and العربية. The article text is in Arabic, and there is a small photo of a man in a suit.

JAPANESE TEXT & PDF VERSIONS

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=889:most-inhumane-of-weapons-japanese-&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=890:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

ITALIAN <http://www.ipsnotizie.it/nota.php?idnews=1915>

SPANISH

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=869:la-mas-inhumana-de-las-armas&catid=10:spanish&Itemid=11



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Saudi Arabia Seen Unlikely to Seek Nukes If Iran Gets One

By JIM LOBE



WASHINGTON (IPS) - Challenging what has become conventional wisdom here, a new report released here Feb. 19 by an influential think tank argues that Iran's neighbours – Saudi Arabia in particular – are unlikely to pursue nuclear weapons if Iran obtains one.

The [49-page report](#), "Atomic Kingdom: If Iran Builds the Bomb, Will Saudi Arabia Be Next?", notes that Riyadh would indeed be "highly motivated to acquire some form of nuclear deterrent to counter an Iranian bomb".

But it would be far more likely to seek shelter under a U.S. nuclear umbrella than to either launch its own weapons programme or buy one from Pakistan despite its close relations with Islamabad, according to the report, which was released by the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), a think tank from which President Barack Obama has drawn a number of its senior Pentagon and State Department officials.

North Korea tested in 2006, and no neighbours have followed their example. Use of nuclear weapons can be deterred; their spread contained; and global regimes survive even severe shocks to the system.

"...Saudi Arabia would likely pursue a more aggressive version of its current conventional defense and civilian nuclear hedging strategy while seeking out an external nuclear security guarantee from either Pakistan or the United States," according to the report whose lead author, Colin Kahl, served as the top Middle East policy official at the Defence Department for most of Obama's first term.

"And ultimately, a potential U.S. nuclear guarantee would likely prove more feasible and attractive to the Saudis than a Pakistani alternative," said the report, which was co-authored by Melissa Dalton and Matthew Irvine.

The new study, which challenges a core contention pushed hard by both Israel and successive U.S. administrations – that Iran's acquisition of a nuclear weapon or "breakout capacity" would set off a rush by other regional powers to obtain one – comes at a critical moment.

After a seven-month hiatus, Iran and the so-called the so-called P5+1 (the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, China plus Germany) will resume talks on Tehran nuclear programme in Kazakhstan next week. Hopes for a breakthrough remain low, with most observers insisting that major progress is unlikely until after a new Iranian president takes office in June.

Failure to make any progress, however, is almost certain to increase pressure on the Obama administration to get tougher on Tehran, most likely by backing up its announced policy of "preventing" Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon with additional sanctions and more credible threats of military force.

That is likely to be the central message of the annual policy conference of the powerful American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) here Mar. 3-5 at which virtually every lawmaker in the U.S. Congress is expected to make an appearance.

Israeli and U.S. officials have long argued that a nuclear-armed Iran is "unacceptable" precisely because, in their view, "deterrence" – a key component of the containment strategy deployed against the Soviet Union – won't work.

Some Israeli leaders, notably Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have insisted that Tehran's religious "messianism" would make it undeterrable.

Both Israeli leaders and U.S. officials have also argued that Iran's acquisition of a nuclear weapons would set off a chain reaction in which Tehran's regional rivals – Turkey, Egypt, and most especially Saudi Arabia – would feel compelled to urgently follow suit, thus creating a nuclear tinderbox in one of the world's most volatile and energy-rich regions.

The latter argument, strongly promoted by the Israel lobby, neo-conservative think tanks and commentators, and some non-proliferation hawks, has become conventional wisdom here. But it "is probably wrong," according to the report.

Consistent with the administration's view, the new CNAS study stressed that preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon should remain the policy goal since "even a small risk of a poly-nuclear Middle East should be avoided." ☺



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However, “(a)t the same time, quiet planning to establish a deterrence and containment architecture – including a possible nuclear guarantee to Saudi Arabia – should begin in case preventive measures (up to and including military force) fail,” the report says.

Coming from Kahl and CNAS, that recommendation will no doubt feed suspicions by neo-conservatives and Israel lobby groups that Obama, despite his stated commitment to prevention, is determined to avoid any action that could involve the U.S. in yet another war in the Muslim world.

While it focuses almost exclusively on Saudi Arabia, the new report argues that neither Egypt nor Turkey is likely to respond to Iran’s acquisition of a nuclear weapon with a weapons programme of its own – Egypt, because it does not see Tehran as an “existential threat” and has so many other problems to deal with; Turkey, because it already has a credible nuclear deterrent as a member of NATO, among other reasons.

On the other hand, Riyadh – some of whose leaders have publicly suggested they would pursue a bomb if Iran got one – have genuine fears that Iran could act more aggressively, either directly or through proxies, behind a nuclear shield.

But the report concludes that these fears are unlikely to overcome key “disincentives” against its going nuclear. These include the prospect of risking an attack by Israel, possibly rupturing the critical security ties with the U.S. itself, damaging the country’s international reputation, and making the Kingdom the target of international economic sanctions.

The U.S. could also use positive incentives to ensure Riyadh does not emulate Iran. In addition to providing Riyadh with a nuclear guarantee, Washington should be prepared to significantly expand civilian nuclear co-operation if the Saudis agree to strict limits on its programme.

Using both negative and positive incentives, Washington could also press Pakistan, which, like Egypt, does not consider Iran a direct existential threat, not to transfer a weapon to Saudi Arabia.

Predictions that the acquisition of nuclear weapons by one country in a region will trigger a re-active proliferation by its neighbours have most often proven false, according to the report.

It noted that in the nearly 50 years since China tested a weapon, only four additional countries – Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea – have gone nuclear, while seven others have either given up their weapons or ended highly developed programmes, in part due to the disincentives that Saudi Arabia would also face.

“I used to believe that a cascade of proliferation would be inevitable if North Korea or Iran went nuclear, but we can’t ignore the historical evidence,” Joe Cirincione, president of the Ploughshares Fund, a nuclear disarmament group, told IPS.

“North Korea tested in 2006, and no neighbours have followed their example. Use of nuclear weapons can be deterred; their spread contained; and global regimes survive even severe shocks to the system.”

Paul Pillar, a former top CIA analyst for the Near East and South Asia, said the report helped pierce through the “fog of conventional wisdom (about Iran and the region) consisting of unexamined assumptions, ...one of which is that an Iranian nuclear weapon would trigger a cascade of proliferation in the Middle East.

“It demonstrates that the application of some careful and informed analysis leads that assumption to fall apart,” he told IPS in an email exchange.

But Chas Freeman, a former ambassador to Saudi Arabia, predicted that the Saudis would be more likely to seek a Pakistani nuclear guarantee than one from Washington.

