



## Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

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Newsletter no. 24

May , 2020

Dear Friends,

Yes the month is almost over, and yes this will be a short newsletter. My excuse is anybody's guess. Confusion, ennui, helplessness? OK . But I may be waking up, let's see.

The focus will be on what we need to be working on, to move our nation back from the brink, as the most crucial election in our history plays out during the months ahead. You may not have noticed that the name Trump hasn't appeared in these pages until now. I was ignoring the elephant in the room, reluctant I guess to blame one person for all our wrongs, but I am moving beyond that because there is no other path forward. The president has inspired a big enough crowd of followers that his every whim can become real. What he has done to our world demands response. Silent no more.

Thanks for reading,

tracy

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**Trump seems determined to blow up the world.** In some amazing acts of recklessness, the Trump administration has recently declared that the US is withdrawing from the Open Skies Treaty, will not renew the New START treaty with Russia, and will restart nuclear weapons testing this year. This Washington Post story covers all three:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/trump-administration-discussed-conducting-first-us-nuclear-test-in-decades/2020/05/22/a805c904-9c5b-11ea-b60c-3be060a4f8e1\\_story.html?can\\_id=3f3235313749ff5013320cf9ac5ceaa3&email\\_referrer=email\\_812274\\_subject\\_1096198&email\\_subject=breaking-trump-wants-to-test-nukes&link\\_id=1&source=email-money-for-covid-response-not-nuclear-weapons](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/trump-administration-discussed-conducting-first-us-nuclear-test-in-decades/2020/05/22/a805c904-9c5b-11ea-b60c-3be060a4f8e1_story.html?can_id=3f3235313749ff5013320cf9ac5ceaa3&email_referrer=email_812274_subject_1096198&email_subject=breaking-trump-wants-to-test-nukes&link_id=1&source=email-money-for-covid-response-not-nuclear-weapons)

Open Skies Treaty detailed here in a [factsheet from Arms Control Association](#)

[New START here.](#)

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which the US would violate, is covered in [this factsheet, also from ACA.](#)

Is this all? Probably not.

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**COFA - RECA bills.** During the recent deliberations in the House of Representatives to craft the latest economic relief package, and include some humanitarian aid left out in the first 3 bills, several of the Peace groups tried valiantly to add commitments for much needed medical help for victims of past nuclear contamination who are particularly vulnerable to the Coronavirus. These bills had been already introduced to Congress, but because they were not adopted, the people who were supposed to be helped have been left even more at risk. This piece from Beyond the Bomb covers the issues well.

<https://beyondthebomb.org/support-nuclear-frontline-communities-in-covid-19-economic-relief-funding/?fbclid=IwAR3CQEDJctG3K1hdji0E3fu6nGBjmKU2ScGsNf7ICelt60BtCCfEJDGCn-E>

Signing their petition is just one way we can help the cause. So far the provisions have not been presented to the Senate for inclusion in a relief package, but we can contact our Representatives and Senators and let them know we support the proposals.

[COFA](#) is the Compact of Free Association between the US and the Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Joint Memorials we have supported in the WA legislature, and which were again not adopted this year, were written to urge Congress to correct the Compact. The current efforts to cover these folks in COVID 19 relief bills uses similar language, but is more urgent now because of the extra burdens of the virus pandemic.

[RECA](#), Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, is due to expire soon, and with it would be lost much needed assistance for downwinders, uranium miners and their families, and many residents of the Indigenous Communities in the US. They also have been extraordinarily impacted by the COVID outbreak, and deserve more not less help.

Not enough attention has been paid by the media to the aggravated suffering of these groups.

<https://nuclear-voices.org/> is Lilly Adams' new website, where you can learn more about these communities.

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**August 6 and 9.** While we have not yet planned a memorial commemoration of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings this year, we were waiting to see what other organizations would do. It appears now that the most prominent events in our state, at [Ground Zero](#), and the [Hiroshima to Hope](#) lantern ceremony at Green Lake, will not be held in person, and although virtual events online have been discussed by them and many other groups, so far none have materialized. I had imagined a small gathering at some quiet spot, where we could talk together and light candles, but have not found a good location. Any ideas any of you have are certainly welcome. For me, sometime between now and August I will be rereading John Hersey's book Hiroshima, and dedicating some meditation time on both the 6th and 9th. If any events develop through any of the peace groups we stay in touch with, we will see if we can fit in, and share that with everyone.

Please stay in touch. For our steering committee, anyone who wants to help, we need you. Call or text me at 360-840-3826, or email [tracy@nomorebombs.org](mailto:tracy@nomorebombs.org), Bud Anderson [budathome2012@hotmail.com](mailto:budathome2012@hotmail.com), Julia Hurd [hurdjulia@gmail.com](mailto:hurdjulia@gmail.com), Wim Houppermans [wh5314b@gmail.com](mailto:wh5314b@gmail.com).

