



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION
WITH NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2013 ARTICLES

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In-Depth Reports



No-Nuke Australia Thwarts Nuclear Free World

SYDNEY - Australia has been expressing support for a nuclear weapons-free world, but documents obtained by disarmament advocacy group, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons ([ICAN](#)), reveal that the Australian Government sees the increasing international focus on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons as "rubbing up against" its reliance on the United States nuclear weapons. ➤ Pages 2-3



Daughter Takes Kennedy's Peace Torch To Japan

TOKYO - Caroline Kennedy was just 20 years old when she accompanied her uncle, the late Senator Edward Kennedy, to Hiroshima, site of the first U.S. bomb attack that killed 140,000 people on August 6, 1945. In a Senate hearing in September, confirming her appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Japan, she said she was deeply moved by her visit in 1978 that included a tour of the [Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum](#). In her video message to the people of Japan posted before assuming office on November 12, 2013, she remarked that her trip to Hiroshima had left her "with a profound desire to work for a better, more peaceful world". ➤ Pages 4-5



An Embittered Riyadh May Weigh Nuclear Option

UNITED NATIONS - Saudi Arabia's unyielding opposition to November 24 interim nuclear agreement with Iran has triggered speculation about its own projection of military power in the Middle East. As the Wall Street Journal pointed out, the Saudis may conclude that international acceptance of a nuclear programme of any kind by Iran may compel them "to seek their own nuclear weapons capability through a simple purchase." The likely source: Pakistan, whose nuclear programme was partly funded by the Saudis. ➤ Pages 6-7



'We Are Suffering A Slow-Motion Nuclear War'

BERLIN - [Robert Jacobs](#) was born 53 years ago, at the height of the cold war, amidst the then reigning paranoia of nuclear annihilation of humankind. In school, he was eight years old. "We learned about how to survive a nuclear attack. We we[P]re told that the key to survival was to always be vigilant in detecting the first signs of a nuclear attack." ➤ Pages 8-11



Nagasaki Meet Recommends Concrete Steps For Nuke Abolition

BERLIN | NAGASAKI - More than 50,000 nuclear weapons have been eliminated since the historic Reykjavik Summit between the then U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his counterpart from the erstwhile Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, which culminated into a groundbreaking Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty ([INF](#)) in December 1987. But 17,300 nukes remain, threatening many times over the very survival of human civilization and most life on earth, as the 2013 Nagasaki Appeal points out. ➤ Pages 12-13-14



Israel's Nuclear Ambiguity Prodded

OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM - As Palestinian-Israeli peace talks and nuclear talks on Iran's disputed nuclear programme continue, a unique international conference, "A Middle East without Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)", was held in Jerusalem. The topic is taboo because Israel maintains a veil of "studied ambiguity" on its alleged nuclear arsenal. ➤ Pages 15-16

What Others Say ➤ Page 17-22

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No-Nuke Australia Thwarts Nuclear Free World

By NEENA BHANDARI*

SYDNEY (IDN) - Australia has been expressing support for a nuclear weapons-free world, but documents obtained by disarmament advocacy group, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons ([ICAN](#)), reveal that the Australian Government sees the increasing international focus on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons as "rubbing up against" its reliance on the United States nuclear weapons.

ICAN has obtained declassified diplomatic cables, ministerial briefings and emails under freedom-of-information laws, which show that the Australian Government plans to oppose efforts to ban nuclear weapons.

"Our freedom-of-information research has shown that Australia is worried that the increasing international focus on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons will lead to negotiations on a treaty banning nuclear weapons," ICAN Australia Campaigns Director, Tim Wright, told IDN.

The former Labour government did not endorse the 80-nation humanitarian statement delivered at the [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty \(NPT\) Second Preparatory Committee meeting](#) held from April 22 to May 3, 2013, in Geneva. ICAN is calling on the current Liberal-National coalition government to play a more constructive role in Disarmament.

"Australia should stand on the right side of history, rather than attempting to undermine the efforts of progressive nations to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons," said Wright.

In October 2013, another [statement](#) on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons was delivered to the 68th session of the UN General Assembly First Committee by New Zealand on behalf of 125 nations.

"Unfortunately, not only did Australia fail to sign this statement, but it introduced its own [rival statement](#) designed to steer governments away from a ban on nuclear weapons. The much weaker statement by Australia was endorsed by just a small number of US allies, and had little impact. We were pleased that the New Zealand-led statement attracted the support of a large and diverse number of governments committed to delegitimising the use and possession of nuclear weapons," Wright told IDN.

Proponents of nuclear abolition find it disappointing that Australia appears desperate to thwart the efforts of many



countries to highlight the devastating effects of nuclear weapons and the need to ensure they are never used again.

Dr Sue Wareham, Vice-President, [Medical Association for Prevention of War \(Australia\)](#) told IDN: "Australia will find itself in an increasingly small band of nuclear rogue states that either possess the weapons themselves or maintain policies

for their possible use. Australian governments' claims that they want practical steps towards disarmament have never been accompanied by a plan to get to zero. Short of that, they are merely supporting a situation of nuclear haves and have-nots, despite all the rhetoric to the contrary."

Nuclear weapons, despite having the greatest destructive capacity of all weapons, are the only weapons of mass destruction not yet prohibited by an international convention. The disarmament movement received a boost with the [International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement](#) adopting a resolution to work towards a legally binding global convention on nuclear abolition.

Professor Ramesh Thakur, Director of the [Centre for Nuclear Non-Proliferation & Disarmament](#) at the Australian National University, is of the opinion that there was no compelling case for Australia to have maintained distance from the NZ-led statement.

"By being seen to be disagreeing, Australia is undermining ongoing efforts in other respects. At about the time of the NZ statement, Gareth Evans and I were engaged in serious efforts to convince the policy elite in India and Pakistan (and earlier in China, Japan and South Korea too) about steps that each country can take on its own to generate some serious momentum for nuclear arms control and disarmament (for example ratifying the CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty) without first waiting for the US Senate to do so)," Professor Thakur, a former UN Assistant Secretary-General, told IDN. ➔

*Neena Bhandari is a Sydney-based foreign correspondent, writing for international news agencies [IPS-Inter Press Service](#) and IDN-InDepthNews, as well as India-based Indo Asian News Service ([IANS](#)) and other national and international publications. Top photo: Campaigners at the Humanitarian Disarmament Campaigns Forum in New York.



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Most Australians are overwhelmingly opposed to nuclear weapons. As ICAN's International Steering Group Co-chair, Associate Professor Tilman A Ruff, said, "Australians would like to believe that their government is one of the 'good guys' on nuclear disarmament. The bitter reality is that because of its willingness to support and assist deployment, targeting and potential use of US nuclear weapons, Australia is more part of the problem, holding back disarmament, than it is working for the solution".

In 1995 Australia's then foreign minister had argued that a total ban on landmines was impractical and would never be accepted. This was two years before [the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines](#) opened for signature.

Defence cooperation sans nukes possible

"To make matters worse, Australia's increasing military involvement with the US is making particularly the huge and expanding military spy base at Pine Gap near Alice Springs an even higher priority nuclear target in the event of any war the US gets embroiled in with China or any other nuclear armed state," Ruff, who is also co-president International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, told IDN.

New Zealand's healthy and growing defence cooperation with the US makes plain that it is perfectly feasible for countries to have a military relationship with the US which excludes nuclear weapons. "Pursuing such a path would be the best thing Australia could do to actually help in freeing the world from nuclear weapons," Ruff added.

Advocates for a nuclear free world argue that a global ban on nuclear weapons can be achieved through sustained public pressure and leadership from governments. Former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, who was critical of Australia's decision not to endorse the humanitarian statement, is of the view that the current Australian Government may wish to please the US even more than the previous government.

A spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) told IDN that Australia had welcomed the New Zealand statement and it shares most of the sentiments expressed in it, "but we were not in a position to support this statement which was prepared without giving us an opportunity to contribute substantively and did not appropriately acknowledge the security dimensions of the debate. We remain committed, as a long time and active advocate of disarmament, to achieving and maintaining the shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons".

READ IN JAPANESE

<http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/japanese-chinese-korean/189-no-nuke-australia-thwarts-nuclear-free-world-japanese>

<http://www.nuclearabolition.info/documents/Japanese/Japanese No-Nuke Australia Thwarts Nuclear Free World.pdf>

To pressurise the Australian Government to work towards nuclear abolition, Fraser said: "Make Australians understand how much we are bound by America and how much we are influenced by American decisions. The past three wars we have fought, have been fought because of our relationship with America. We should tell them (the US) that we are not going to join them in their next war. We should establish an independent foreign policy and only then we will be able to work for disarmament more effectively."

Australia is in an interesting situation because as a country it does not have any nuclear weapons, but it subscribes to the doctrine of extended nuclear deterrence under the US alliance, which is seen as key to Australia's national security. It also has almost 40 per cent of the world's known uranium reserves and it is a significant exporter of uranium.

Today, there are at least 20,000 nuclear weapons worldwide, around 3,000 of them on launch-ready alert. The potential power of these would roughly equate to 150,000 Hiroshima bombs.

The focus is moving from non-proliferation to abolition and Australia is concerned that it could shift the focus away from the nuclear-weapon states and Iran to US allies, such as Australia, that subscribe to extended nuclear deterrence.

In March 2013, the Norwegian government had hosted a landmark inter-governmental conference in Oslo on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, which was attended by 128 governments (including Australia) and representatives from major UN agencies and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In the lead-up to the NPT preparatory committee meeting, South Africa had invited all parties to the treaty to endorse a two-page statement calling on all states to "intensify their efforts to outlaw nuclear weapons and achieve a world free of nuclear weapons". Australia did not endorse the statement.

The growing unity of civil society working on weapons-related issues was reflected in the Humanitarian Disarmament Campaigns Forum hosted on October 19 and 20 in New York. [Mexico](#) will host a conference of states, civil society and academia in February 2014, which will be a critical next step in acknowledging and responding to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. [IDN-InDepthNews – December 16, 2013] □



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Daughter Takes Kennedy's Peace Torch To Japan

By TARO ICHIKAWA

TOKYO (IDN) - Caroline Kennedy was just 20 years old when she accompanied her uncle, the late Senator Edward Kennedy, to Hiroshima, site of the first U.S. bomb attack that killed 140,000 people on August 6, 1945. In a Senate hearing in September, confirming her appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Japan, she said she was deeply moved by her visit in 1978 that included a tour of the [Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum](#).

In [her video message](#) to the people of Japan posted before assuming office on November 12, 2013, she remarked that her trip to Hiroshima had left her "with a profound desire to work for a better, more peaceful world".

Less than one month after her arrival in Tokyo as U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Caroline Kennedy – the only living daughter of President John F. Kennedy who was assassinated in Dallas some 50 years ago in November – visited Nagasaki in western Japan, which also suffered American atomic bombing on August 9, 1945.