“In circumstances in which Saudi Arabia would face nuclear threats from both Iran and Israel, a U.S. guarantee would not apply to Israel,” he said in an email message from Riyadh where he is currently visiting.

“After the U.S. decision to abandon (Egyptian) President Mubarak and his regime, there is not much inclination in the region to rely on American support. For those reasons and many others, Saudi Arabia would probably turn to Pakistan rather than to the United States as its nuclear guarantor.” [IPS | February 20, 2013]

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/02/saudi-arabia-seen-unlikely-to-see-nukes-if-iran-gets-one/>



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TRANSLATIONS

ARABIC

<http://www.ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=2840>

خبراء بلزيون يناقشون الاعتقاد السائد في واشنطن
 "من غير المرجح أن تصبو الرياض لأسلحة ذرية إذا أنتجتها"
 إيران
 بقلم جيم لوب/وكالة إنتر بريس سيرفيس



واشنطن، فبراير (آي بي إس) - علي عكس الإنتطاج السائد في واشنطن، خلص تقرير جديد لمركز أبحاث أمريكي واسع النفاذ إلي أنه من غير المرجح أن يسعى جيران إيران -وخاصة المملكة العربية السعودية- إلي الحصول علي أسلحة نووية حال إنتاج إيران لها.

Credit Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy

GERMAN

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=863:saudi-arabien-atomwetruesten-mit-iran-unwahrscheinlich-&catid=5:german&Itemid=6

JAPANESE TEXT VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=875:saudi-arabia-seen-unlikely-to-see-nukes-if-iran-gets-one-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

JAPANESE PDF VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=876:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3



米国 | 民間シンクタンク「イラン核武装化でもサウジアラビアは追従しない」

【ワシントン IPS=ジム・ロープ】

著名なシンクタンクが19日にワシントンで発表した報告書で、米国境界の一般選民に反して、イランの近隣諸国、とくにサウジアラビアは、イランが核兵器を取得してもそれに追従することはないだろうとの見通しを示した。

『核の王国』もしイランが核兵器を作ったら、サウジアラビアはそれに続くか？と題された49ページの報告書は、サウジアラビア政府は、「イランの核兵器に反対するために、何らかの形の核抑止力を持つべき」と述べている。

しかし、自ら核開発に走ったり、あるいは、(パキスタン政府との緊密な関係にもかかわらず) 同盟から核を取得したりするよりも、はるかに高い確率で米国の核の傘の下での保護を求めることになるだろうという。報告書を出したのは、「新アメリカ安全保障センター」(CNAS)で、バラク・オバマ政権の国防総省合同業者で多くの人材を輩出している団体である。



主著者のコリン・カール氏 (オバマ政権第1期で中東政策担当のトップを務める)は、「サウジアラビアは、パキスタンあるいは米国という外国から提供される核による安全の保証を求め一方で、現在の遠征兵器による防衛のさらなる攻撃的な強化と、原子力の民生利用というヘッジ戦略を追求することになる」と言う。

「そして最終的には、パキスタンの核よりも米国の核の保証の方が、サウジアラビアにとってより確実な力になるだろう」と報告書は述べている。報告書の著者にはメリッサ・ダルトンとマシュー・アーバインも名を連ねている。

イランが核兵器があるいは「最後の一歩を越える能力」

資料: CNAS

を取得した場合には中東の他の諸国も核武装化に急ぐという、イスラエルや盟代の米国政権が強く信じていた選民に挑戦したこの新しい報告書が出された今、私たちは重要な局面にいる。



7か月の中断を経て、イランといわゆる「P5+1」(米国、イギリス、フランス、ロシア、中国にドイツ)は2月27日にカザフスタンでイランの核問題に関する協議を再開する。ただ、6月にイランの大統領が交代になるため、大きな進展があるとは考えづらく、事態が打開される見通しは薄いと多くの識者はみている。

しかし、もし今回の交渉で進展が見られないようであれば、イランに対する強硬策を求める圧力がオバマ政権にかかるであろう。さらなる制裁措置と、軍事力行使の脅しの信ぴょう性を増すことで、イランが核兵器を取得することを「防止」するという既存の方針によってそれが正当化される可能性が高い。

強力な「米イスラエル公共問題委員会」(AIPAC)がワシントンで3月8日から5日にかけて開催予定の年次総会会議では、これが中心のメッセージになりそうだ。米議会のほとんどの政治家は会議に参加するとみられている。

イスラエルと米国は、核武装したイランは「容認できない」と長らく主張してきた。なぜなら、彼らの見方では、ソ連に対して適用された対峙込め戦略の中心的要素であった「抑止」が、イランに対しては効きそうもないからだ。

イスラエルの指導者の中には(とくにベンヤミン・ネタニヤフ首相)、イランはその宗教的な「メシア信仰」によって抑止不可能な存在になっていると考える向きもある。



イスラエルと米国政府はまた、イランが核兵器を取得すれば連鎖反応を引き起こすと考えてきた。中東におけるイランのライバル国であるトルコ、エジプト、そしてとりわけサウジアラビアが、イランを追いかける決意の必要性を感じ、世界でもっとも紛争含みでエネルギー資源の豊かなこの地域において一触即発の「核の火種」が生まれる、というのである。

ベンヤミン・ネタニヤフ首相
資料: Wikimedia Commons

SWEDISH

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=886:osannolikt-att-saudi-arabien-skaffar-kaernvapen-enligt-rapport&catid=11:norwegian-swedish&Itemid=12



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World's Nuclear Environment Remains Politically Toxic

By THALIF DEEN

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - The world's nuclear environment has increasingly turned politically toxic, replete with threats, accusations and open defiance of Security Council resolutions.

A long outstanding international conference on a nuclear weapons-free Middle East, to be hosted by Finland, is still far from reality. So is a proposed Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) aimed at eliminating weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

And on February 11, a renegade North Korea defied the United Nations by conducting its third nuclear test, while Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reserved his country's right to nuclear weapons in a region where Israel's nuclear arsenal has the implicit blessings of the Western world.

"We believe nuclear weapons must be eliminated," said Khamenei, "We don't want to build atomic weapons." But if Iran was forced to do so, he warned, "No power could stop us."

So long as these weapons exist, there is a very real possibility that they will be used, either by accident or design.

As the ultimate goal of a nuclear-weapons free world keeps receding, the leader of a Tokyo-based lay Buddhist non-governmental organisation (NGO) has launched a global campaign for a nuclear summit of world leaders in 2015.

Daisaku Ikeda, president of [Soka Gakkai International](#) (SGI), says the annual G8 Summit in 2015 could be an "expanded summit" focusing on a nuclear weapons-free world and marking the 70th anniversary of the devastating atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"This would be an appropriate opportunity for such a nuclear summit," he adds.

Tim Wright of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) told IPS his organisation supports the call by Ikeda and others to begin a process in 2013 aimed at achieving a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

"We urge all nations, including those which are part of a nuclear alliance, to participate constructively in such a process," he said.

