

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter no. 5

October, 2018

Greetings Friends of Peace,

There are lots of news stories about nuclear weapons and the threats of war going around these days. Because our group is not holding any meetings this month, I will devote this newsletter to some of the more important events and ongoing stories in the bigger world, and recommend some of the better sources of information available to us, so we may keep up. In addition, I am including an update on another facet of our local peace work, dealing with gun violence. While irresponsible bigshots threaten us all with their enormous arsenals of bombs and missiles, reckless individuals in each of our communities are picking off innocent people with personal weapons one at a time, or by the dozen. The same motivation, fear, lies behind both levels of violence. Fear is a human fault we can't easily heal, but we can do something to lessen the damage fear can do by removing the deadly tools wielded by the fearful. Thank you for reading, Tracy W Powell

The International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons keeps gaining ground. As of the end of September, another nine nations signed the treaty and five ratified. This brings the total to 69 signatures and 19 ratifications. The TPNW will enter into force 90 days after the 50th nation deposits its ratification with the UN. Full details are available from [ICAN](#) here.

To celebrate that this is not the 35th anniversary of World War III, the man who helped avert an all-out nuclear exchange between Russia and the United States on September 26, 1983 was posthumously honored in New York with the Future of Life Award. At a recent ceremony at the Museum of Mathematics in New York, former United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon said: "It is hard to imagine anything more devastating for humanity than all-out nuclear war between Russia and the United States. Yet this might have occurred by accident on September 26 1983, were it not for the wise decisions of Stanislav Yevgrafovich Petrov." He was a lieutenant colonel in the Soviet Air Defense, on duty when the Oko early-warning system reported that a missile had been launched from the US, followed by up to five more. Petrov judged the reports to be a false alarm, and his decision to disobey orders, against Soviet military protocol, is credited with having prevented an erroneous retaliatory nuclear strike on the United States and its NATO allies that could have resulted in all-

out nuclear war. Investigation later confirmed that the Soviet satellite warning system had indeed misidentified sunlight reflected off of cloudtops. This story reported by the [Bulletin of Atomic Scientists](#). It is worth noting that there have been several such near misses in the seven decades of the nuclear arms standoff. Both American and Russian officers have interrupted mistaken orders to fire, often with minutes to spare, and narrowly avoided a nuclear holocaust. How long can we expect to keep dodging that bullet?

The [Washington Coalition Against Nuclear Weapons](#), of which we are a member, has developed a proposal called **Back from the Brink: a Call to Prevent Nuclear War**, for introduction to congress and other legislative bodies, with 5 basic principles.

1. renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first
2. ending the president's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack
3. taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert
4. cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons;
5. actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals

Word document and pdf containing the full text in detail are available on our website [here](#).

Recently the National Nuclear Security Administration, the portion of the US Department of Energy that funds our nuclear arsenal, has announced that the life extension and system upgrades of the B61 nuclear gravity bomb completed its final design review, and should be producing new improved bombs by 2020. Some of these more powerful and more accurate bombs will be assigned to fighter planes, like the F-16 and F-18 flying out of NAS Whidbey. [The story from Defense News is here](#).

A new report has been released by Global Zero, one of the leading ND organizations, entitled "The End of Nuclear Warfighting: Moving to a Deterrence-Only Posture, an alternative US nuclear posture review", by Bruce G. Blair, with Jessica Sleight and Emma Claire Foley. It calls for a step by step process toward disarmament, starting with specific reductions in selected programs, a no-first-use pledge, and removing hair-trigger status from existing weapons systems. You can read it [here](#). This will undoubtedly stimulate some discussion in the community, about whether our focus should be broad, i.e. total elimination of all nuclear weapons, or gradual progress in smaller steps. What do we think?

Hold the LYNE Act HR 6840 was introduced in Congress on September 17 by Ted Lieu (D-CA), and cosponsored by Adam Smith (D-WA), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), and John Garimendi (D-CA). It would prohibit the development and deployment of the new yow-yield nuclear warheads that the Pentagon wants to put on Trident submarines. These new weapons would be indistinguishable to an enemy, from the full scale warheads now employed on Trident missiles, and would greatly increase the likelihood that a "tactical" strike would rapidly escalate into nuclear war. So far 13 more Representatives have cosponsored the bill, but neither Rick Larsen nor Susan DelBene have joined them. Let's let them know what we think.

Guns to art update: The Anacortes Regeneration Project is moving forward. So far, an even dozen firearms have been donated, and disabled, and we are preparing to turn them into sculpture. If you wish to donate a gun, or money that we can use to buy up guns to get them off the street, check it out here.

<http://www.anacortesregenerationproject.com/> The website has links to a donation page, and facebook page, and you can follow the progress of the artists' collaboration. As artworks are created, there will be public showings, and more conversations about gun violence. Stay tuned. Our two public turn-in events were successful, and we don't yet have any more scheduled, but if you have guns you don't want anymore, you can contact me, (see info below) and I will come pick them up, disable them, and add them to our project. This is a chance for us to contribute to a safer world on a local scale, as our work to eliminate nuclear weapons is devoted to help to ensure global survival. Thanks, tracy@nomorebombs.org

Here are a couple of excellent resources to keep up with the events that matter in the nuclear arms world. [The Sunflower newsletter from Nuclear Age Peace Foundation](#), and [Bulletin of Atomic Scientists](#), both monthly newsletters you can subscribe to, both much more complete than anything we can do.

As always, we depend on your suggestions to guide us in our work, and welcome questions and criticism too. We have two public speaking workshops scheduled, Nov 21 at 4:30, and Dec 17 at 3:30, both at Anacortes Public Library meeting room. We will continue our discussion from September, building talks and slide shows that will be available for anyone to present to friends, family, or any group you belong to. Come help us, or watch for future meetings when we will make formal presentations. In the meantime, you can contact us with any comments or ideas. tracy@nomorebombs.org, phone 360-840-3826, Lyndon Greene anacomaritimectr@msn.com, phone 360-299-9075, Bud Anderson budathome2012@hotmail.com, phone 360-540-5729, Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com, 360-588-9256

Our website is <https://www.nomorebombs.org/>. If you wish to be dropped from this mailing list, please tell me. If you wish to help spread these ideas, please share this with others.

A Quote to ponder:

“The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe.”

Albert Einstein

