

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter number 17

October 2019

Hello, Dear Friends of Peace,

Each change of season reminds us of the relentless turn of the great wheel, and day by day we wander toward the future. While we are constantly distracted by current events, many of which we can't do much about, there are still all around us problems still unresolved, and people still suffering from past mistakes and outright abuses. Like the "cleanup" of Hanford that Bud Anderson presented in our last meeting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJFM2QIphEk&t=549s> (This video was recorded for us by Zain Butler, and we hope to continue the practice with future meetings, so you can see them even if you can't attend.)

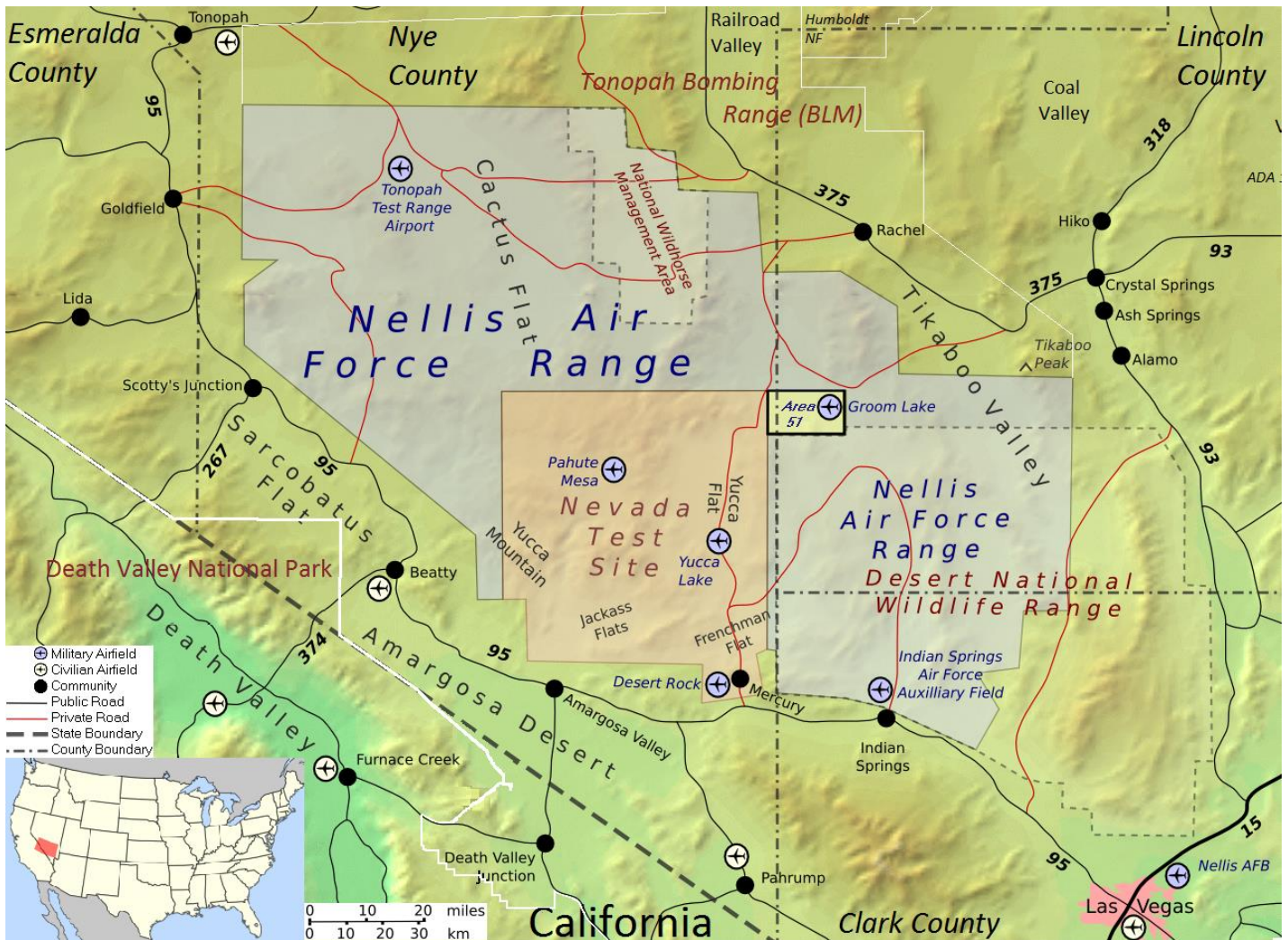
There are still many widespread polluted sites and populations struggling with lingering nuclear contamination, and we will follow up the discussion with news of a couple of them in this letter.

Before we delve, an announcement of our next NoMoreBombs meeting: On November 4th, 7pm, at the Anacortes Library, Bud Anderson will host the showing of two short films that stress **The need to eliminate nuclear weapons worldwide**. The first film will feature a retired Royal Navy Commander, Robert Green, as he discusses "The Insanity of Nuclear Deterrence". Our second film is titled "Nuclear Tipping Point" and features General Colin Powell, Senator Sam Nunn, Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defense William Perry, and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. The presenters build a case from their personal experiences that led them to support a goal of a world without nuclear weapons and the steps needed to get there. I encourage you all to attend this presentation, and share this notice with anyone who might be interested. These are very informative programs, and will be followed up with questions and answers, and your own comments.

We will be having meetings more regularly now, including movies and visits from some of the other Peace groups with whom we are affiliated. As I follow the activities of these other groups, several things are becoming clear. For one, all of us are involved in many issues simultaneously, and we feel pulled from one to another, and consequently don't seem to make much progress on any of them. It can be useful to step back and look for the connections between issues, and find ways to apply our energy to intersecting causes more effectively. As an example, the way that Union of Concerned Scientists are treating climate change and nuclear weapons as related to each other. Think Warheads to Windmills. More on that later.