The involvement of NGOs will also be essential, Wright pointed out. "And a global ban on nuclear weapons is feasible, necessary and urgent.

"So long as these weapons exist," he argued, "there is a very real possibility that they will be used, either by accident or design. Any such use would have catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences."

In his [2013 Peace Proposal](#) 'Compassion, Wisdom and Courage: Building a Global Society of Peace and Creative' released last week, Ikeda offers three concrete proposals.

First, to make disarmament a key theme of the U.N.'s post-2015 economic agenda, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Specifically, he proposes halving world military expenditures relative to 2010 levels and abolishing nuclear weapons and all other weapons judged inhumane under international law.

These should be included as targets for achievement by the year 2030.

Second, initiate the negotiation process for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, with the goal of agreement on an initial draft by 2015. Japan, as a country that has experienced nuclear attack, should play a leading role in the realisation of a NWC, he asserts.

Further, it should undertake the kind of confidence-building measures that are a necessary predicate to the establishment of a Northeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and to creating the conditions for the global abolition of nuclear weapons. ☺





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“To this end, we must engage in active and multifaceted debate centered on the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons to broadly shape international public opinion,” says Ikeda.

“If possible, Germany and Japan, which are the scheduled G8 host countries for 2015 and 2016, respectively, should agree to reverse that order, enabling the convening of this meeting in Hiroshima or Nagasaki,” Ikeda notes.

Third, an expanded G8 summit in 2015 which could double as a nuclear summit of world leaders.

In past peace proposals, he has urged that the 2015 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) be held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a vehicle for realising a nuclear abolition summit.

Nevertheless, he says, the logistical issues involved in bringing together the representatives of almost 190 countries may dictate the meeting be held at the U.N. headquarters in New York, as is customary.

“In that event, the G8 Summit scheduled to be held several months after the NPT Review Conference would provide an excellent opportunity for an expanded group of world leaders to grapple with this critical issue,” according to Ikeda.

Ikeda says SGI’s efforts to grapple with the nuclear weapons issue are based on the recognition that the very existence of these weapons represents the ultimate negation of the dignity of life.

“At the same time, nuclear weapons serve as a prism through which to perceive new perspectives on ecological integrity, economic development and human rights,” he says.

This in turn, he says, “helps us identify the elements that will shape the contours of a new, sustainable society, one in which all people can live in dignity.” [IPS | February 19, 2013]

Original > <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/02/worlds-nuclear-environment-remains-politically-toxic/>

TRANSLATIONS

ARABIC

<http://www.ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=2848>

تطبيق مؤتمر تحرير الشرق الأوسط من السلاح الذري

المناخ العسكري النووي.. مسموم من كل جهة

بقلم تاليف دينين/وكالة إنتر بريس سيرفس

الأمم المتحدة، فبراير (آي بي إس) - تزحف السموم السياسية علي المناخ النووي في العالم، مع المزيد من التهديدات والانتهاكات والتحديات السافر لقرارات مجلس الأمن.

فلا يزال عقد المؤتمر الدولي الهادف لتحرير الشرق الأوسط النووية من الأسلحة النووية معلقاً، وكذلك الأمر بالنسبة لإقتراح التوصل إلي معاهدة لحظر الأسلحة الذرية، التي ترمي في نهاية وانحسار بؤخة في العصر السنة الماضية.

المطاف إلى القضاء علي كافة أسلحة الدمار الشامل.

يضاف إلي ذلك تحدي كوريا الشمالية الجديد للأمم المتحدة بإجراء تجربة نووية ثالثة، وكذلك تشديد المرشد الأعلى الإيراني آية الله علي خامنئي علي حق بلاده في حيازة أسلحة نووية، وذلك في منطقة تحظي فيها ترسانة إسرائيل الذرية بمباركة العالم الغربي الضمنية.

شكث الصبة الذرية التي نقلتها الولايات المتحدة في أغسطس 1945 علي هيروشيما 145.000 فرداً، في حين حلت صفت الآلاف الآخرين من العفر هذه الصبغة من إسبابت خطيرة Credit: ICAN

JAPANESE TEXT VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=873:worlds-nuclear-environment-remains-politically-toxic-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

JAPANESE PDF VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=874:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

PORTUGUESE <http://ips.org/ipsbrasil.net/nota.php?idnews=9191>



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High-Alert Nukes As If the Cold War Didn't End

By JAMSHED BARUAH

BERLIN (IDN) - A new report by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research ([UNIDIR](#)) has come to a worrisome conclusion that the United States and Russia continue to maintain large numbers of nuclear forces on high levels of alert, ready to launch within minutes, as if the Cold War – which is believed to have ended more than two decades ago – was going on unabated.

Together with France and Britain, the four countries deploy approximately 2000 warheads ready for use on short notice – more nuclear warheads than held by all the other states in possession of nuclear weapons combined, finds the report titled [Reducing Alert Rates of Nuclear Weapons](#), co-authored by Hans M. Kristensen, Director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists ([FAS](#)) and Matthew McKinzie from the [Natural Resources of Defense Council](#).

"These current alert levels – which are deeply rooted in Cold War thinking, vastly exceed current and foreseeable security needs, and undercut efforts to reduce the salience and role of nuclear weapons – are sustained by a circular (though flawed) logic, whereby U.S. nuclear forces are maintained on alert because Russian nuclear forces are on alert, and vice versa for Russian forces. Put in another way, if nuclear forces were not on alert, there would be no requirement to keep nuclear forces on alert," says the report.

As the authors of the report point out, the international community favours reducing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons and many retired military officials argue that doing so is possible with proper care and planning.

"Yet the nuclear establishments of the four nuclear-alert countries oppose de-alerting nuclear forces and argue that doing so would create crisis instability and be difficult and expensive to verify. Their arguments have so far largely managed to hold proponents of nuclear de-alerting at bay from effecting changes to alert nuclear postures," notes the report.

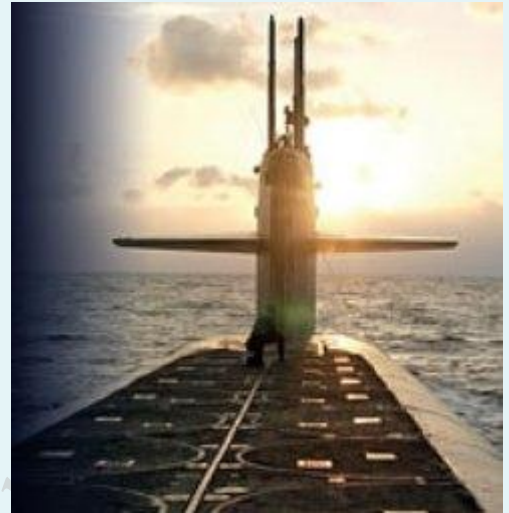
According to the study, the very name of the current U.S. strategic nuclear war plan – Strategic Deterrence and Global Strike (Operational Plan 8010-08 – reflects this dual mission of U.S. nuclear forces.