Ambassador Kennedy was invited by the Nagasaki Municipal Government on the occasion of a ceremony for planting a dogwood tree, one of thousands the United States offered to Japan as a symbol of friendship, at the city's Peace Park, which commemorates the 73,000 people – more than a quarter of the city's 263,000 inhabitants at the time – who died in the U.S. atomic bomb attack on the city. Some 75,000 people were injured and hundreds of thousands were sickened by radiation, according to statistics at the Peace Park.

During the tree planting ceremony, she said: "I am deeply moved by my visit here, and reminisced: "President Kennedy was very proud that he was able to start the process of nuclear disarmament and all of our family shares that commitment." She added: "President Obama also has been working very hard on this issue."

Earlier, on November 27, 2013, Ambassador Kennedy [told](#) a gathering of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) and the America-Japan Society in Tokyo that her father, President Kennedy, had "worked hard to strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship at a difficult time, and my mother often spoke of his wish to be the first sitting President to visit Japan."

She added: "As a child, it made a deep impression on me that my father's PT boat (torpedo-armed fast attack craft



deployed by the U.S. during World War II) had been sunk by a Japanese destroyer, yet just 15 years later he was proud to invite the Japanese commander to his inauguration as President and excited about the possibility of uniting the crews of the two vessels on his future state visit.

"That's a great parable for our larger relationship and a reminder that when we focus on the things that unite us instead of those that divide us, when we look to the future instead of the past, we truly can create a better world."

Atomic bombing survivors (hibakusha) and peace activists have repeatedly pointed out that they would like a U.S. President to visit the two Japanese cities, which suffered atomic bombings. "We do hope that President Obama will respond to our call," said a peace activist.

Ambassador Kennedy toured the [Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum](#), accompanied by Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue and other officials, and signed the visitor's book. She also met hibakusha, including former Nagasaki University President Hideo Tsuchiyama and Japanese Red Cross Nagasaki Genbaku Hospital Director Masao Tomonaga. Reports quoted Ambassador Kennedy telling them that she felt the need to pursue efforts toward nuclear disarmament.

Ambassador Kennedy's programme also included a visit to the Urakami Cathedral, which was destroyed by the atomic bombing and was reconstructed after World War II. At Peace Park, she offered flowers in front of the Peace Statue, which is dedicated to the souls of A-bomb victims and symbolizes hope for eternal peace.

According to the Nagasaki Prefectural Government, Caroline Kennedy is the fifth U.S. ambassador to visit the city of Nagasaki. Her predecessor John Roos attended peace ceremonies on the anniversaries of the bombings in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the first U.S. ambassador to do so.



READ IN HINDI <http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/bahasa-hindi-urdu-persian/183-daughter-takes-kennedy-s-peace-torch-to-japan-hindi>

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Commemorating the atomic bombing of Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue, who guided her during the visit, issued a [‘Peace Appeal’](#) on August 9, 2013, which stated: Under the current NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty), nuclear-weapon states have a duty to make earnest efforts towards nuclear disarmament. This is a promise they’ve made to the rest of the world. In April of 2009, United States President Barack Obama expressed his desire to seek a nuclear-free world during a speech in Prague. In June this year, President Obama stated in Berlin that he would work towards further reduction of nuclear arsenals, saying, ‘So long as nuclear weapons exist, we are not truly safe.’ Nagasaki supports President Obama’s approach.”

Taue regretted that “there are over 17,000 nuclear warheads still in existence of which at least 90% belong to either the United States or Russia,” adding: “President Obama, President Putin, please commit your countries to a speedy, drastic reduction of your nuclear arsenal. Rather than envisioning a nuclear-free world as a faraway dream, we must quickly decide to solve this issue by working towards the abolition of these weapons, fulfilling the promise made to global society.”

Nearly one week ahead of Caroline Kennedy assuming the office of U.S. Ambassador to Japan, the city of Nagasaki hosted the [5th Nagasaki Global Citizens’ Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#) from November 2 to 4, 2013. Citizens of Nagasaki have continued their tradition of convening such Global Citizens’ Assemblies, which they have held every few years since the year 2000.

Participants in the Assembly included representatives from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and scientists from Japan and abroad. They heard again the voices of hibakusha, and their urgent appeal that the elimination of nuclear weapons becomes a reality while they are still alive. They also listened to hopeful voices of young people accepting responsibility for achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons.

An eminent participant and speaker – as in previous four meetings as an invited guest of the city of Nagasaki – was David Krieger, President of the [Nuclear Age Peace Foundation](#), who has participated in the drafting of all the Nagasaki Appeals. One highlight of the Appeal, Krieger told IDN, is that it calls for “a series of concrete actions, including

commencing negotiations on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons; the U.S. and Russia taking unilateral and bilateral nuclear disarmament measures; phasing out of reliance on nuclear weapons in the security policies of all countries; having greater citizen participation in nuclear abolition campaigns; establishing new nuclear weapon-free zones; aiding the victims of Fukushima (nuclear power plant accident); and learning the lesson that humanity cannot continue to rely upon nuclear energy any more than it can rely upon nuclear weapons.”

The Appeal also offers some specific advice to the Japanese government based upon its special responsibilities as the world’s only country to have been attacked with nuclear weapons, said Krieger. “These responsibilities include: coming out from under the U.S. nuclear umbrella; providing leadership to achieve a nuclear weapon-free zone in Northeast Asia; demonstrating leadership for nuclear weapons abolition; and seeking and welcoming international assistance in controlling the radiological crisis at Fukushima.”

The Appeal points out that leaders of 532 local authorities in Japan have expressed support for a nuclear weapon-free zone in Northeast Asia, as did 83 Japanese and South Korean parliamentarians from across the political spectrum in a joint statement on July 22, 2010. In September 2013, the President of Mongolia indicated his country’s interest in exploring the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in Northeast Asia at the United Nations General Assembly.

To demonstrate leadership, says the Appeal, Japan should take advantage of the opportunity presented by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting to be held in Hiroshima in April 2014. Japan, it says, should also urge political leaders and government officials who will participate in the G20 Summit that will be held in Japan in 2016 to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Further: The participants in the Nagasaki Global Citizens’ Assembly pledge to continue “utmost efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons”, and aver: “Nagasaki must be the last A-bombed city.” This, notes Krieger, is a necessary goal for humanity and for the future. “It is the great challenge that confronts all of us living on the planet in the Nuclear Age.” [IDN-InDepthNews – December 12, 2013] □

READ IN JAPANESE

http://www.nuclearabolition.info/documents/Japanese/Japanese_Daughter_Takes_Ken-nyedy%E2%80%99s_Peace_Torch_To_Japan.pdf

NORWEGIAN <http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/european/norwegian-swedish/184-daughter-takes-ken-nyedy-s-peace-torch-to-japan-norwegian>

SPANISH <http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/european/spanish/191-la-hija-del-presidente-kennedy-lleva-la-antorcha-de-la-paz-a-japon>



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An Embittered Riyadh May Weigh Nuclear Option

By THALIF DEEN

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - Saudi Arabia's unyielding opposition to November 24 interim nuclear agreement with Iran has triggered speculation about its own projection of military power in the Middle East. As the Wall Street Journal pointed out, the Saudis may conclude that international acceptance of a nuclear programme of any kind by Iran may compel them "to seek their own nuclear weapons capability through a simple purchase." The likely source: Pakistan, whose nuclear programme was partly funded by the Saudis.

But this is viewed as a worst case scenario, particularly if the longstanding political and military relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia continues to deteriorate.

The initial hint of Saudi nuclear ambitions surfaced back in 2011 when Prince Turki al-Faisal, a former Saudi ambassador to the United States, warned that nuclear threats from Israel and Iran may force Saudi Arabia to follow suit.

Speaking at a security forum in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, he was quoted as saying, "It is our duty toward our nation and people to consider all possible options, including the possession of these weapons."

Whether this was a serious or an empty threat will depend in part on the evolving negotiations with Iran to terminate its nuclear weapons capability when the current six-month interim agreement expires.

That agreement was between Iran and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, namely the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, plus Germany (P5+1).

Hillel Schenker, co-editor of the Jerusalem-based Palestine-Israel Journal, who has been tracking nuclear developments in the Middle East, told IPS Saudi criticism is also based on the assumption that the Geneva agreement is a bad deal.

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Yet if it proves to be a building block towards an arrangement for preventing Iran from going nuclear militarily, Riyadh won't feel the need to obtain its own nuclear counterweight, he added.

In addition, he said, "just as Israel will lobby for the idea that Iranian support for [the Lebanese militant group] Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad be dealt with in the final agreement, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States [predominantly Sunnis] will lobby for American guarantees for their security against Iranian Shiite aspirations in the region."

Asked if the deal might spur other Middle Eastern states to develop or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons,

Shannon N. Kile, senior researcher heading the Project on Nuclear Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), told IPS, "I think this will depend on the shape of a long-term agreement."

That long-term agreement is expected to be finalised at the end of the current six-month interim agreement.

At the moment, said Kile, it is unclear to what extent Iran is willing to limit or reduce its sensitive nuclear fuel cycle activities in exchange for a lifting of Western sanctions, or whether the U.S. and its European Union (EU) partners will agree to lift sanctions without a near-total dismantlement of Iran's nuclear infrastructure. ☺



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Assuming that a deal can be reached that will involve significant technical limitations on Iran's nuclear programme, accompanied by enhanced verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency – in particular, Iran's accession to the Additional Protocol – to provide assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear activities in Iran, this should help allay U.S., Israeli, and Arab worries by making it more difficult for Iran to build a nuclear weapon, Kile said. In doing so, it would actually serve to ease nuclear proliferation incentives and pressures in the Middle East, he said.

Besides Saudi Arabia, there has also been speculation about the nuclear ambitions of another Middle Eastern nation, Egypt, currently in political turmoil.

Schenker told IPS that while the Egyptians may also be unhappy with a possible Iranian-Western rapprochement, and consider themselves in competition with Iran for hegemony in the region, they are currently immersed in their own internal issues. "If the final agreement is a reasonable one from their point of view, there is no chance that they themselves will decide to go nuclear militarily," he predicted.

However, both deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi and the successor military regime announced interest in reviving the dormant Egyptian programme to build a nuclear energy power plant, perhaps as a counterpoint to the Iranian nuclear energy programme.

In addition, a solid final deal with the Iranians will only increase Egyptian determination to promote a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East, and a desire to place the Israeli nuclear programme on the table as well, he noted.

"It seems to me that the pessimism about last weekend's deal between Iran and the P5+1 states coming from Israel, Saudi Arabia and in some quarters of the U.S. Congress is understandable given that the Iranians have been less-than-fully forthcoming, and in some cases actively deceitful, about their nuclear activities in the past," Kile told IPS.

