

# No More Bombs



## Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

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Newsletter no. 11

April, 2019

Hello, Seekers of Peace,

This month we will take a quick cold look at the current state of nuclear affairs in the world, taken from the ppt slide show we shared at our April 5 meeting. Then some thoughts on what we can do in our own little corner, if we believe there is a chance to unravel some of this mess. I have to admit, our prognosis is growing gloomier by the day. The reckless greed of the military-industrial empire is driving us all toward extinction, and fear-feeding politicians are stoking their furnaces. Do we really have a choice, or can we only hang on and hide our eyes? I think its worth trying. Thanks for reading, tracy. Peace and Love All

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### International Flash Points

#### **India - Pakistan**

India's Nuclear Arsenal has about 200 warheads, many stationed near Pakistan, on high alert. Renewed testing of missile defense system is underway.

Pakistan has equivalent numbers, also on high alert, and launch authorizations are held by several officers. Recent Kahmir skirmishes have resulted in casualties on both sides, and tensions are high.

#### **North Korea**

Exact numbers unverified, could be 10 or more warheads, plus ICBMs. Negotiations with US have not produced anything. Reactors have been upgraded, and new reactors under construction. Potential output unknown.

#### **Israel**

Although Israel officially has never acknowledged its arsenal, it has 200 or more nuclear weapons, including bombs and missiles of varying destructive powers. Its weapons are targeted at its neighbors, Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

#### **Iran**

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is monitoring Iran's compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal said Iran is meeting its obligations under the JCPOA accord, despite US sanctions and withdrawal from the agreement. Further US aggression could result in Iranian retaliation.

#### **Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia is nearing completion of its first nuclear reactor, and has not agreed to IAEA inspections, nor any restrictions on its operation. US technology and fissile material may have been already transferred to Saudi Arabia.

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## US Nuclear Weapons Arsenal today

There are now 450 **ICBM** silos, in which 400 ICBMs and as many warheads are deployed. The 50 empty silos are “kept warm” so missiles can be reloaded if necessary. The 400 ICBMs carry one warhead each – either a 300-kiloton W87/Mk21 or a 335-kiloton W78/Mk12A. They can be upgraded to carry three independently targetable warheads each. for a total of **800** warheads available for the ICBM force

The US Navy has now 212 deployed submarine-launched ballistic missiles (**SLBMs**), Combined, the submarines carried **945** warheads – an average of four to five warheads per missile, or nearly 90 warheads on each boat. 100-kiloton enhanced W76-1, and the 455-kiloton W88. 8 of the 14 submarines are stationed at Bangor.

The US Airforce has 60 (16 B-2s and 44 B-52Hs) nuclear capable **bombers**, carrying **980** nuclear weapons, including 528 air-launched cruise missiles. About 300 weapons are thought to be deployed at bomber bases. Approximately **500** tactical B61 bombs of about 50 Kt yield remain in the stockpile. 150 are deployed at six bases in Italy, Germany, Turkey, Belgium, Netherlands.

**Total**, including stored but available, retired and waiting to be dismantled, about **6500 warheads**.

Source: United States nuclear forces, 2018, by Hans M. Kristensen & Robert S. Norris

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## Nuclear Weapons Treaties

### **NPT 1970**

Non-proliferation Treaty, multilateral, nuclear weapons states will disarm, while sharing non-military nuclear technology. Non-nuclear states will use only for energy production, no weapons.

### **ABM 1972**

Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty, bilateral limit on “star wars” systems, which have never been perfected.

### **INF 1988\***

Intermediate and Short Range Missile Treaty, bilateral, prohibits “tactical” weapons, removes them from Europe.

### **START 1991**

Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, multilateral, reduced US and Russia nuclear arsenal, and eliminated nuclear weapons in Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. Expired 2009.

### **CTPT 1996**

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, multilateral, prohibits testing nuclear weapons testing, generally observed but not ratified.

### **New START 2010\***

Extended START, US and Russia further reduced nuclear arsenals to current 7000 warheads each.

### **\*Treaties at risk**

#### **\*INF**

Both US and Russia claim the other has already violated, both are now building new short range tactical “low yield” warheads and delivery systems, for ground-launch and submarines. US building is now building 1600 W76-1 warheads, which could be deployed in Europe by the end of 2019. UN is open to assisting negotiations, but neither side has asked.

#### **\*New START**

Will expire in 2021, unless US and Russia agree to extend it. This is currently the only treaty being adhered to, and its provisions have been fulfilled up until now. No negotiations yet.