The strategic deterrence part of the U.S. plan is focused on deploying a secure retaliatory capability to deter an adversary from attacking the United States and its allies. The global strike part of the plan is focused on a myriad of war-fighting scenarios including the failure of deterrence.

The Nuclear Weapons Employment Policy on which this plan is based – NUWEP-04, signed by Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on April 19, 2004 – states in part: "U.S. nuclear forces must be capable of, and be seen to be capable of, destroying those critical war-making and war-supporting assets and capabilities that a potential enemy leadership values most and that it would rely on to achieve its own objectives in a post-war world".

According to the report, this dual mission is also reflected by the Obama administration's ongoing post-NPR (Nuclear Posture Review), which is intended to ask, in the words of a senior Pentagon official: "What are the guiding concepts for employing nuclear weapons to deter adversaries, and what are the guiding concepts for ending a nuclear conflict on the least catastrophic terms if one has already started?". The fact is that current U.S. nuclear weapons planning is based upon two interrelated but nonetheless different objectives: deterrence and war-fighting.

The report's authors caution advocates of de-alerting to be clear about the distinctions between these two objectives, otherwise they will not address detractors' concerns. "Crisis escalation control is central to the arguments of de-alerting opponents and evident in a series of limited-strike options embedded in the strategic war plan for selective and adaptive targeting of adversary forces and infrastructure to stop escalation and win the war. It is at this stage in a crisis, they argue, after non-nuclear hostilities have broken out, that a nuclear re-alerting race would be most dangerous because it could prompt a nuclear-weapon state to launch its nuclear weapons first. ☞





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As a hypothetical example, notes the report, as Russian ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles) return to a state of alert, there would be a strong incentive for Russia to strike immediately at U.S. nuclear submarine bases, thereby potentially destroying large numbers of the adversary's strategic nuclear weapons with only a few attacking warheads, as both sides desperately race to alert status.

There would certainly be risks of any crisis escalating – alert forces are no guarantee against that. But the re-alerting race argument is a “straw man”. First, it ignores that U.S. and Russian nuclear postures today already include plans to “generate” forces in a crisis, surging and dispersing forces, and increasing alert rates and warhead loading.

Although not re-alerting from a completely de-alerted state, those strategic force generation plans would, if executed, have a high probability of being interpreted by the opponent as preparations of strike and thus trigger nuclear force generation on the other side. Therefore, if a re-alerting race is destabilizing in future de-alerted nuclear postures, logically it is also destabilizing today.

Second, nuclear forces can be structured to prevent a re-alerting race, unlike in the previous example, which indeed is a less desirable situation. In fact the strategic nuclear forces of the United States and Russia can be structured in such a way that a stable deterrent whole is built from vulnerable, de-alerted parts.

But the idea that nuclear conflict can somehow be managed once it starts is highly dubious, the report points out. For two large nuclear powers it is a fallacy to expect that either side would back down if the other side started using nuclear weapons in order to dictate its terms for ending hostilities.

"Maintaining alert forces against a smaller nuclear adversary that does not have nuclear forces on alert could push such an adversary toward adopting an alert posture or, as in the case of China, lead to development of more capable mobile nuclear systems in an attempt to reduce vulnerability to an opponent's alert nuclear forces. A smaller adversary would not be able to 'win' but could still inflict considerable damage with a limited number of weapons," states the report. [IDN-InDepthNews – February 18, 2013]

Original <> <http://www.indepthnews.info/index.php/armaments/1444-high-alert-nukes-as-if-the-cold-war-didnt-end>

TRANSLATIONS

GERMAN http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=864:2000-nuklearsprengkoepfe-abschussbereit-&catid=5:german&Itemid=6

JAPANESE TEXT VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=881:high-alert-nukes-as-if-the-cold-war-didnt-end-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

JAPANESE PDF VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=882:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

The screenshot shows the top portion of a news article on the IDN-InDepthNews website. The header includes the site logo and navigation links. The main content area features a large image of a submarine on the surface of the ocean. The text is in Japanese and discusses nuclear alert status and strategic implications. A small portrait of Barack Obama is visible on the right side of the page.

This screenshot shows the continuation of the article from the previous page. It features a portrait of Barack Obama and continues the Japanese text. The layout includes a sidebar with a small image of a submarine and additional text. The article discusses the strategic impact of nuclear alert postures and the potential for escalation.



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North Korea Defies World Body with Third Nuke Test

By THALIF DEEN

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - North Korea, which conducted its third nuclear test on February 11, is following closely in the heavy footsteps of Israel as one of the world's most intransigent nations, ignoring Security Council resolutions and defying the international community.

"Israel has the United States as its patron saint," says a Middle Eastern diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, "and North Korea has China's protective arm as an enduring shield."

Still, three Security Council resolutions – in 2006, 2009 and 2013 – critical of North Korea's nuclear programme and tightening sanctions on Pyongyang – had the blessings of China, a permanent member with veto powers.

"Giving status to those who flout the world's collective security treaties such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the NPT is like a slap in the face to the law-abiding majority..."

But the harshest of possible sanctions – a naval blockade, an oil embargo or a cutoff of economic aid from China – have escaped Security Council resolutions, at least so far.

The 15-member Council met in an emergency session on February 12 and issued a predictable statement condemning the test as "a grave violation" of its three resolutions and describing North Korea as a country which is "a clear threat to international peace and security".

When the Council adopted its third resolution last January, it expressed a determination to take "significant action" in the event of a "further" nuclear test by North Korea.

But that "significant action" will have to wait another day.

On February 12, the Council claimed it "will begin work immediately on appropriate measures" in an upcoming, possibly watered down, resolution.

Currently, there are five declared nuclear weapon states, namely the United States, Britain, Russia, France and China, all five permanent members of the Security Council (P5), along with three undeclared nuclear weapon states, India, Pakistan and Israel.

The three undeclared nuclear powers have all refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as against the five declared nuclear powers who are states parties to the treaty.

Dr. Rebecca Johnson, co-chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, told IPS that the logic and optics of nuclear deterrence means that North Korea's tests are designed to convince the United States (at least) that it has the ability to make and deliver nuclear warheads.

"It is entirely counterproductive to talk about the countries that conduct nuclear tests or deploy nuclear weapons as 'nuclear powers' – giving status to those who flout the world's collective security treaties such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the NPT is like a slap in the face to the law-abiding majority – over 180 countries – that have renounced nuclear weapons and testing," she added.

The nuclear-armed states – whether defined under the NPT or posturing outside the NPT like North Korea – are security problems for the world, she said.