However, the deal is an important first step toward addressing international concerns about the scope of Iran's nuclear programme and, as such, should be welcomed by even those who are sceptical of Tehran's nuclear intentions, he added.

The agreement reached in Geneva imposes technical constraints and verification requirements that make it virtually impossible for Iran to use its nuclear facilities to make progress toward building a nuclear weapon during this period.

He said it also lengthens the amount of time that Iran would need if it were to later decide to build a weapon. "These are important achievements that should not be overlooked or dismissed," Kile added.

[IPS | November 27, 2013] □



INTER PRESS SERVICE

31/12/2013 20:47 GMT

النشرة العربية

ما وراء الخبر!

وكالة الأنباء العالمية

انتر بريس سيرفيس "آي بي إس"

English

Français

للتواصل بنا

من نحن

النص فقط

اسئلة واجوبة

- لقاء مع مديرة مركز كوبا الوطني للتربية الجنسية: لا يمكننا أن نقبل الفئات عندما يتعلق الأمر بحقوقنا
- لقاء مع كارمن باروسو، الاتحاد الدولي لتنظيم الأسرة: لابد من تحقيق "المواطنة الجنسية"!
- لقاء مع كاتبو نواتي رئيس الصندوق الدولي للتنمية الزراعية: عندما تتفاقم فجوة عدم المساواة تنفجر الأزمة السياسية
- حوار مع نيكولاس مادورو، خليفة هوغو تشافيز: للتنصدي الأمم المتحدة للمضاربة في الغذاء
- حوار مع رئيس فريق حفظ الموارد البحرية خارج المياه الوطنية: أزمة غذائية؟ بحث في أعالي البحار!.. أو في قاع المحيطات!

المزيد <<

تقنيات خاصة

- من حجم الفقر لجمبع التجريب لجمبع أوروبا: من فضلك... أين جزيرة لامبيدوزا؟
- برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي: العرب يقرقون في أزمة المياه

مناقص الرياض من الإثقال الغربي الإيراني

تكنهات حول نوابي السعودية في التسلح نووي

بقلم تاليف دين/وكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس



الأمم المتحدة، ديسمبر (آي بي إس) - أثار قلق المملكة العربية السعودية حيال الاتفاق النووي المؤقت بين القوى الغربية وإيران، موجة من التكنهات بشأن نيتها في الحصول على أسلحة نووية.

في هذا الشأن، أشارت صحيفة "بول سكربت جورنال" إلى أن المملكة السعودية قد تستنتج أن القول الدولي لبرنامج نووي إيراني من أي نوع كان، قد يزعجها علي الحصول علي قدراتها الخاصة بها من الأسلحة النووية من خلال مجرد شرائها.

والمصدر المحصل: باكستان التي مؤل السعوديون جزءاً من برنامجها النووي.

لكن هذا يعتبر بمثابة السيئزور الأسوأ، خاصة إذا ما استمر تدهور العلاقة السياسية والعسكرية الطويلة المدي بين الولايات المتحدة والمملكة العربية السعودية.

هذا ولقد طهر التلميح الأولى للطموحات النووية السعودية في عام 2011، عندما حذر الأمير تركي

الصفحة الرئيسية

اللغات

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'We Are Suffering A Slow-Motion Nuclear War'

By JULIO GODOY*

BERLIN (IDN) - [Robert Jacobs](#) was born 53 years ago, at the height of the cold war, amidst the then reigning paranoia of nuclear annihilation of humankind. In school, he was eight years old. "We learned about how to survive a nuclear attack. We were told that the key to survival was to always be vigilant in detecting the first signs of a nuclear attack."

45 years later, Jacobs, for his friends, is one of the world's leading researchers on the social and cultural consequences of radioactivity on families and communities. He holds a PhD in history, has published three books on nuclear issues, and is author of hundreds of essays on the same matter. He is also professor and researcher at the [Graduate Faculty of International Studies](#) and the [Peace Institute](#), both at the Hiroshima City University, Japan.

Back in the early 1960s, Jacobs learnt at school that "The first thing we would perceive (on a nuclear attack) would be the bright flash of the detonation. Teachers told us to always be prepared for this flash and to take shelter. I remember going home that day and sitting on the steps in front of my house in suburban Chicago and just sitting there for an hour waiting for the flash."

This dreadful experience marked Jacobs' life, for it led his studies and professional life towards analysing the consequences of the nuclear age on humankind.

"We live through a slow motion nuclear war," he says, referring to the sheer amount of nuclear and radioactive material stored across the world, which will be part of the global ecosystem for millenniums to come.

As professor at the Hiroshima City University, Jacobs spends most of his time in one of the two cities (along with Nagasaki) destroyed by nuclear annihilation in the final phase of World War II (1939-1945). He is a privileged witness of the social and psychological responses of society to such a tragedy; furthermore, the nuclear accident of Fukushima (in March 2011) has given him again a excruciating opportunity to analyse social, psychological, and bureaucratic reactions to such catastrophes.



Julio Godoy, associated global editor of IDN-InDepthNews, communicated with Prof. Jacobs through Email:

What made you pursue an academic career on nuclear issues?

Robert Jacobs (RJ): My choice of a career working on nuclear issues is the result of a childhood in which I was very afraid of nuclear weapons. When I was 8 years old we learned in school about how to survive a nuclear attack. I don't remember the specific format, I don't think it was

the classic Duck and Cover material but it was similar. We were told that the key to survival was to always be vigilant in detecting the first signs of a nuclear attack. The first thing we would perceive would be the bright flash of the detonation. They told us to always be prepared for this flash and to take shelter. I remember going home that day and sitting on the steps in front of my house in suburban Chicago and just sitting there for an hour waiting for the flash.

Vigilantly waiting for the flash. I imagined the school across the street from me just dissolving. I imagined my house, and all of the houses on my block dissolving. I imagined my whole town just dissolving into white light. I became terrified.

I think that this was partly when I became aware of my own mortality and that I would die one day, but it was very connected to nuclear weapons. The way that I dealt with this fear was to find books in the library about nuclear weapons and read them. Throughout my childhood I read everything that I could find about nuclear weapons. Since I had such a strong fear, my means of dealing with it was to learn whatever I could about the thing that terrified me. I have never stopped this process. ☺



*Julio Godoy is an investigative journalist and IDN Associate Global Editor. He has won international recognition for his work, including the Hellman-Hammett human rights award, the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Investigative Reporting Online by the U.S. Society of Professional Journalists, and the Online Journalism Award for Enterprise Journalism by the Online News Association and the U.S.C. Annenberg School for Communication, as co-author of the investigative reports "Making a Killing: The Business of War" and "The Water Barons: The Privatisation of Water Services".



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Fukushima

As staff member of the Hiroshima Peace Institute you are first-rank witness of the severest nuclear catastrophe of modern times. Fukushima typifies several dangers of all things nuclear: The difficulties to control the technology, the recklessness of administrations, both private and public, and the fact that radioactivity does not respect national borders. How do you see the catastrophe?

RJ: I see the catastrophe as absolutely horrifying and ongoing. There is no discernible end in sight to this tragedy, radiation will continue to seep into the Pacific Ocean for decades. I think that there were many instances of negligence that facilitated the disaster. The design of the reactors and site was bad. The maintenance of the plant was neglected for decades. Adequate emergency procedures were never designed or enacted. In many ways, this highlights the problems not just of nuclear power but especially of privately run, for profit, nuclear power plants. In this case profits are raised by lowering costs, a process which both facilitated and accelerated the disaster. [TEPCO](#) (Tokyo Electric Power Company) notoriously has neglected its nuclear plants in honour of increasing profitability.

Beyond this, I would say that we also see illustrated here that the decisions to build nuclear plants are national ones, but when they have problems they are always global in scale. When one considers the time scale of some of the radionuclides that enter the ecosystem from nuclear disasters, they will stay in the ecosystem for thousands of years (as will the radionuclides in the spent fuel rods when they operate without a meltdown). These radionuclides will simply cycle through the ecosystem for millenniums. These toxins will remain dangerous for hundreds of generations and will disperse throughout the planet. At Fukushima the benefits of the electricity generated by the plants will have lasted barely longer than one generation while the sickness and contamination resulting from the disaster will last for hundreds.

'Cold shutdown' catastrophe

How do you evaluate the government's handling of the catastrophe, for instance, the fact that only 12 square kilometres around the site have been evacuated?

RJ: The government's handling of the disaster is a second disaster. Virtually every decision has been driven by two things: money and public relations. The decision to evacuate only 12 square kilometres was driven by concerns of cost and not by concerns of public health. When the government mandates evacuation they incur financial responsibilities. This is why they limited it to 12 km. They made

a "suggested" evacuation area of 20 square kilometres.

Why the difference? Mandatory vs. suggested? The area between 12 and 20 km where evacuation is suggested means that the government bears no fiscal responsibility for those evacuees. If they evacuate, it is their own decision, and must be done at their own cost.

These people are in a terrible bind. They know that they must evacuate because of the levels of radiation, but they will receive no assistance. Their homes are now worthless and cannot be sold. They are on their own. They have become both contaminated and impoverished. The other thing guiding decision making by the government is public relations.

While they knew that there had been a full meltdown on the first day of the disaster, and three full meltdowns by the third day, they denied this for almost three months. The reason this was done was to control perceptions. They managed to keep the word "meltdown" off the front pages of the world's newspapers during the period when they were focused on Fukushima.

When the government acknowledged the meltdowns almost three months later the story was on page 10 or page 12 of international papers. This is a success for them. At the end of 2011 they declared the plants in "cold shutdown." This is insane. The term cold shutdown refers to the activities of an undamaged and fully functional reactor. A reactor whose fuel has melted and is now located somewhere unknown beneath the reactor building, and that must have water poured on it for years to keep it cool are not in cold shutdown. This was just a way of saying to people that the event was over and everything was under control—absolute conscious lies. These concerns, costs and perceptions have guided the government's response far more than public safety has.

Loss of livelihoods

How does the tragedy affect the food supply?

RJ: The government has set "legally acceptable" levels of contamination in food. For example, there is a legally allowable level for caesium in rice. So if some rice is contaminated above this legal level it is not removed from the food supply, but rather is mixed with uncontaminated rice until it is below this level. This is a process for moving contaminated food into the food supply, not excluding it.

The reasons for this are cost. Many thousands of people have lost their livelihoods because of the disaster. Many farmers, fisherman and others have lost the value of their businesses because of contamination, with no fault of their own. ☹

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What is to be done about these people? One solution would be to compensate them for their lost businesses, but this would cost a lot of money up front. The other solution is to try to keep their businesses viable. To do this you keep them at work, you continue to bring their agricultural goods and fish to market and support their businesses.

In this case you end up with increased costs to public health because of exposure to radiation, but those cost come in the future, they are on the backside, in 10-20 years. So bringing contaminated food to market reduces short term costs and pushes the consequences into the lives of politicians in the future. But by far the most disastrous thing is to allow so many children to remain in contaminated areas. All children should be removed from contaminated areas immediately, but that would, alas, cost money.