If you have any suggestions of topics for meetings, or want to present something yourself, please contact us and join in. Thank you all, tracy

Western Shoshone Territory in Nevada



Shoshone Tribal land that was never surrendered was used as the Nevada Nuclear Test Site for nearly 40 years, where 100 atmospheric and 900 underground detonations occurred. It is also where the infamous Yucca Mountain Permanent Nuclear Waste Repository is being revived. Here is the ultimate sweep-it-under-the-rug. Yucca Mountain was designated as the final resting place for all the US radioactive wastes. Digging began in 1994, and went on for years, while the technology for actually processing those wastes into materials that could be transported and buried there lagged far behind. DOE still has not figured out how to do the vitrification that was supposed to render the waste products safe enough to ship, and last forever. And in recent years, it didn't really matter: the State of Nevada, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Congress stopped all work in 2016. The project has been locked up since then. Now, of course, DOE has decided to start it up again.

https://lasvegassun.com/news/2019/aug/15/native-american-tribe-claims-nuclear-waste-cant-be/?link_id=9&can_id=505ed012fbc381d5121b2c0872f4f9c&source=email-sunflower-newsletter-september-2019&email_referrer=email_606648&email_subject=sunflower-newsletter-september-2019

Perhaps the most severely damaged and forgotten victims of US nuclear weapons may be the people of the **Marshall Islands**. From 1946 through 1958, 67 nuclear warheads were exploded there. All in the air, or at the ocean surface, both fission atomic and plutonium bombs and the far more destructive thermonuclear hydrogen bombs. This group of small islands and atolls was deliberately chosen because it was far from the mainland, and inhabited by indigenous people nobody here knew of or cared about. The most powerful warhead the US ever tested was the Bravo device, a 15 megaton monster, 1000 times as destructive as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Due to miscalculation or impatience, the wind that morning unexpectedly spread the enormous fallout pattern over civilians and military alike, and while the military personnel were evacuated fairly quickly, the native islanders were left in the middle of what looked like a snowstorm of radioactive particles that covered them, their islands, and the sea around them. They were not told what it was, nor that they should not touch the dust, let alone play in it and eat it, as many of the children did. What the Navy did was to send in teams of doctors to monitor the victims, measuring their bodies' responses to the external radiation burns and internal damage, while never treating their wounds or violent sicknesses. This abuse was recorded in a 2011 movie titled "Nuclear Savage", made for PBS, and which we may show at one of our meetings if we are up to it.

Many Marshall Islanders died right away, many more suffered severe radiation caused illnesses for years after, and successive generations continue to suffer with genetic defects and malnutrition because their islands no longer can sustain them. Plant and animal populations there are still not safe to eat. Many have emigrated to other South Pacific communities, Europe, and here to our country. Among the humanitarian groups working to help them here are [Oregon](#) and [Washington chapters of Physicians for Social Responsibility](#), in affiliation with Marshall Islanders' own association, the [COFA Alliance National Network](#).

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/apple-health-medicaid/cofa-islander-health-care> explains much of the good work they are doing. One more reason we are part of the WPSR's <https://www.wanwcoalition.org/>

Recently, this video was produced the young people of the Marshall Islands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDVND8mPaso>



I urge you to watch this, and share it with everyone you know, and

OK, there are a few good things to relate.

One is the recent court ruling involving **Oak Ridge, Tennessee**. The Department of Energy had planned to restart the uranium processing facility there, as part of the current push to build new and more powerful nuclear weapons, the Defense Department's \$1.7 Trillion "modernization" scheme. In suits filed by NRDC and local environmental groups, many violations of National Environmental Protection Act were exposed, and the judge has ruled in the plaintiffs' favor, forcing the DOE to start over and submit the process to full NEPA review. Since this is the prime enrichment plant that would have provided the plutonium for the new warheads, this ruling will pause the whole program. Of course, DOE will appeal, and keep pushing to start, but it is a significant delay, and gives further lawsuits against other phases of "modernization" more time to work their way through the courts. We will keep watching.

Another hint of progress is the latest group of nations that have ratified the **ICAN Treaty** to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. Bangladesh, Bolivia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Laos, Maldives, Panama, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, have all done so this year, 7 of them in just the last 2 months, bringing the total to 32 nations, of the 50 required to bring the treaty into effect as international law. It is a testament to the good sense of these nations, that they are not intimidated by the nuclear armed countries that have refused to participate, and that the disarmament movement is truly global. You can track the progress and learn more here: <http://www.icanw.org/status-of-the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons/>

And there is also good work being done across the country to get legislative bodies at many levels of government to adopt **Back From The Brink Resolutions**. These are statements adopted by cities, counties, states, and other jurisdictions declaring their support for the principles of nuclear disarmament, similar to nuclear free zones, but specifically including the 5 points of Back from the Brink: No first use, End sole presidential authority, End hair-trigger alert, Cancel enhanced weapons, Pursue global elimination. We will be working with WPSR on this in the future. Stay tuned.

And right here, we welcome the growing roles of Bud Anderson and Julia Hurd in our local efforts. Bud will be running our meetings, and Julia brings her deep experience in peace activism to guide us in our new work.

Many thanks to you both!

Please contact any of us if you have ideas, complaints, or suggestions. Julia Hurd julia@qsoup.net, Bud Anderson, budathome2012@hotmail.com, Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com, Lyndon Greene anacomaritimectr@msn.com, or me tracy@nomorebombs.org or call or text me at 360-840-3826.

"Nuclear weapons are an obscenity. They are the very antithesis of humanity, of goodness in this world."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