And North Korea has demonstrated once again that nuclear weapons are what weak leaders think they need to divert attention from their failed economic and social policies at home, said Johnson, author of "Unfinished Business", the authoritative book on the CTBT published by the United Nations in 2009.

Asked if the test proves that North Korea, also known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), is ready to go nuclear, Phillip Schell, researcher on the Nuclear Weapons Project, Arms Control and Non-proliferation Programme at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), told IPS that the latest test doesn't prove that North Korea is on the verge of becoming a full-fledged nuclear power, comparable to the P5. ➔





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However, the series of three tests – although the first one is widely believed to have been a failure – certainly indicate progress in the DPRK's nuclear weapons programme, he said.

At the same time, while it appears to be the DPRK's goal is to develop a miniaturised nuclear warhead that could be fitted on a ballistic missile, there have been no signs so far that the DPRK has actually achieved "weaponisation" of the nuclear devices that were tested.

Whether the DPRK currently possesses the necessary long-range missile technology is also doubtful, he said. However, the successful launch of a multi-stage rocket suggests that it is gradually mastering such technology.

Schell also pointed out that the DPRK withdrew from the NPT (although some states don't recognise its withdrawal). Furthermore, it did not sign or ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

However, the Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874, and 2087 prohibit DPRK from conducting future nuclear tests or launches that involve ballistic missile technology. These resolutions, said Schell, are de facto legally binding. On the other hand, the DPRK sees these as discriminatory.

Asked about the DPRK argument that its nuclear tests are few and far between compared to all the nuclear tests conducted by the P5, Johnson told IPS this argument is "specious nonsense".

"Do we absolve a murderer who argues that he only occasionally kills people, contrasting this with the mass murders carried out by serial killers and other criminals? Of course not."

She said that just as each act of murder is a crime, each nuclear test violates international treaties, laws and collectively agreed means for establishing global security.

"The fact that others sinned with impunity before the international community could establish the nuclear test ban treaty is no excuse now," Johnson said. [IPS | February 12, 2013]

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/02/north-korea-defies-world-body-with-third-nuke-test/>

TRANSLATIONS

JAPANESE TEXT VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=858:north-korea-defies-world-body-with-third-nuke-test-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

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http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=859:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

SWEDISH http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=887:nordkorea-fortsaetter-utmana-vaerldssamfundet&catid=11:norwegian-swedish&Itemid=12

ITALIAN <http://www.ipsnotizie.it/nota.php?idnews=1917>

La Corea del Nord sfida il mondo con un terzo test nucleare
Thalif Deen

NAZIONI UNITE, feb, 2013 (IPS) - La Corea del Nord ha condotto a febbraio il suo terzo test nucleare, calcando le orme di una delle nazioni più intransigenti del mondo come Israele, ignorando le risoluzioni del Consiglio di Sicurezza e sfidando la comunità internazionale.

Israele ha gli Stati Uniti come santo protettore", dice un diplomatico del Medio Oriente che ha voluto rimanere anonimo, "e la Corea del Nord ha il braccio protettivo della Cina che le fa stabilmente da scudo".

Eppure, tre risoluzioni del Consiglio di Sicurezza (nel 2006, 2009 e 2013), critiche nei confronti del programma nucleare della Corea del Nord e che rafforzavano le sanzioni su Pyongyang, avevano il benessere della Cina, un membro permanente con diritto di veto.

Ma le più dure di tutte le sanzioni possibili - blocco navale, embargo petrolifero o tagli all'aiuto economico proveniente dalla Cina - non sono rientrate nelle risoluzioni del Consiglio di Sicurezza, almeno per ora.

Il Consiglio - formato da 15 membri - si è riunito in sessione straordinaria e ha rilasciato una dichiarazione prevedibile che condanna il test come una "grave violazione" delle tre risoluzioni e definendo la Corea del Nord come "una chiara minaccia per la pace e la sicurezza internazionali".

Quando il Consiglio adottò la sua terza risoluzione lo scorso gennaio, si dichiarò determinato a prendere "serie iniziative" nell'eventualità di "un ulteriore" test nucleare da parte della Corea del Nord.

Kim Sung-hwan, Ministro degli Esteri e dell'Economia della Repubblica di Corea e Presidente del Consiglio di Sicurezza per il mese di febbraio, legge la dichiarazione del Consiglio che condanna fermamente i test condotti dalla Corea del Nord
Foto: Un Photo/Mark Garten



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Aiming at Global Disarmament by 2030

By RAMESH JAURA

BERLIN (IDN) - An eminent Buddhist leader Daisaku Ikeda is calling for an "expanded nuclear summit" in 2015 to solidify momentum toward a world free from nuclear weapons and become the launching point for a larger effort for global disarmament aiming toward the year 2030.

With this in view, he hopes that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and forward-looking governments will establish an action group to initiate before year's end the process of drafting a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) outlawing nuclear weapons, which are not only inhumane but also swallow some \$105 billion year after year.

"A key factor . . . will be the stance taken by those countries which have relied on the extended deterrence of nuclear-weapon states, the so-called nuclear umbrella," writes Ikeda, who heads [Soka Gakkai International \(SGI\)](#), a Tokyo-based lay Buddhist organization spanning the globe.

SGI President Ikeda notes with great satisfaction that signatories to the statements so far, urging putting a halt to proliferation and calling for abolition of atomic weapons of mass destruction, "include not only countries belonging to Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) and neutral countries, but also Norway and Denmark, which are members of NATO and thus come under that organization's nuclear umbrella. And yet these two countries have not only signed these statements but have played a key role in their drafting."

On the other hand, Japan, which also relies on the U.S. nuclear umbrella, has refrained from signing some of the important statements, he adds and implores Tokyo to "join with other countries seeking the prohibition of nuclear weapons as inhumane and work for the earliest realization of a world free from the threat of these weapons".

In his 2013 Peace Proposal '[Compassion, Wisdom and Courage: Building a Global Society of Peace and Creative](#),' Ikeda explores "the prospects for constructing a global society of peace and creative coexistence looking toward the year 2030".

Originally inspired by second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda's 1957 anti-nuclear weapons declaration, Ikeda publishes a peace proposal every year which casts a close look at the interrelation between core Buddhist concepts and the diverse challenges global society faces in the effort to realize peace and human security. He has also made proposals touching on issues such as education reform, the environment, the United Nations and nuclear abolition.

The 2013 Peace Proposal comes in run-up to two significant events this year: The [Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons](#) organized by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry on March 4-5 in Oslo – to be preceded by a [civil society forum for a global ban on nukes](#), and a high level meeting in September of the UN General Assembly on nuclear disarmament.