Tradition and radioactivity

For the relatives of the mortal victims of the Fukushima accident, the fact that they cannot tend and worship the graves of their relatives constitutes a further penalty. Can you tell me something about this Japanese tradition and how radioactivity impedes it?

RJ: There are a few things to think about in relation to this. First is the Japanese holiday of [Obon](#). This is a very old traditional holiday in which ancestors are celebrated and thanked. During this holiday many people return to the towns where their families are from and conduct very old rituals. The family goes to the site of the graves of their ancestors and clean and decorate their graves. They invite the spirits of their ancestors to return to visit with the living family for a few days. The family tends to spend this time together building both connections to the past and to each other. At the end of the festival the spirits of the ancestors are escorted back to the cemetery.

For those whose home towns are in the contaminated area, this ritual can no longer be observed. They are unable to honour the spirits of their ancestors in traditional ways, and the graves of their ancestors are untended. This can have a devastating psychological affect. The notion that ancestors are no longer being honoured, no longer being invited to join together with the living, and that they will spend eternity with the dishonour of graves untended by their descendants can damage families and individuals.

For many people, these are rituals that have been observed in their families for hundreds of years, for many generations, and it is they who have broken this chain. How will the ancestors know that they are not being disrespected, but that the descendants have no choice? Having worked with many radiation-exposed communities

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around the world, I know that many people are able to manage the distress that this causes for a few years, knowing it is not their fault. But over decades of neglecting ancestors people tend to feel a visceral sense of their own failure to honour their ancestors. Additionally, when the tsunami occurred, some people were unable to claim the bodies of their relatives and give them a proper burial as their bodies were recovered very close to the nuclear plants and were considered "nuclear waste."

'Second class citizens'

What other humanitarian consequences has the catastrophe provoked?

RJ: There is almost no way to calculate this. Many families have divorced over conflicts about whether to move or to stay, whether to eat local food or not. Many children are unable to play or spend time outdoors because of contamination. Many wear dosimeters that record their exposures (they don't alert the children to the presence of radiation, merely record the exposures for later diagnostic purposes) and they will grow up with a sense of being "contaminated." Children in families that move away have been experiencing bullying and discrimination. Many people have no idea if they have been exposed to radiation, but are aware that they have been lied to repeatedly; about whether they will be able to return to their homes, about the dangers of radioactivity, about nuclear power in general.

My work with radiation exposed people around the world has shown that those exposed to radiation often become "second class citizens." They are shunned, they are lied to, they are observed for medical information but rarely informed of this information, and they are marked as contaminated for the rest of their lives. In this way they are denied the dignity that other members of the same society expect.

'Military colonialism'

Now to nuclear weapons: Western countries in possession of the bomb have over the years carried out experiments in far-away locations, in Oceania, in the North African deserts, not near London or Paris... It is an extraordinary abuse, and yet such countries have never been made accountable for the damages they have caused...

RJ: I view nuclear testing as linked to military colonialism. Nuclear powers tend to test in the far reaches of their military empires and contaminating people with little political power or agency to protect themselves. As is true in general, colonialists rarely have to face any consequences for their exploitation. This is an extension of the brutalization of the colonized by the colonizer. ☹



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When we look at the history of colonialism, the British have entirely retained the great wealth that came from the slave trade, when the French lost Haiti, Haiti was forced to pay compensation to the French for their "loss." In the case of the nuclear powers, we can see this dominance both sustained and rewarded. Consider the Security Council of the United Nations, its five permanent members are the first five nuclear powers. Obtaining nuclear weapons has earned them a permanent veto over "lesser" countries. Those exposed to radiation from nuclear weapon testing have almost never been given any health care or compensation for loss of life or the contamination of land and food sources. It is criminal.

Nuclear ignorance – nuclear fatalism

You work and live in Hiroshima, one of the two cities which directly suffered the unspeakable effects of nuclear weapons. Despite such horrors, still present in our lives, the world nuclear powers, from the U.S.A. to Pakistan, have accumulated some 30,000 nuclear heads capable of destroying the Earth several times. And yet, nobody seems to be scandalised about it. This lethargy, is it ignorance or fatalism?

RJ: Both. Most people don't ever think about nuclear weapons. Most didn't think much about nuclear power until Fukushima. For most people nuclear weapons are abstract – they have never seen one, they don't understand how they work – as poet John Canaday has said, most people experience nuclear weapons through stories, and for many those stories are Hollywood movies in which there are rarely

consequences from nuclear detonations (besides killing aliens and destroying asteroids).

But it is also true that many people don't feel that they can do anything about nuclear weapons. They are never a topic of public debate in the politics of nuclear nations, they are at the deepest, most secure parts of large militaries. And most people really have no idea of how much of their tax monies are being spent on nuclear weapons in nuclear nations. This, by the way, is where I feel that the stockpiles are vulnerable. As wealthy imperial nations decline, the billions spent annually on nuclear weapons will be questioned. They are rarely questioned in terms of desirability since many people living in nuclear armed countries feel that the weapons either protect them or help to establish their nation as one of the big players.

Can you imagine such a child terrified by the possibility of nuclear annihilation, as you were yourself today, in Israel, in Iran, in Korea, in India, or Pakistan?

RJ: Yes, it is possible for me to imagine such an experience in today's world, for instance Kashmir where the military stance between nuclear armed India and Pakistan is very visible. But I do think that it would be different. In the modern case the child would be imagining such a thing, piecing it together through what they hear at home and around the community. When I was young it was presented as formal education in the school system, so I didn't have to imagine it myself at all, I was being trained to think about nuclear war. [IDN-InDepthNews – November 27, 2013] □

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‘Vi lider av en atomkrig i sakte film’

BERLIN (IDN) - [Robert Jacobs](#) ble født for 53 år siden, på høyden av den kalde krigen, midt i den daværende paranoiaen av kjernefysisk utsettelse av menneskeheten. På skolen, da han var åtte år, «lærte vi om hvordan å overleve et kjernefysisk angrep. Vi ble fortalt at nøkkelen til å overleve var å være årvåken i å oppdage de første tegnene på et atomangrep.»

45 år senere, Jacobs, Bo som vennene kaller han, er en av verdens ledende forskere på sosiale og kulturelle konsekvenser av radioaktivitet for familier og samfunnet. Bo har en doktorgrad i historie, har publisert tre bøker, og er forfatteren av hundrevis av essay innen samme tema. Han er også professor og forsker ved [Graduate Faculty of International Studies](#) og [The Peace Institute](#), begge ved Hiroshima City University, i Japan.

Tilbake til tidlig 1960-tallet lærte Jacobs på skolen at «Det første vi bør oppfatte (i et kjernefysisk angrep) er det skarpe lyset under detonasjonen. Lærere fortalte oss at vi alltid måtte være forberedt for dette lyset og søke ly. Jeg husker at jeg gikk hjem den dagen og satt på trappen foran huset vårt i utkanten av Chicago og bare satt der i en time og ventet på lyset.»



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Nagasaki Meet Recommends Concrete Steps For Nuke Abolition

By RAMESH JAURA

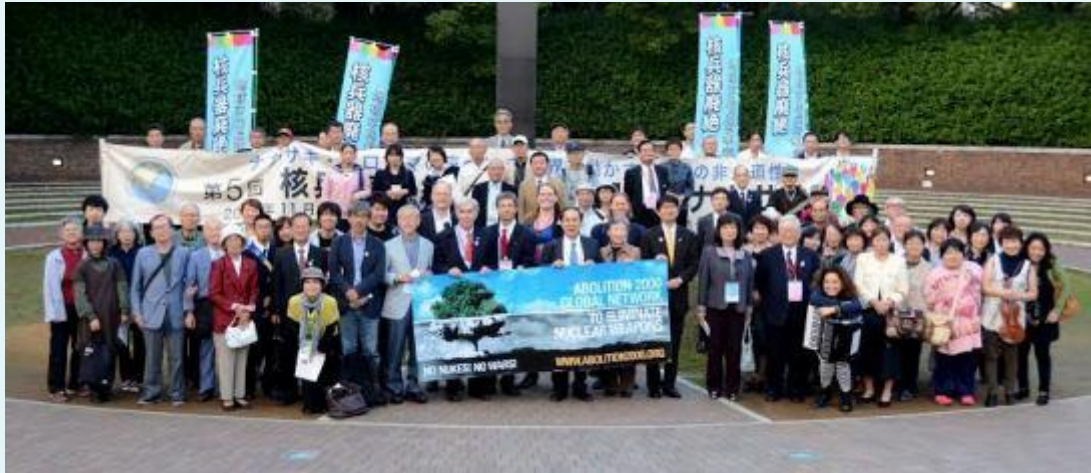


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BERLIN | NAGASAKI (IDN) – More than 50,000 nuclear weapons have been eliminated since the historic Reykjavík Summit between the then U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his counterpart from the erstwhile Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, which culminated into a groundbreaking Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty ([INF](#)) in December 1987. But 17,300 nukes remain, threatening many times over the very survival of human civilization and most life on earth, as the 2013 Nagasaki Appeal points out.

The Federation of American Scientists ([FAS](#)) estimates that nine countries possess nuclear weapons: United States (7,700 warheads), Russia (8,500), Britain (225), France (300), China (250), Israel (80), India (between 90 and 110), Pakistan (between 100 and 120) and North Korea (10).

Five European nations – Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Turkey – host U.S. nuclear weapons on their soil as part of a NATO nuclear-sharing arrangement. Roughly two dozen other nations – Albania, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, and Spain – claim to rely on U.S. nuclear weapons for their security. Furthermore, there are some 40 nations with nuclear power or research reactors capable of being diverted for weapons production.

According to experts, the spread of nuclear know-how has increased the risk that more nations will develop the bomb. And this despite the fact that “the danger of nuclear annihilation, by accident, miscalculation or design continues to cast a dark shadow over humanity’s future”.

In addition, states the Nagasaki Appeal, the failure of the nuclear weapon states to achieve more progress toward a nuclear weapons free world is undermining the legitimacy of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty ([NPT](#)). The Appeal

warns: “The nuclear weapon states’ repeated delays in fulfilling their ‘unequivocal’ commitment to nuclear disarmament has discredited the nonproliferation regime and may destroy it.”

The landmark Nagasaki Appeal emerged from the [5th Nagasaki Global Citizens’ Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#), November 2-4, 2013 in Nagasaki – the second and, to date, last city in the world to experience a nuclear attack along with Hiroshima 68 years ago. Citizens of Nagasaki have continued their tradition of convening such Global Citizens’ Assemblies, which they have held every few years since the year 2000.

Participants in the Assembly included representatives from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and scientists from Japan and abroad. They heard again the voices of hibakusha, survivors of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and their urgent appeal that the elimination of nuclear weapons becomes a reality while they are still alive. They also listened to hopeful voices of young people accepting responsibility for achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons.

