

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter no. 27

January 2021

Happy New Year all you patient partisans for Peace and Justice,

We start with a presumption that the inauguration is proceeding successfully, and we have some exciting new challenges to look forward to, in a profoundly more positive atmosphere than the last 4 years. We, your No More Bombs steering committee, wish to thank you all for keeping the faith. We have been struggling through these last few years together, working to spread messages of sanity in a crazy world, while our elected leaders continued to steer us towards disaster. Now that we have some new opportunities for progress toward real solutions, let us vow to work even harder. Let us promise each other to learn more, share more, speak out more, and push more diligently toward nuclear disarmament. This letter will remind us of some of the activities already in play, to inspire us.

January 18 is Martin Luther King, Jr Day. This great leader continues to uplift us and show us the way. Just imagine what our world would be like without his life and his selfless contributions to us all.

The ICAN Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons enters into effect on January 22, 2021. This historic treaty was introduced in the UN just 3 years ago, was signed by 122 nations, and has been ratified now by over 50 nations, which makes it International Law. Nuclear weapons are now classified as globally banned, just as chemical and biological weapons, land mines, and cluster munitions. Any nation that possesses, builds, hosts, or finances these weapons may be charged and tried for crimes against humanity in the International Courts of Justice. Of course, none of the 9 nuclear armed states, US, Russia, UK, France, Israel, India, Pakistan, China, or North Korea have signed on, but now they can be pressured to react by the rest of the world community. This unprecedented occasion will be celebrated around the world.

[This link is to a virtual event sponsored by Washington and Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.](#)

<https://www.icanw.org/> shows many more of the celebrations. Please sign on to as many as you want, and report back to us on what goes on. We will gladly share your impressions next month. Thank you.

Another important happening this month is **January 27. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists** will update the **Doomsday Clock**. The Bulletin was created in 1945 by some of the scientific participants in the Manhattan Project, and their annual resetting of the Doomsday Clock has consistently tracked the potential for global disaster since 1947.

As the 2020 statement opened with these words

"To: Leaders and citizens of the world

Re: Closer than ever: It is 100 seconds to midnight

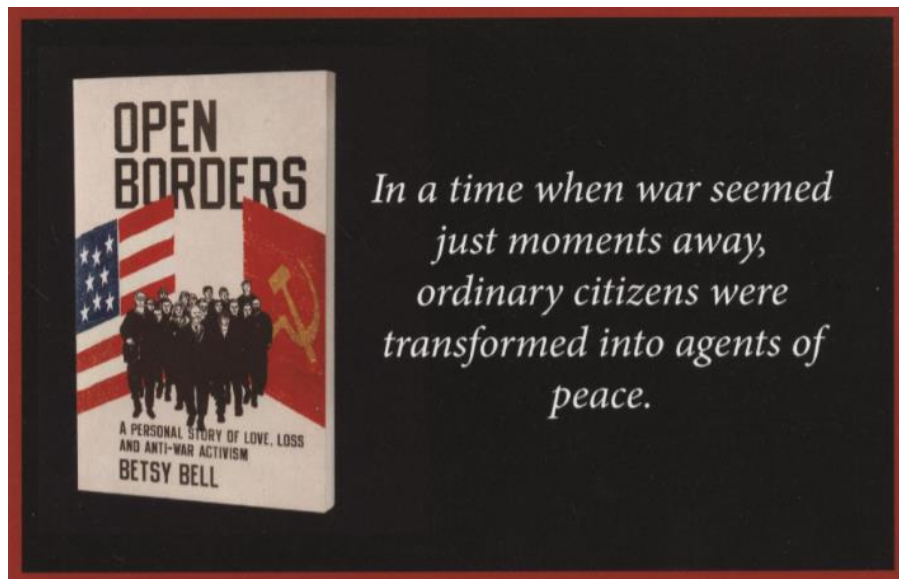
Date: January 23, 2020

Humanity continues to face two simultaneous existential dangers—nuclear war and climate change—that are compounded by a threat multiplier, cyber-enabled information warfare, that undercuts society's ability to respond. The international security situation is dire, not just because these threats exist, but because world leaders have allowed the international political infrastructure for managing them to erode."

the Doomsday Clock has been ticking away, and we will learn where these expert witnesses see our chances of survival a year hence.

[This link opens the webpage for their virtual event.](#)

Our next **No More Bombs meeting, Wednesday February 17, at 7 PM** is a zoom event. We will be joined by lifelong peace activist and author **Betsy Bell**, who will share with us the events covered in her book *Open Borders*, when she and other bold citizen diplomats reached out to establish cultural exchanges with folks in the USSR. Since then Betsy has continued to be a leader in Peace and Nuclear Disarmament work, and she will tell us about those efforts, and how we may all become more involved. To sign on to this zoom meeting, visit our website <https://www.nomorebombs.org/>, and click on the link, which will be posted there the day before the meeting.



New START is the last arms control treaty with Russia that has not been cancelled, and as such is the last possible means of communication between the nuclear superpowers. This treaty has been very successful in reducing the numbers of warheads to the current levels of about 14,000, including less than 8000 of which are actually deployed by US and Russia, but progress has been stalled at that stage for 4 years. The sophisticated inspection regime is still in place, verifying compliance by both sides. This treaty is set to expire on February 5, 2021. It was written to allow a 5 year extension, simply by resigning by both presidents, and so far Russia's Putin has indicated that he was ready to do so. Now that we have a new president, this invaluable treaty can be saved, and the next rounds of negotiations can further reduce the numbers of nuclear warheads maintained by Russia and the US. One of President Joe Biden's most pressing issues will be to appoint the negotiation team, and get together with Vladimir Putin, to make it happen. We wish them all success. More information about the New START is available at these sites:

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/NewSTART>

<https://www.state.gov/new-start/>

Upcoming No More Bombs Zoom meetings will include a May 18 visit with Trisha Pritikin, a Hanford Downwinder. More on this meeting in future letters. We are always open to your suggestions for subjects of interest, and other activities we can share. When the pandemic no longer dominates our lives, we look forward to once again meeting in person, and hope to join hands again, in solidarity for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament.

Please let us know how we can improve our group and our participation in advancing the cause of Peace and Nuclear Disarmament. We need your ideas, and welcome your involvement. Contact us by email: Bud Anderson budathome2012@hotmail.com , Julia Hurd hurdjulia@gmail.com , Kathleen Flanagan tomflanagan1@comcast.net , Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com , or me Tracy Powell tracy@nomorebombs.org, or call or text me 360-840-3826. Peace and Love, All

"It is not enough to say we must not wage war. It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it. Somehow, we must transform the dynamics of the world power struggle from the negative nuclear arms race, which no one can win, to a positive contest to harness humanity's creative genius for the purpose of making peace and prosperity a reality for all the nations of the world."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