Ikeda's 2013 Peace Proposal states that the huge annual aggregate expenditure on nuclear weapons globally underlines "the enormity of the burden placed on societies simply by the continued possession of these weapons". It adds: "If these financial resources were redirected domestically to health, social welfare and education programs or to development aid for other countries, the positive impact on people's lives and dignity would be incalculable."

Backdrop

The backdrop to the latest peace proposal is that since the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), there has been a growing, if still nascent, movement to outlaw nuclear weapons based on the premise that they are inhumane.

The Final Document of the Review Conference notes a "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons" and reaffirms "the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law." ☺





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This ground breaking statement was followed by a resolution by the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in November 2011, strongly appealing to all states "to pursue in good faith and conclude with urgency and determination negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding international agreement."

Subsequently, at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference held in May 2012, sixteen countries led by Norway and Switzerland issued a joint statement on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament, stating that "it is of great concern that, even after the end of the Cold War, the threat of nuclear annihilation remains part of the 21st century international security environment."

They stressed: "it is of utmost importance that these weapons never be used again, under any circumstances. . . . All States must intensify their efforts to outlaw nuclear weapons and achieve a world free of nuclear weapons." In October 2012, this statement, with minor revisions, was presented to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly by thirty-five member and observer states.

Ikeda refers to important new research on the effects of nuclear war on the environment announced in April 2012 in the report '[Nuclear Famine](#)'. Issued by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), the study predicts that even a relatively small-scale nuclear exchange could cause major climate change and that the impact on countries far-distant from the combatant nations would result in famine affecting more than a billion people.

According to Ikeda, the SGI's efforts to grapple with the nuclear weapons issue are based on the recognition that the very existence of these weapons represents the ultimate negation of the dignity of life.

"It is necessary to challenge the underlying inhumanity of the idea that the needs of states can justify the sacrifice of untold numbers of human lives and disruption of the global ecology. At the same time, we feel that nuclear weapons serve as a prism through which to bring into sharper focus ecological integrity, economic development and human rights – issues that our contemporary world cannot afford to ignore. This in turn helps us identify the elements that will shape the contours of a new, sustainable society, one in which all people can live in dignity."

Three proposals

With this in view, the SGI President has tabled three concrete proposals:

First, to make disarmament a key theme of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Specifically, he proposes that halving world military expenditures relative to 2010 levels and abolishing nuclear weapons and all other weapons judged inhumane under international law be included as targets for achievement by the year 2030. In [the proposal I issued on the occasion of the Rio+20 Conference](#) in June 2012, Ikeda urged that targets related to the green economy, renewable energy and disaster prevention and mitigation be included in the SDGs, and I believe that disarmament targets should also be taken into consideration.

The [International Peace Bureau \(IPB\)](#), the [Institute for Policy Studies \(IPS\)](#) and other civil society organizations are currently advocating the global reduction of military spending, and the SGI supports this out of the awareness that disarmament is humanitarian action.

Second, to initiate the negotiation process for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, with the goal of agreement on an initial draft by 2015: "To this end, we must engage in active and multifaceted debate – centered on the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons – to broadly shape international public opinion," says Ikeda.

Third, to hold an expanded summit for a nuclear-weapon-free world: The G8 Summit in 2015, the seventieth anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, would be an appropriate opportunity for such a summit, which should include the additional participation of representatives of the United Nations and non-G8 states in possession of nuclear weapons, as well as members of the five existing NWFZs – Antarctic Treaty, Latin American NWFZ (Tlatelolco Treaty), South Pacific NWFZ (Rarotonga Treaty), Southeast Asia NWFZ (Bangkok treaty), and African NWFZ (Pelindaba Treaty) – and those states which have taken a lead in calling for nuclear abolition, explains the SGI President.

"If possible, Germany and Japan, which are the scheduled G8 host countries for 2015 and 2016 respectively, should agree to reverse that order, enabling the convening of this meeting in Hiroshima or Nagasaki," adds Ikeda. ☺



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In past peace proposals, he urged that the 2015 NPT Review Conference be held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a vehicle for realizing a nuclear abolition summit. He still hopes that such a meeting can be held.

"Nevertheless, the logistical issues involved in bringing together the representatives of almost 190 countries may dictate that the meeting be held at the UN Headquarters in New York as is customary. In that event, the G8 Summit scheduled to be held several months after the NPT Review Conference would provide an excellent opportunity for an expanded group of world leaders to grapple with this critical issue." argues Ikeda.

In this regard, he feels encouraged by President Barack Obama's speech at Hankuk University in Seoul on March 26, 2012: "My administration's nuclear posture recognizes that the massive nuclear arsenal we inherited from the Cold War is poorly suited to today's threats, including nuclear terrorism. . . . But I believe the United States has a unique responsibility to act-- indeed, we have a moral obligation. I say this as President of the only nation ever to use nuclear weapons."

This, of course, restates the conviction he first expressed in his April 2009 Prague speech. President Obama then went on to say: "Most of all, I say it as a father, who wants my two young daughters to grow up in a world where everything they know and love can't be instantly wiped out."

Ikeda says: "These words express a yearning for the world as it should be, a yearning that cannot be subsumed even after all political elements and security requirements have been taken fully into consideration. It is the statement of a single human being rising above the differences of national interest or ideological stance. Such a way of thinking can help us 'untie' the Gordian Knot that has too long bound together the ideas of national security and nuclear weapons possession."

He adds: "There is no place more conducive to considering the full significance of life in the nuclear age than Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This was seen when the G8 Summit of Lower House Speakers was convened in Hiroshima in 2008. The kind of expanded summit I am calling for would inherit that spirit and solidify momentum toward a world free from nuclear weapons. It would become the launching point for a larger effort for global disarmament aiming toward the year 2030." [IDN-InDepthNews - February 12, 2013]

Original <> <http://www.indepthnews.info/index.php/armaments/1431-aiming-at-global-disarmament-by-2030>

TRANSLATIONS

ARABIC http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=871:aiming-at-global-disarmament-by-2030-arabic&catid=3:indn-arabic&Itemid=4

HINDI http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=895:aiming-at-global-disarmament-by-2030-hindi&catid=14:chinese-hindi-urdu-persian&Itemid=15

ITALIAN http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=894:aiming-at-global-disarmament-by-2030-italian&catid=7:italian&Itemid=8

JAPANESE TEXT VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=865:aiming-at-global-disarmament-by-2030-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

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BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2013 ARTICLES

In-Depth Reports

Preparing to Fight Off Doomsday

By JACQUES COUVAS



ISTANBUL (IPS) - The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons ([ICAN](#)) has adopted a new strategy to involve citizens and politicians more actively to push for a global ban on nuclear weapons.

The strategy was emphasised at an ICAN conference in Istanbul on January 26.

The new strategy by ICAN, a coalition of 286 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in 68 countries which jointly campaign against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and aim to ultimately have them banned, aims to do more to sensitise both public opinion and state authorities to

the consequences of a nuclear detonation.