An eminent participant and speaker – as in previous four meetings as an invited guest of the city of Nagasaki – was David Krieger, President of the [Nuclear Age Peace Foundation](#), who has participated in the drafting of all the Nagasaki Appeals.



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Krieger said in an email comment forwarded to IDN: "The 2013 Nagasaki Appeal is an extraordinary document. It reflects the spirit of Nagasaki, the second of two atomic bombed cities on the planet, and the desire of its atomic bomb survivors to assure that Nagasaki remains the last city ever to suffer such a tragedy. I believe the Appeal should be read by every citizen of Earth and studied by young people everywhere."

One highlight of the Appeal, said Krieger is that it takes note of the nuclear power accident at Fukushima, Japan in March 2011: "The fear and suffering of Fukushima citizens for their health and life renewed our recognition of the danger of radioactivity, whether from nuclear weapons or nuclear energy. The experiences of Fukushima and the atomic bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima have shown us that the effects of nuclear disasters are uncontrollable in time and space," states the Appeal.

Reasons for hope

Despite "daunting challenges," the Appeal finds there are reasons for hope, among which is the renewed international attention to the devastating humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. It also found that reliance upon nuclear deterrence for national security is "delusional," in a world in which human security and global security are threatened by nuclear weapons, said Krieger.

Describing the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, the resolution adopted in November 2011 by the Council of Delegates of the [International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement](#) identified the need to "conclude ... negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding international agreement."

The humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons have been discussed in the United Nations General Assembly since 2010, and at preparatory committee meetings for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. Moreover, the government of Norway hosted an international conference in Oslo in March 2013 on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. A follow-on meeting, will be hosted by the government of Mexico in February 2014.

Krieger highlighted another aspect of the Nagasaki Appeal, which calls for "a series of concrete actions, including commencing negotiations on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons; the US and Russia taking unilateral and bilateral nuclear disarmament measures; phasing out of reliance on nuclear weapons in the security policies of all countries; having greater citizen participation in nuclear abolition campaigns; establishing new nuclear

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weapon-free zones; aiding the victims of Fukushima; and learning the lesson that humanity cannot continue to rely upon nuclear energy any more than it can rely upon nuclear weapons."

The Appeal states: "The accident at Fukushima has taught us that we cannot continue to rely upon nuclear energy." It recalls that Senji Yamaguchi brought the hibakusha's experience of the atomic bomb to the United Nations in 1982, when he declared: "No More Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis, No more Hibakusha, No More War!", adding: The accident at Fukushima requires the addition of "No More Fukushimas!"

The Appeal also offers some specific advice to the Japanese government based upon its special responsibilities as the world's only country to have been attacked with nuclear weapons, said Krieger. "These responsibilities include: coming out from under the US nuclear umbrella; providing leadership to achieve a nuclear weapon-free zone in Northeast Asia; demonstrating leadership for nuclear weapons abolition; and seeking and welcoming international assistance in controlling the radiological crisis at Fukushima."

The Appeal points out that leaders of 532 local authorities in Japan have expressed support for a nuclear weapon-free zone in Northeast Asia, as did 83 Japanese and South Korean parliamentarians from across the political spectrum in a joint statement on July 22, 2010. In September 2013, the President of Mongolia indicated his country's interest in exploring the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in Northeast Asia at the United Nations General Assembly.

To demonstrate leadership, says the Appeal, Japan should take advantage of the opportunity presented by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in Hiroshima in April 2014. Japan, it says, should also urge political leaders and government officials who will participate in the G20 Summit that will be held in Japan in 2016 to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Further: The participants in the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly pledge to continue "utmost efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons", and aver: "Nagasaki must be the last A-bombed city." This, notes Krieger, is a necessary goal for humanity and for the future. "It is the great challenge that confronts all of us living on the planet in the Nuclear Age. Nagasaki is doing its part to lead the way. They need our voices and our commitment to succeed." ☺



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For this to become reality, the Appeal recommends a series of tangible steps – most of which have been [proposed by Soka Gakkai International \(SGI\) President Daisaku Ikeda](#) in his peace proposals – including:

The call for negotiations on the comprehensive prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons to start in 2014, and for these negotiations to be supported by the NPT Review Conference in 2015 and the High Level Conference proposed to take place no later than 2018.

Significant reductions by the U.S. and Russia in their strategic and non-strategic, deployed and un-deployed nuclear stockpiles through bilateral or unilateral measures, and halt on development and modernization of nuclear weapons systems by all nuclear-armed countries, paving the pathway to reallocating USD 100,000,000,000 per year to meeting social and economic needs.

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ننگاساکی اجلاس میں نیوکلیئر اسلحے کے خاتمے کے لیے ٹیونس تجاویز

رمینش جوڑا

برن | ننگاساکی (IDN)۔ سابقہ سوویت یونین کے میخائیل گورباچوف اور اس وقت کے امریکی صدر رونالڈ ریگن کے مابین ہونے والے تاریخی ریوکیوک سمٹ جو دسمبر 1987 میں تاریخ ساز انٹرمیڈیٹ ریج نیوکلیئر فورسز ٹریٹی (INF) کی صورت میں انجام پزیر ہوا، کے وقت سے لے کر اب تک 5000 سے زائد نیوکلیئر ہتھیاروں کا تدارک کیا جا چکا ہے۔ لیکن اب بھی 17300 نیوکلیئر ہتھیار انسانی تہذیب کی بقا اور زمین پر موجود زیادہ تر زندگی کے لئے خطرہ بنے ہوئے ہیں، جیساکہ 2013 ننگاساکی ایبل میں تصدیق کی گئی ہے۔

فیڈریشن آف امریکن سائنٹسٹس (FAS) کے ادارے کے مطابق نو ممالک نیوکلیئر ہتھیاروں سے لیس ہیں: امریکا (7700 ہتھیار)، روس (4500)، برطانیہ (225)، فرانس (300)، چین (250)، اسرائیل (80)، بھارت (90 اور 110 کے درمیان)، پاکستان (100 اور 120 کے درمیان) اور شمالی کوریا (10)۔

نیو نیوکلیئر ٹھنڈک سمجھوتے کے تحت پانچ یورپی ممالک - بلجیوم، جرمنی، اٹلی، نیدرلینڈز اور ترکی، اپنی س زمین پر امریکی نیوکلیئر ہتھیاروں کو جگہ فراہم کیے ہوئے ہیں۔ کم و بیش دو درجن دیگر ممالک - البانیا، آسٹریلیا، بلغاریہ، کینیڈا، کوسٹا، چیک، ڈنمارک، ایسٹونیا، ہونڈو، بنگلہ دیش، آئرلینڈ، لٹویا، لکسمبرگ، ناروے، پولینڈ، پرتگال، رومانیہ، سلوواکیہ، سلوونیہ، جنوبی کوریا، اور سین۔ اپنی سلامتی کے لئے امریکی نیوکلیئر ہتھیاروں پر انحصار کا دعویٰ کرتے ہیں۔ مزید برآں 40 کے قریب ممالک کے پاس نیوکلیئر پاور یا ریسرچ ری ایکٹر موجود ہیں جن کو ہتھیاروں کی پیداوار کی جانب موڑا جا سکتا ہے۔

مابین کے مطابق نیوکلیئر علم کے پھیلاؤ کی وجہ سے اس اندیشے میں اضافہ ہو گیا ہے کہ مزید اقوام ہم بنائیں گی۔ باوجود اس کے کہ "حائے، صاحب کتاب میں بھول چوک اور تیزان کے نتیجے میں نیوکلیئر تہذیب کا خطرہ بنی نوع انسان کے مستقبل پر دستور مثلاً رہا ہے۔"



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Israel's Nuclear Ambiguity Prodded

By PIERRE KLOCHENDLER

OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM (IPS) - As Palestinian-Israeli peace talks and nuclear talks on Iran's disputed nuclear programme continue, a unique international conference, "A Middle East without Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)", was held in Jerusalem. The topic is taboo because Israel maintains a veil of "studied ambiguity" on its alleged nuclear arsenal.

At the Notre Dame hotel in Jerusalem, the singular get-together took place: Ziad Abu Zayyad, former head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arms Control and Regional Security (ACRS) multi-lateral talks; Dan Kurtzer, former peace mediator and former U.S. ambassador to Israel and Egypt; and young and veteran activists against the proliferation of WMDs.

[Mordechai Vanunu](#), also present, is forbidden to speak to foreigners or leave Israel.

Invoking his opposition to WMDs, the former nuclear technician revealed in 1986 details of his country's alleged nuclear weapons programme to the British Sunday Times. Abducted by Mossad intelligence agents, the Israeli whistleblower spent 18 years in an Israeli jail, including more than 11 in solitary confinement.

"Ten years ago, we couldn't even have a conference disembodied from reality," notes an enthused Kurtzer.

This is no longer pie in the sky, but a very public event on an issue forcibly kept out of the public eye in Israel.

The conference was organised by the [Palestine-Israel Journal](#) (PIJ), a joint civil society publication dedicated to the quest for peace in the region.

"Track-Two diplomacy will have an effect on Track One, formal diplomacy," explains the diplomat who is now a professor of Middle East policy studies at Princeton University. "If not this year - next year or the year after."

The conference was held just a few days prior to the start of Round Two on Nov. 7 [between Iran and the P5+1](#) group of six major powers (Britain, China, France, Russia and the United State, plus and Germany). Round One ended on a positive note.

Notwithstanding the persistent suspicion that Iran is racing towards nuclear arms, the only major player in the



Middle East which, allegedly, possesses a nuclear arsenal is Israel.

Allegedly, because reports on the issue - all from foreign sources - have neither been confirmed nor denied by Israel. Maintaining its veil of "studied ambiguity", Israel hasn't signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Israel's nuclear policy is defined in one sentence: 'Israel won't be the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East.'

"If Israel won't be the first, it won't be the second either," quips Israeli non-conventional weapons expert Reuven Pedatzur.

Vanunu knows well the consequences of breaking the strict censorship code on the issue. Public debate is non-existent. "The nuclear issue is Israel's last taboo," says Pedatzur.

A presentation on ["Fissile Material Controls in the Middle East"](#) by Princeton University's Senior Research Physicist Frank von Hippel proposes a ban on plutonium separation and use; an end to the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) fuel; an end to enrichment of uranium above six percent; and no additional enrichment plants.

It's only natural that Israel's nuclear programme would take centre stage. The Dimona nuclear plant is scrutinised. "Freeze, declare, and then step-by-step reduction of Israel's stocks of plutonium and HEU," is what Israel must give in return for von Hippel's global proposal.

Yet despite across-the-board harmony on the need to free the world's most volatile region from the most volatile weapon, the speakers failed to reach a consensus on the practicality of focusing on the region's one and only country believed to have nuclear arms.