It is also worth noting, that of all the weapons of mass destruction that once threatened all countries on earth, **only nuclear weapons have not been banned**. Biological Weapons banned 1972, Chemical Weapons banned 1993, Land Mines banned 1997, and Cluster Bombs banned 2008. All have been overwhelmingly successful. This makes the ICAN Treaty now being adopted by more UN member nations ever more important. Officially known as the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#), it was adopted by a great majority in the UN General Assembly in 2017. It will enter into legal force once 50 nations have signed and ratified it. So far, 70 nations have signed, and 22 have ratified. This could be the last hope of humanity.

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### Congressional action

Over the last two years, there have been several bills introduced, sponsored by a small group of Democrats in both houses, that have languished without further actions. Recently, with the House Committees in new leadership, some of these are being replaced, or updated, by new bills. Here are a couple.

Hold the Low-Yield Nuclear Explosive Act, or **Hold the LYNE Act**, introduced by Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA-33) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA), which would prohibit President Trump's new proposed tactical warheads from being produced or deployed. The bill numbers are **H.R. 1086** for the House and **S. 401** for the Senate. Both are in the Armed Services Committees

#### **No First Use Act**

##### **S. 272 and H.R.921**

To establish the policy that the United States will not launch a first strike with nuclear weapons.

**S. 272**, Senate Foreign Relations Committee. No Washington Senators cosponsoring.

**H.R. 921**, House Subcommittee on Asia, Pacific, and Nonproliferation. Washington Representatives Rick Larsen, Denny Heck, and Pramila Jayapal have cosponsored.

Please contact your members of Congress, and let them know these are issues you care about.

#### **Senator Maria Cantwell**

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#### **Senator Patty Murray**

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#### **Representative Rick Larsen (District 2)**

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We can expect more such bills, and will watch for them in current session and next.

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## Washington Legislature: bills introduced

Senator Bob Hasegawa introduced **SJM 8006** in January.

Representative Gael Tarleton introduced **HJM 4008** in February.

They would put the State of Washington on record as recognizing its status as a nuclear armed state, aware of its vulnerability to devastation in the event of any nuclear war, and recommending that Congress and the president take steps to **Back Away From the Brink**.

Both were read into record, but no further actions were taken, and they will probably be reintroduced next session.

Here are our WA State Legislators and their contact info:

### District 40

Representative Debra Lekanoff: phone (360) 786-7800, email [Debra.Lekanoff@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Debra.Lekanoff@leg.wa.gov)

Representative Jeff Morris: phone (360) 786-7970, email [Jeff.Morris@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Morris@leg.wa.gov)

Senator Liz Lovelett: phone (360) 786-7678, email [Liz.Lovelett@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Liz.Lovelett@leg.wa.gov)

### District 10

Representative Dave Paul: phone 360-786-7914, email [Dave.Paul@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Dave.Paul@leg.wa.gov)

Representative Norma Smith: phone (360) 786-7884, email [norma.smith@leg.wa.gov](mailto:norma.smith@leg.wa.gov)

Senator Barbara Bailey: phone 360.786.7618, email [Barbara.Bailey@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Barbara.Bailey@leg.wa.gov)

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Here at home, [No More Bombs](#) is still a member organization of WPSR's [Washington Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#). They publish newsletters and other pertinent information continuously. We will continue our own monthly newsletters to try and keep informed.

Bud Anderson is leading another trip to Hanford this July, and he will report on the event at a later meeting.

We will again travel to GreenLake Park in Seattle on August 6, for the annual [Hiroshima to Hope](#) memorial gathering. We will announce the details for carpooling sometime in July.

We will also try some new ideas this coming year, working off WANW's plan for local actions. Having identified a few specific concerns, we would like to focus on each separately, working in teams of experts in each field, namely you.

For example, one issue we have so far failed at is introducing nuclear education resources into our local schools, where such subjects are just not taught these days. If you know teachers or school administrators, or know anyone who does, reach out and make contact. We can provide lots of science, history, and international relations curriculum materials. Together we can help provide tomorrow's leaders some of the critical information they will need to deal with the big issues of their time. Please let me know if you are interested in work like this, and we will tackle it together.

Other issues deserve our active attention as well: disinvestment, hazardous wastes, and any others you might prefer. Whatever talents and connections we can muster, there are challenges awaiting us. Let's try.

**As always**, contact us any time: Bud Anderson, [budathome2012@hotmail.com](mailto:budathome2012@hotmail.com), Wim Houppermans [wh5314b@gmail.com](mailto:wh5314b@gmail.com), Lyndon Greene [anacomaritimectr@msn.com](mailto:anacomaritimectr@msn.com), or Tracy Powell [tracy@nomorebombs.org](mailto:tracy@nomorebombs.org), 360-840-3826. We appreciate your questions and suggestions