ICAN intends to go beyond rhetoric and propose, with the involvement of states sensitive to the issue, concrete measures to cope with a nuclear disaster event. It will be hosting an international civil society forum in Oslo on March 2-3 this year, which will be followed by an experts conference on military nuclear threats organised by the government of Norway with the support of 16 other nations.

"We are constantly told by nuclear weapons states officials that putting into effect the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is not possible, not conceivable in practical terms," Arielle Denis, ICAN Europe, Middle East and Africa coordinator told IPS. "Our position is that there is record of international treaties which have led to the prohibition of other lethal weapons. If the international community succeeded in banning land mines and cluster bombs, it can certainly ban the ownership of nuclear arms."

The coalition of NGOs argues that any country, even a nuclear weapons state, could be the target of a nuclear attack in the new geopolitical environment, which it says encourages the proliferation of rogue states and terrorist organisations. "Although no nuclear weapons have been used since 1945, cyber-terrorism makes today the explosion of an atomic warhead realistic," said Denis.

Core to this strategy is the humanitarian aspect of a nuclear detonation, even of a single device. ICAN published a report in 2012 which identifies immediate and long-term damage to local populations. Blast shockwaves travelling at hundreds of kilometres an hour, are lethal to all those in the proximity of ground zero of the detonation, who often just vaporise due to the intense pressure and heat. Further away, victims suffer from oxygen shortage and carbon monoxide excess, lung and ear damage, and internal bleeding.

But the consequences due to radiation are felt even at greater distances. This affects most organs of the body with effects lasting decades and with genetic alterations suffered by the victims and their descendants.

Such claims are corroborated by studies by the U.S. government and by research institutions between the 1970s and last decade. In a scenario of a nuclear attack involving three medium power warheads against an intercontinental ballistic missiles base in the "farm belt" of the U.S., which covers primarily the northern mid-west, it was calculated that the number of dead could reach 7.5 to 15 million, with 10 to 20 million being severely injured.

The humanitarian aspect of the surviving population would be practically impossible to manage, as the presence of radioactivity would force 40 million people to relocate as far away as possible. Relocation would take from several weeks to years, it was estimated.

The "farm belt" in the U.S. is a rural area. Europe is three times more densely populated than the U.S., and a nuclear detonation would have a more catastrophic humanitarian impact on European locations.

ICAN, formed in 2007, operates through an international steering group of personalities and experts on nuclear armaments and a small staff in Geneva, which coordinates international campaigns and events. Member NGOs provide support to regional activities.

ICAN's main argument for its activism is based on the non-proliferation treaty (NPT), signed on July 1, 1968 in New York and gradually ratified by 189 states, excluding India, Pakistan and Israel. Its validity was extended indefinitely in May 1995. ➔



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Signatories to the NPT are distinguished between the nuclear weapon states and the non-nuclear weapon states. The former group is composed of Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States (U.S.), the same nations which form the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Article VI of the NPT requires signatory states to pursue “negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,” and towards a “treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.”

“Disarmament must be general and complete,” said Denis. “There was in the 1990s some ambiguity about the Treaty text in this respect, but this has been clarified in international law and all nuclear weapon states must begin negotiations for dismantling all their nuclear weapons.”

The U.S. has traditionally interpreted Article VI as having no mandatory effect on the parties. But the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in an advisory opinion, dated Jul. 8, 1996 stated 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 lack of visible willingness by nuclear weapon states to get around the negotiations table has fuelled the determination of the NGOs which form ICAN to systematically make citizens and politicians around the globe aware of the threats of maintaining an arsenal of nuclear weapons.

Although the number of nuclear warheads was drastically reduced after the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s from 60,000 to 19,000, ICAN is concerned about the continuing technology updates of such weapons by the nuclear weapon states.

Nuclear weapon spending in the U.S. reached 61.3 billion dollars in 2011, a ten percent increase over the previous year. The nine countries that are known, or suspected, to have nuclear military power increased in the same period their spending by 15 percent to 105 billion dollars. Israel has since 1958 adopted a non-confirmation, non-denial policy in respect to having a nuclear arsenal.

“This level of expenditure is a strong indication that nations which hold nuclear weapons have no intention to get rid of them any time soon,” said Denis. “The governments of such states say that they will dismantle their stocks as soon as the other nuclear weapon states do the same. It is a vicious, endless circle.” (IPS | February 1, 2013)

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/02/preparing-to-fight-off-doomsday/>

TRANSLATIONS

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What Others Say

U.S. Abandoning Commitment to Nuke-free World?

By LAWRENCE WITTNER*



ALBANY (IDN) - In a major address in Prague on April 5, 2009, the newly-elected U.S. President, Barack Obama, proclaimed “clearly and with conviction America’s commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.”

On January 24, 2013, however, Senator John Kerry, speaking at Senate confirmation hearings on his nomination to become U.S. secretary of state, declared that a nuclear weapons-free world was no more than “an aspiration,” adding that “we’ll be lucky if we get there in however many centuries.” Has there been a change in Obama administration policy over the past four years? There are certainly indications that this might be the case.

During the 2008 presidential election campaign, Obama made his support for nuclear weapons abolition quite clear on a number of occasions, most notably in Berlin. Speaking on July 24, 2012 before a vast, enthusiastic crowd, the Democratic presidential candidate promised to “make the goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons a central element in our nuclear policy.” He argued that “this is the moment to secure the peace of the world without nuclear weapons.”

Obama certainly seemed to follow through with this program during his first year in office. His Prague speech of April 5, 2009 – the first major foreign policy address he delivered as president – was devoted entirely to building a nuclear weapons-free world. In September of 2009 he became the first American president in history to chair a meeting of the UN Security Council – one dealing with nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

The upshot was unanimous Security Council support for Resolution 1887, which backed the goal of nuclear abolition and an action plan to reduce nuclear dangers. Obama’s promotion of a nuclear weapons-free world played a key role in the announcement that October that he would receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Diminished momentum

The anti-nuclear momentum, however, slowed somewhat in 2010. In April of that year, the White House released its Nuclear Posture Review, which did reorient U.S. policy toward less reliance on nuclear weapons. But the policy shifts were fairly minor and smaller than anticipated. Soon thereafter, the U.S. and Soviet governments announced the signing of the New START treaty, which set lower limits on the number of deployed nuclear warheads and deployed delivery systems for the two nations. Although the U.S. Senate ratified New START by a vote of 71 to 26, the reductions in all types of nuclear weapons held by the United States and Russia were actually rather modest. Consequently, the two nations continued to possess about 95 percent of the world’s nuclear weapons.

Much worse, from the standpoint of nuclear disarmers, was the fact that strong Republican opposition to the treaty led to an Obama administration retreat on the issue of building a nuclear-free world. The most obvious indication was the White House pledge to provide roughly \$214 billion over the next decade for modernizing U.S. nuclear forces and infrastructure.