"This excellent proposal is premature," comments Pedatzur. "Dealing with Israel's nuclear programme is a non-starter. If the U.S. will exert pressure on Israel, maybe; unfortunately, I don't see any U.S. incentive." ☹

Image credit: nextyearcountrynews.blogspot.com



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Following the Madrid Peace Conference (1991), Israel participated in the ACRS multilateral talks.

Israel focused on the regional security component; Arab states (led by Egypt) on the arms control component – that is, on controlling Israel’s suspected nukes. The talks collapsed in 1995.

Secure in its don’t-talk-about-it comfort zone, Israel is ready to discuss a WMD-free zone and thus forgo the ultimate deterrent against its so-called eternal enemies, but only within a comprehensive peace settlement with all of its neighbours, including Palestine, Syria and Iran.

That’s a state of affairs as hypothetical as it is improbable.

“Israel wants the international community to agree de facto to its nuclear status,” bemoans Abu Zayyad. “Assuming it’s out of it, Israel isn’t against a nuclear-free Middle East. That’s ridiculous.”

Abu Zayyad reflects the traditional Palestinian position. Both the nuclear weapons issue and the peace vision must be approached “correlatively, not sequentially.”

Is there a linkage between or amongst these issues? “The formal answer of diplomats is ‘No,’” says Kurtzer. “But surely, as the debate takes place in a civil society forum like this one without being cut off – here’s the linkage.”

Israel rejects any linkage between its nuclear programme and the nascent regional détente.

READ IN

ARABIC <http://ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=3123>

JAPANESE <http://www.nuclearabolition.info/index.php/japanese-chinese-korean/132-israel-s-nuclear-ambiguity-prodded-japanese>

“A Russian-American agreement to move the chemical weapons from Syria; Iranian and U.S. presidents speaking for the first time since 1979; Palestinian-Israeli negotiations,” enumerates Hillel Schenker, PIJ co-editor with Abu Zayyad. “This creates a constructive background for moving forward toward a WMD-free Middle East,” he concludes.

Eager to pour cold water on the conference’s optimism, Pedatzur enumerates inversely: “Chemical weapons use in Syria’s civil war; failure till now to resolve Iran’s nuclear crisis; Israel’s continued possession of nuclear weapons and occupation of Palestine. A WMD-free Middle East can’t be established any time soon.”

Kurtzer says “To the extent the U.S. is ready to exercise its influence and power, a regional security breakthrough can occur which will ease the way for us not only to have a discussion on the possibility of a WMD-free Middle East, but to actually start engaging on these issues.”

Abu Zayyad advocates a global arrangement. “When you speak about Israel, Israel speaks about Iran; Iran about Pakistan; Pakistan about India, etc.” – the nuclear chain.

The conference may have succeeded in breaking through the censorship surrounding Israel’s assumed nuclear weapons, but not the taboo on Israel effectively creating a WMD-free Middle East. [IPS | November 7, 2013] □

| イスラエル | 「核の曖昧政策」というタブーに挑んだ会議

【占領下東エルサレム IPS=ビエール・クロシェンドラー】

イスラエル・パレスチナ間の和平交渉やイランの核開発疑惑に関する協議が続けられる中、エルサレムのノートルダムホテルにおいて「大量破壊兵器 (WMD) のない中東」と題したユニークな国際会議が開催された。

これはイスラエルにおいては従来タブーとされてきたテーマである。なぜなら、イスラエルは自国の核兵器保有疑惑について、あえて「意図的に曖昧にする」政策をとり続けているからだ。

この会議では、軍備管理・地域安全保障 (ACRS) 多国間協議へのパレスチナ代表団元団長のジアド・アブザヤド氏や、元平和調停人で元駐イスラエル・エジプト米大使のダニエル・グーツァー氏、WMD 拡散に反対するさまざまな年齢層の活動家等、特異なメンバーが一室

Original <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/10/russia-may-do-better-than-its-nuclear-rhetoric/>



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What Others Say

India's Nuclear Ambitions Unabated

By USMAN ALI KHAN*



Photo: Truck-mounted Missiles on display at the [IDEAS 2008](#) defence exhibition in [Karachi, Pakistan](#) Credit: Wikimedia Commons

KARACHI - As the world seeks to shrink global stockpiles of nuclear weapons, India continues to modernise its arsenal which increases Pakistan's security dilemmas, compelling it to respond appropriately. Much alarm has been raised in the West about Pakistan's enhancement of its nuclear capability and depicted this as a mindless, irrational drive motivated by the unbridled ambitions of the nuclear scientific-military lobby, which is far from reality. This has been in play against Pakistan but no one cares what India does. The links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons go back to the very beginning of the development of atomic energy. Over time the nature and strength of these links have varied.

A recent statement published in [THE HINDU](#) on, October 31, 2013 by Indian Atomic Energy Chairman R.K. Sinha that "India will continue its nuclear programme without any interruption, irrespective of decisions taken by other countries and there is no reason to follow Germany, Japan which are cutting down on nuclear energy."

One needs to understand that Nuclear Reactors Create the Material and Technological Expertise to Make Nuclear Weapons. Also Civilian nuclear programs have led to the proliferation of nuclear weapons in India. India's nuclear program began in 1960 with a research reactor provided by Canada and run with heavy water supplied by the United States. According to the New York Times, American

technicians trained Indian scientists to reprocess plutonium from the radioactive fuel. Indians then used the plutonium for a nuclear bomb in 1974. The Indian government called the use of this nuclear device "a peaceful nuclear explosion".

Also India's refusal to allow safeguards to eight of 22 power reactors (existing or under construction) in the framework of the agreement between the U.S. and India strongly indicates that power reactors play a direct role in the nuclear weapons program of India.

The global nuclear industry has learned its lessons from the Fukushima nuclear plant accident in Japan in 2011 and can look to the future with "confidence and optimism" but India is still bent on increasing its hegemonic design to outside world with nuclear ambitions. India is seeking to exploit the advantages of its much larger size, rapidly expanding economy, and burgeoning "global strategic partnership" with the U.S. to greatly expand and modernize its military—both conventional and nuclear forces. As discussed above that they started their civilian programme from CIRUS reactor with the technology provided by both U.S and Canada, converted it for the production of weapons naming it as a peaceful nuclear explosion. Therefore India's continuous enhancement for nuclear appetite clearly shows that the Indian nuclear programme will never remain peaceful. ☹



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Also it is said in the same published news by R.K. Sinha that: We have been pursuing our nuclear programme on our own. We are in the process of establishing new nuclear power plants across India, without being dependent on any foreign country. There is no question of following them and halting our nuclear programme which is also a clear contradiction from a statement of their own when they have deals on nuclear energy with half a dozen country.

The international community will have to dig in as to what extent their nuclear ambitions are? Isn't it a mischief that India tested its first nuclear device in May 1974 and now has full capabilities of the nuclear fuel cycle under the devise of civilian nuclear technology?

It is beyond the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and still remains outside of these regimes. However, India has a facility-specific safeguards agreement in place with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and a waiver from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) allowing it to participate in global civilian nuclear technology commerce.

A country that instigated arms race in this Asian region since 50's and still giving such irresponsible statements when super powers like U.S and Russia are heading for Global Zero albeit at a snail's pace? A country who stole [Canadian-supplied fuel](#) for research and generating power to make nuclear weapons under the disguise for civilian

nuclear technology and giving statements like they have been pursuing their nuclear programme at their own? Where there is no long-term radioactive waste disposal? A country having nuclear deal but yet hasn't fulfilled nuclear liability law? Where demonstrators block roads in solidarity with kudunkulam protestors? Are the lives and future of the Indian lives inferior to all this? Aren't such statements showing that the nuclear industry is run by unreliable and fanatic elements in India?

And also the shocking aspect of Daily Mail's [reports](#) is that some Indian nuclear scientists are reportedly assisting Naxal rebels to learn to utilise and transport uranium. Isn't it a serious concern to think on if and only if they are working on civilian nuclear technology?

Simple answers to all these are that not only North Korean and Iranian nuclear programmes are a concern, but the worry should be the rate of proliferation everywhere. Nuclear sales may benefit the corporate bottom line but the spread of nuclear technology and ultimately nuclear weapons undermines the security of the planet.

*Usman Ali Khan is a graduate of Defence and Strategic Studies. The area of interests are Dynamics of nuclear proliferation, Tactical nuclear weapons, Disarmament, South Asia and Middle Eastern regional politics. The writer frequently writes on different national and international newspapers. The views expressed are the author's own. [Source: eurasiareview.com] □

India Says Domestic Plant Operators Can Limit Global Nuclear Suppliers' Liability

By VIKAS DHOOT | Economic Times India

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-11-19/news/44242443_1_indian-nuclear-liability-law-canada-india-business-council-montek-singh-ahluwalia

TORONTO: To allay global nuclear suppliers' fears about India's nuclear liability laws that have deterred potential investors, the country is now telling the world's nuclear industry that the domestic plant operator can limit the amount as well as duration of the liability that accrues to foreign suppliers. [Planning Commission](#) deputy chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia, a close associate of Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh](#), conveyed this interpretation of the 2010 nuclear liability law in a meeting with Canada's industry leaders late last month (October).

The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance had worked overtime in its first innings to secure a new nuclear cooperation regime after decades of global isolation, but it has been unable to jumpstart its massive nuclear power agenda as vendors from around the world have stopped in their tracks over what they have labelled as unviable liability laws.

Ahluwalia worked closely with Singh in negotiating the [tricky](#) terrains of economic diplomacy around the [Indo-US nuclear deal](#). His clarifications to global nuclear vendors could, therefore, be seen as the government's last-gasp attempt to get some traction for nuclear energy. Singh has held a high-level dialogue with his counterparts in Russia and the US, where the liability law's implications have figured prominently.

"The Planning Commission deputy chairperson [Montek Singh Ahluwalia](#) said that the [Indian Nuclear Liability Law](#) includes a provision that allows the plant operator in India to limit, in both amount and duration, the liability that the operator can pass through to suppliers so that the liability is bounded and therefore, insurable," a Canadian industry official aware of the development told ET. □



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The Iranian Nuclear Question: China's Perspective

By MU CHUNSHAN

<http://thediplomat.com/2013/11/the-iranian-nuclear-question-chinas-perspective/>

In the West, both scholars and ordinary people are curious about China's perspective on the Iran nuclear issue. I have followed the debates over Iran's nuclear program for more than eight years and can provide some insight as to China's stance.

