

PEOPLE FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT HIROSHIMA DAY PRESS RELEASE NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION

As the 67th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki approaches on 6th and 9th August, People for Nuclear Disarmament NSW's International Nuclear Weapons Campaigner John Hallam has called for Australia to bolster its support for a nuclear weapons convention that would outlaw nuclear weapons forever.

According to Mr Hallam,

“It is clear that even now, more than 20 years after the cold war has supposedly ended, that there are still more than enough warheads in the US and Russian arsenals to not only end civilisation in approximately 40 minutes, but to severely impact some 95% of complex land-based life-forms, and to do so by accident, miscalculation, or malfunction.”

“Even a 'small' nuclear war between say, India and Pakistan, involving approximately 200 Hiroshima-Sized warheads targeting megacities could produce a 'prompt' bodycount of up to 150 million and 'nuclear winter' effects from the millions of tonnes of smoke lifted high into the stratosphere that could produce up to a billion subsequent deaths from famine. A US-Russia nuclear 'exchange' would end what we call civilisation and produce the largest temperature drops since the last ice-age.”

“Nuclear abolitionists worldwide are committed to ensuring that nuclear weapons – not merely nonexistent ones in Iran, but the all-too-real and numerous ones in the US, Russia, China, France, Israel, India, Pakistan, the UK, and the tiny DPRK arsenal – are decisively eliminated as a matter of urgency as befits weapons that threaten human survival.

“To this end we advocate a Nuclear Weapons Convention, similar to the

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Written by John Hallam

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Chemical Weapons Convention, that would not only make nuclear weapons possession by any country illegal but would establish a comprehensive monitoring and verification system to make cheating physically impossible. A model Nuclear Weapons Convention has already been several times adopted by the UN General Assembly. It is vital that the Australian government get forcefully behind this convention.”

“PND, the Hiroshima Day Committee and the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at Sydney University have brought out to Sydney former Soviet Strategic rocket forces officer, Colonel Valery Yarynich, to talk about accidental nuclear war and the dangers posed by nuclear weapons.

Colonel Yarynich will speak at a forum at the NSWTF (Mary St, Surry Hills) on 6Aug at 6pm, together with author Paul Ham, and PND Nuclear Weapons Campaigner John Hallam.(Inquiries John Hallam 9810-2598 0416-500-793)

Colonel Yarynich will also be available to media at the Hiroshima Rally on 5 Aug 12 noon in Hyde Park North, together with MP Jamie Parker, Rita Mallia (CFMEU), and Dennis Doherty.(John Hallam 9810-2598 0416-500-793)

In addition, Colonel Valery will be launching the Human Survival project at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies on 8Aug 4-6pm Rm 030 New Law School Building. (Inquiries Prof. Peter King, 0422-647-025, John Hallam 9810-2598, 0416-500-793,).

Col. Valery will also be speaking at the Lowy Institute on 9Aug, at the Australian Institute of International Affairs on 15th, and in Canberra to DFAT and CNND on 14th.

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