Apparently offered in an attempt to buy GOP support for the treaty, this pledge set the U.S. government on a course that totally contradicted its talk of disarmament. In addition, the administration withdrew plans to submit the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (signed by President Bill Clinton in 1996) for Senate ratification, did not even begin negotiations for further nuclear arms reductions with Russia, and – with the exception of mobilizing other nations against the possibility of Iran joining the nuclear club – let nuclear arms control and disarmament vanish from the policy agenda. ➡

*Dr. Lawrence Wittner is Professor of History emeritus at the State University of New York in Albany. His latest book is 'Working for Peace and Justice: Memoirs of an Activist Intellectual' (University of Tennessee Press). IPPNW Peace & Health Blog carried a version of this article on February 4, 2013.



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In 2011, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton remarked dismissively that a nuclear weapons-free world would be attained "in some century." President Obama's January 2013 inaugural address did not discuss a nuclear-free world, or even specific arms control and disarmament measures.

The hearings on Senator Kerry are revealing. As the Republicans were eager to have him leave the Senate and open up his seat for a Republican (then presumably former Senator Scott Brown), Kerry had a very easy time of it, and used his newfound popularity to defend the more controversial Chuck Hagel, the administration's nominee for secretary of defence.

When the Republicans raised the issue of Hagel's support for [Global Zero](#), a group advocating the abolition of nuclear weapons, Kerry responded that he did not believe Hagel wanted to completely eliminate them. Kerry added that, personally, he favoured a policy of nuclear deterrence and believed that "we have to maintain" the U.S. nuclear stockpile. "We have to be realistic about it," Kerry explained, "and I think Senator Hagel is realistic about it." Kerry's remarks about the "many centuries" it would take to eliminate nuclear weapons emerged in this context.

Of course, actions can speak much louder than words. Kerry's remarks might represent no more than soothing pabulum for GOP hawks. The real test of the Obama administration's commitment to a nuclear-free world will be its actions in the coming years.

Will it reduce expenditures for modernizing U.S. nuclear weapons and facilities, promote Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, negotiate a treaty with Russia for deeper weapons reductions, and take actions that do not require Senate ratification (for example, join with Russia to remove nuclear weapons from high alert status)? Above all, will it begin to negotiate a treaty for the verifiable, worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons? We shall see.

In the meantime, people interested in removing the dangers posed by over 17,000 nuclear weapons around the globe might want to press the administration to honour its commitment to seek a nuclear-free world. [IDN-InDepthNews – February 26, 2013]

Image [page 18] credit: History News Network

33 States Push For Nuclear Disarmament

By J C SURESH

TORONTO (IDN) – Thirty-three Heads of State of Latin America and the Caribbean have pledged to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons and emphasized "the commitment to participate actively and share a common position at the High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament" on September 26, 2013 in New York.

The leaders reaffirmed the priority objective to achieve a world free of atomic weapons in the Santiago Declaration adopted on January 28 at the first summit of CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) in Santiago de Chile. The Declaration builds on last year's Special Communique on the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons adopted at the founding conference of CELAC in Caracas.

Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign, the leading international organization devoted to protecting cities from the scourge of war and mass destruction, which lobbied CELAC ahead of the Santiago Summit, has welcomed the commitment of the group's leaders to prepare a common position for the September 2013 summit.

Mayors for Peace also welcome news of the engagement of OPANAL (the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean) in the work of CELAC. A CELAC Working-Group with the participation of the Secretary-General of OPANAL, Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda, will develop the joint positions of the 33 Latin American and Caribbean States for the September gathering. Mayors for Peace, which has 614 members in Latin America and the Caribbean, is looking forward to engage with OPANAL towards the UN Summit.

OPANAL was created in 1969 in order to safeguard the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone established by the Tlatelolco Treaty, "which established the first most densely populated nuclear-weapon-free zone on the planet" in 1967. Since 2002, the 33 Members of CELAC are also OPANAL Member States and Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco. ➔



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The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is on record having stated that "the 2020 Vision is a perfect vision". The U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted a resolution calling on President Barack Obama to work with the leaders of the other nuclear weapon states to implement Ban's five-point plan to negotiate the elimination of nuclear weapons, by the year 2020.

Ban's proposal tabled on the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2009 urges: All parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to fulfil its requirement to enter into negotiations on nuclear disarmament, which could focus on either a convention or framework of agreements banning nuclear-weapons. It also calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to assure non-nuclear-weapon States that they will not be the subject of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. It adds:

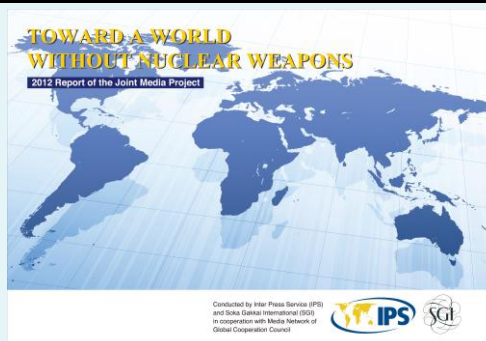
- Existing nuclear arrangements and agreements (e.g. a ban on testing, nuclear-weapon-free zones, and strengthened safeguards) need be accepted by States and brought into force.
- The nuclear Powers could also expand the amount of information they publish about the size of their arsenals, stocks of fissile material, and specific disarmament achievements.
- Complementary measures are needed such as the elimination of other types of WMD (weapons of mass destruction); new efforts against WMD terrorism; limits on conventional arms; and new weapons bans, including of missiles and space weapons.

The Santiago Declaration underscores the importance given to eliminating the nuclear threat by its leaders. CELAC recognizes "the value and contribution to peace and international security of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and its Protocols (Tlatelolco Treaty).

The Latin American and Caribbean Heads of State "call on nuclear powers to withdraw the Reservations or Interpretative Declarations made to Additional Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco; and to respect the denuclearized status of the region".

CELAC further states: "We consider that the existence of nuclear weapons remains a serious threat to mankind. We express our strong support to the conclusion of legally binding instruments that lead to effective, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament, in order to achieve the goal of the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons within well-defined time limits."

The pro-active CELAC leadership to free the world of nuclear weapons stands in contrast with the very vague reference to the NPT in the common CELAC-EU Santiago Declaration (# 20) adopted last Sunday where it states: "Considering the contribution to peace that can be made by CELAC and the EU in international affairs, we agree to explore together ways to enhance cooperation for peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes and the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation at international level. In this regard, we will cooperate to ensure the success of the NPT Review Conference in 2015." [IDN-InDepthNews – February 7, 2013]



http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Toward_a_World_without_Nuclear_Weapons.pdf

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