To be honest, the average Chinese person is not overly concerned about the Iran nuclear issue for two reasons. First, Iran is relatively far away from China and the two countries have few cooperative activities. Meanwhile, there are many topics closer to home that attract the attention of Chinese people: the North Korean nuclear issue, the dispute between China and Japan over the Diaoyu Islands, disputes between China and ASEAN countries over territories in the South China Sea, and the strategic chess match between China and the United States in the Asia-Pacific region. Accordingly, the issue of Iran has not been one of the top five international issues in the eyes of the average Chinese. Second, over the past few decades, China has paid insufficient attention to its diplomacy with the Middle East. Iran in particular has never been considered as one of the top three targets of diplomacy by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

To provide an interesting example, at the same time that the international community and Iran were holding talks in Geneva, the Third Plenum of the 18th Communist Party of China Central Committee was going on in Beijing. Although the United States, France, Russia and other major powers sent ministers to attend the Geneva talks, Wang Yi, the Chinese Foreign Minister, stayed in Beijing due to his responsibilities as a member of the Central Committee. China only sent other senior diplomats to attend the meeting alongside the great powers' foreign ministers. This discrepancy reflects China's role in the Iran nuclear issue.

I would argue that although China hasn't been a strong voice on the Iran nuclear issue, it is one of the beneficiaries. For example, when Western countries imposed sanctions against Iran due to concerns over its nuclear program, Chinese oil companies were able to win bids for developing large oil fields in Iran. While others seek a solution for the Iran nuclear issue, China is able to attempt to secure its own national interests.

It should be noted that, after the Third Plenum, China increased its attention to the negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. China has been sending higher-level officials to participate. After the Third Plenum ended, China's Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong led a delegation to participate in the ongoing negotiations. Though not the Foreign Minister, Li Baodong previously served as the Chinese

ambassador to the UN and was present when the UN passed resolutions declaring sanctions against Iran. Li is very familiar with the Iranian nuclear issue, and is a suitable candidate for the talks in terms of both ability and rank.

In another sign of increased Chinese interest, China and Iran have had frequent interactions recently. Iran's new president Hassan Rouhani held in-depth meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit. Iran's influential Speaker Ali Larijani just visited China, where he agreed to strengthen cooperation with China in oil and other fields. These high-level exchanges between China and Iran best represent the countries' intention to further develop the bilateral relationship as well as Iran's approval of China's position on the Iranian nuclear issue.

In fact, President Hassan Rouhani took the initiative to discuss the nuclear issue with Xi Jinping, which was unprecedented. The move showed that Rouhani values China's role in the talks. It also proves that China is becoming increasingly proactive on the Iranian nuclear issue.

According to official statements, China's position on Iran is as follows: First, "Iran is entitled to peaceful use of nuclear energy, and should honor its international obligations." Second, "Final settlement of the Iran nuclear issue should depend on dialogue, negotiation and other means of cooperation." Third, "China does not favor unilateral sanctions against Iran." In a nutshell, China believes the following: Iran may carry out limited uranium enrichment activities, the Iranian nuclear issue should not lead to war, and the unilateral sanctions by Western countries on Iranian oil and other products have affected China's interests. In other words, avoiding war and ensuring energy security are China's fundamental interests when it comes to Iran.

China recently held a high-level meeting devoted to "peripheral diplomacy." Although Iran is not a peripheral neighbor of China, it can be seen as China's "great neighbor". This "great neighbor" concept applies to countries not bordering on China, but that share important political, economic, and other strategic interests with China. Such countries are priorities for China's "great neighbor diplomacy" (as long as they are not too far away from China). ☞

What Others Say



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Image Credit: Wikimedia Commons

China could implement “great neighbor diplomacy” with Iran by relying on the “New Silk Road Economic Zone,” a concept presented by Xi Jinping during his [September visit to Central Asia](#). This economic belt is conceived of as starting along the Pacific coast in the east and running to the Baltic Sea in the west, thus connecting China, Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Russia and even Eastern Europe. Iran is an important node on the economic belt. In the future, this could mean that exchanges between China and Iran in energy and other aspects will be even smoother.

Of course, these plans are dependent on the easing of tensions in Iran, including a balanced solution for the Iran nuclear issue. Because of China’s plans for this major international cooperative zone, it’s natural for China to hold fast to its anti-war stance on the Iran nuclear issue and safeguard its bottom line to ensure energy security.

Western media speculated that an agreement over the Iran nuclear issue might take two steps. First, Iran will be allowed to carry out limited uranium enrichment activities

during a transition period, while Western countries begin to ease sanctions. Second, at the end of the transition period, Iran’s uranium enrichment plan should be put under international supervision, making it absolutely impossible for Iran to produce nuclear weapons, and Western sanctions will be gradually relieved. The actual deal, [as described by The Diplomat’s](#) Zachary Keck and Ankit Panda, does include these elements.

This “ice-breaking” resolution on the Iranian nuclear issue reflects China’s basic position and fully satisfies China’s national interests. Over the years, China’s role in the negotiation process with Iran has been overshadowed by the Western powers and Russia. While China’s part has been vague, this actually means that China profits most from the final result. China has achieved its interests with little diplomatic effort.

In particular, China has repeatedly stressed the avoidance of war, which has been fully realized so far. Iran and the West have moved beyond the tense, Cold War-like atmosphere of the Ahmadinejad era. Now engagement and dialogue are the guiding actions for the various parties. [Unlike some hawkish Western politicians](#), China has always firmly opposed war, as conflict between the West and Iran could have a tremendous impact on China’s energy security. China’s anti-war stance abets Iran’s friendly attitude towards China and strengthens Iran’s energy cooperation with China. This is enough to safeguard China’s energy interests in Iran. The recent negotiations over the Iran nuclear issue have ensured desirable results for China.

By contrast, it seems impossible for Western countries to completely stop Iran’s uranium enrichment, much less overthrow the Iranian regime. But it’s very likely that the Iranian nuclear program could be put under international supervision. As a result, we may come to the basic conclusion that an agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue will benefit all parties — and China will profit the most. [The Diplomat | November 27, 2013] □

Will Iran Follow Pyongyang’s Path Of Broken Promises?

By GILES HEWITT

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=62879>

SEOUL [Middle East Online] Critics of the deal to cap Iran’s nuclear programme say it repeats mistakes made with North Korea, but analysts say there is little to suggest Tehran will follow Pyongyang’s path of broken promises to a nuclear bomb. Under the agreement sealed in Geneva on Sunday, Iran undertook to brake its nuclear drive for the next six months in exchange for limited sanctions relief.

Republican dissenters in the US Congress warned that Tehran was borrowing from Pyongyang’s well-worn play-

book, buying time and financial largesse with false promises that ultimately led to North Korea’s first nuclear test in 2006.

On the surface there are similarities that go beyond Iran and North Korea’s joint billing with Iraq in former US president George W. Bush’s “axis of evil”. Albeit to varying degrees, both are autocratic, diplomatically isolated, sanctions-laden nations with a shared history of long-term enmity with the United States and a desire for nuclear leverage. ➡



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In North Korea's case, a series of aid-for-denuclearisation agreements over the past 20 years have fallen apart, and Pyongyang is openly developing weapons on all fronts following its third and largest nuclear test in February this year.

But many analysts believe suggestions that Iran will inevitably follow the same path ignore key social, structural and geopolitical differences.

The core difference for Stephan Haggard, a North Korea expert at the University of California, is the "observable shift" in Iran's government with the election in June of Hassan Rouhani as president.

Rouhani's reputation as a moderate, and his desire to move from confrontation to engagement, made the negotiated deal with Tehran worth risking, said Haggard.

"Nothing similar is visible in North Korea" he added.

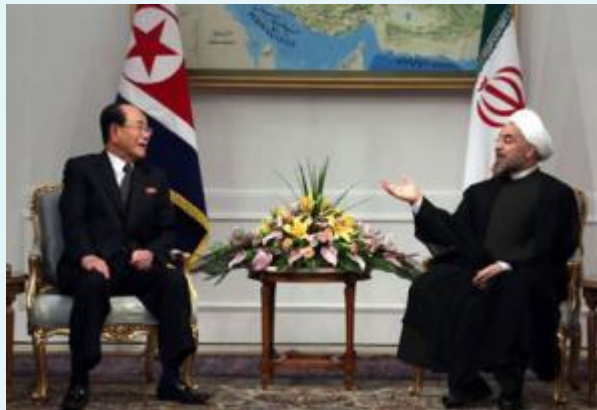
Since the young Kim Jong-Un came to power in December 2011 -- the third generation of the Kim dynasty that has ruled the country with an iron fist since the 1950s -- North Korea has enshrined its nuclear statehood in its constitution and vowed it will never negotiate its atomic weapons away.

Iran's economic stake is also far greater than any taken by North Korea in its nuclear agreements -- a fact that experts say should help bind Tehran to the terms of the Geneva deal.

Sanctions have ravaged an Iranian economy that was previously relatively well-integrated with the international trading system, in a country that has a well-educated middle class and memories of far better times in the recent past.

The North Korean economy has been isolated and moribund for decades and the Kim regime has shown it can maintain its grip on power while imposing enormous economic hardship on its harshly controlled people.

"The cost and benefit decision presented to Tehran was and is very clear," said Paul Carroll, programme director at the Ploughshares Fund, a US-based global security foundation.



"The North Korea security calculus is tilted the other way -- it's worth the pain to get a weapon," Carroll said.

"And also Iran lacks the kind of support the North has traditionally got from China, that allowed Pyongyang to feel 'this hurts, but Beijing has our back'," he added.

Critics of the Geneva deal point to the 1994 "Agreed Framework" that Bill Clinton's US administration signed with North Korea.

At that time, the similarities with Iran were more striking. North Korea, like Iran now, had yet to conduct a nuclear test and was still a member of the non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

The 1994 agreement eventually broke down amid mutual accusations of non-compliance, but non-proliferation experts say the Geneva accord -- even as an interim deal -- is stronger for its tough inspection regime.

Iran agreed to daily site inspections by experts from the UN nuclear watchdog IAEA, which will also monitor implementation of the agreement.

"In the case of North Korea, the IAEA had limited access to just one facility," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association.

"Iran, by contrast, has committed to very intrusive inspections at a wider range of facilities across its entire nuclear landscape," Kimball said.

If there is no reason for Iran to follow North Korea's nuclear path, most experts also believe it is unlikely that the Geneva deal might trigger a similar agreement with Pyongyang.

Unlike Iran, North Korea has a nuclear bomb, and the Kim regime sees a nuclear deterrent as the guarantor of its survival.

"North Korea is well aware of the difference between its own case and the Iranian case and will not give up its nuclear programme," said Paik Hak-Soon of the Sejong Institute think tank in Seoul. [November 27, 2013] □

Photo credit: http://www.middle-east-online.com/meopictures/big/_62879_A2.jpg



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION
WITH NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2013 ARTICLES

What Others Say

Israel, Iran And The Bomb

By AVI BEN-HUR

The dramatic news flash on the 24th of November heralded the signing of an interim agreement between the U.S. and Iran. Without going into the details, the deal eases some of the international economic pressure on Iran while beginning a process of slowly rolling back its nuclear program as it relates to military applications.

For some time now, Israel has been concerned that Iran's nuclear program's primary goal is to achieve the capability and capacity of creating atomic weapons. Since Iran has been speaking about the need to "eliminate" the Zionist entity for several years, this aforementioned program is deemed as having Israel in its sights. In short, Israel perceives a nuclear Iran as an existential threat. In this context, Prime Minister Netanyahu has made great efforts to get the international community to take significant measures to prevent Iran from realizing its goals. The heavy economic sanctions regime was set in place by the U.S. administration, partly due to the Israeli PM's exertions.

The United States has led the international pressure on Iran partially as a response to Israeli pressure, but also because a nuclear Iran is deemed as a regional threat and one that can spell trouble not only for the Middle East, but also for Europe and perhaps in the future, the U.S. It is recognized that there is no love lost between the majority Sunni states in the Middle East and the Iranian Shiite regime. Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey -- all Sunni entities -- would not remain silent in the face of a nuclear Iran. Given an Iranian bomb, it is clear that nuclear proliferation in the Middle East would become a common goal of its adversaries. Since some of the aforementioned regimes are unstable, it is worrisome to think of their attaining nuclear weapons. There is also the issue of non-state actors such as Hezbollah, Al Qaeda and other Islamic Fundamentalist groups getting their hands on weapons of mass destruction. The assumption is that these entities would have fewer constraints on using nuclear weapons on Western civilian targets.

From an Israeli perspective, a nuclear Iran would pose several serious problems, the first one potentially existential. Although Israel maintains a policy of nuclear ambiguity, it is common knowledge that it possesses a significant nuclear arsenal. For some time now, Israel also has reportedly gained "second strike capability" in the guise of four very sophisticated diesel-powered submarines -- supplied by Germany -- with two more on the way in coming years. Still, Israel sees itself as a "one bomb" country, meaning that one well-placed nuclear hit could kill large segments of the population and industry

(some 50 percent of Israel's population and infrastructure are located along the narrow coastal plain between Gadera and Hadera). But, beyond a direct nuclear confrontation, a nuclear Iran would give it a shield that would enable it to fight proxy wars with Israel without the fear of being attacked in return. Nuclear proliferation in the Middle East could potentially make weapons of mass destruction accessible to unstable regimes and from there perhaps into the hands of extremist Islamic groups that could target Israel and other Western countries.

One of the unanswerable questions is Israel's military ability to prevent a nuclear Iran. On the one hand, if Israel had the capacity to stop the program, the time to have done it would have been in the Bush era. On the other hand, as Iran has inched closer and closer to achieving its goals, the Israeli military has been preparing itself in the event a preventive strike became necessary. An Israeli operation would need to be precise, on target and would be a one-shot deal. This means that Israeli pilots have probably done practice runs so many times that they could implement their orders with a precision that would see little or no error. Regarding the means, only the Israeli military knows whether or not they possess the munitions to put the multiple Iranian nuclear sites out of commission.

Still, it is unclear that a successful Israeli action against Iran would bring the desired effect. Even if Israeli warplanes knocked out all of its targets, bringing its pilots home safely, the cost of the operation could outweigh its benefits. Beyond a military response that could entail barrages of rockets fired from Iran, Syria and Lebanon (Hezbollah) on Israeli civilian and economic targets, Iran could interdict the flow of oil from the Gulf to the rest of the world. Sinking a few ships that would block sea-lines and the export of oil from the Middle East to Europe, the U.S. and Asia would be unpreventable. It could cause a spike in gas prices which would be blamed on the Israeli operation against Iran. Even without an Iranian action that would be painful to Europe or the U.S., an Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear installations would destroy the deal that has just been concluded. It is plausible to expect a sharp and unpleasant response by the deal's signatories that could set Israel back economically and diplomatically. [November 25, 2013] □

Read more at:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/avi-benhur/israel-iran-and-the-bomb_b_4335626.html for full article.



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Civil Society Perspective

A Nuclear Threat Far Greater Than Iran

By IRA HELFAND

Ira Helfand is co-president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and a past president of the organization's U.S. affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility. He is the author of the report "Nuclear Famine: Two Billion People at Risk?"

(CNN) -- The world is focused on forging a durable agreement to prevent Iran from developing a single nuclear weapon. While critically important, these efforts ignore a far greater danger: the thousands of weapons that already exist.

There are today more than 17,000 nuclear warheads, an ongoing existential threat to human survival that has largely been ignored since the Cold War ended two decades ago. And, unlike Iran, there are no comparable negotiations under way to deal with these far more dangerous arsenals.



warheads, each of which is 10 to 30 times more powerful than the weapons used in the South Asia scenario. That means a single submarine can cause the devastation of a nuclear famine many times over.

The United States has 14 of these submarines, plus land-based missiles and a fleet of strategic bombers.

In fact, the humanitarian consequences of even a limited nuclear war, such as a conflict in South Asia between India and Pakistan, involving just 100 Hiroshima-size bombs -- less than 0.5% of the world's nuclear arsenal -- would put 2 billion people's lives and well-being at risk.

The Russian arsenal has the same incredible overkill capacity. Two decades after the Cold War, nuclear weapons are ill-suited to meet modern threats and cost hundreds of billions of dollars to maintain.

The local effects would be devastating. More than 20 million people would be dead in a week from the explosions, firestorms and immediate radiation effects. But the global consequences would be far worse.

There is a growing global movement to prevent such a catastrophe. In 2011, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement called for its national societies to educate the public about these humanitarian consequences and called for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The firestorms caused by this war would loft 5 million tons of soot high into the atmosphere, blocking out sunlight and dropping temperatures across the planet. This climate disruption would cause a sharp, worldwide decline in food production. There would be a 12% decline in U.S. corn production and a 15% decline in Chinese rice production, both lasting for a full decade. A staggering 31% decline in Chinese winter wheat production would also last for 10 years.

Seventeen nations issued a joint statement in May 2012 on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons that called for their total elimination. By this fall the number rose to 125 nations.

The resulting global famine would put at risk 870 million people in the developing world who are already malnourished today, and 300 million people living in countries dependent on food imports.

The international community should continue to take practical steps to prevent additional countries from acquiring nuclear weapons. But this effort to prevent proliferation must be matched by real progress to eliminate the far greater danger posed by the vast arsenals that already exist.

In addition, the huge shortfalls in Chinese food production would threaten another 1.3 billion people within China. At the very least there would be a decade of social and economic chaos in the largest country in the world, home to the world's second largest and most dynamic economy and a large nuclear arsenal of its own.

Simply put, the only way to eliminate the threat of nuclear war or risk of an accidental launch or mishap is to eliminate nuclear weapons.

A nuclear war of comparable size anywhere in the world would produce the same global impact. By way of comparison, each U.S. Trident submarine commonly carries 96

This past year the majority of the world's nations attended a two-day conference in Oslo, Norway, on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear war. The United States and the other major nuclear powers would not attend this meeting. There will be an important follow-up meeting in Mexico in February. America should lead nuclear weapons states in attending and embrace the call to eliminate nuclear weapons. [December 10, 2013] □

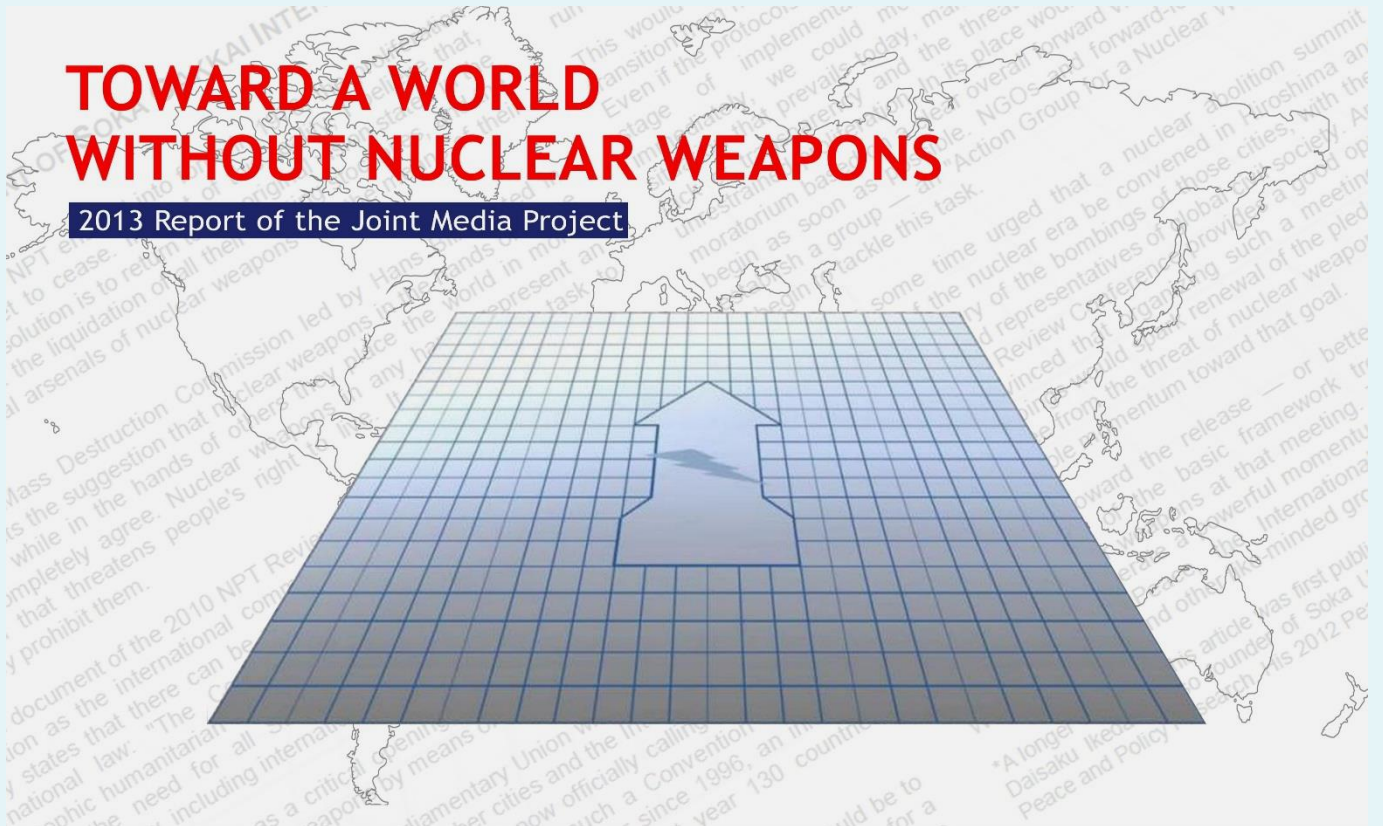


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TOWARD A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Toward_a_World_without_Nuclear_Weapons_2013.pdf



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