

# NUCLEAR WEAPONS STILL A THREAT TO HUMAN SURVIVAL SAY 124 GOVERNMENTS

Written by John Hallam

Tuesday, 22 October 2013 16:04 - Last Updated Sunday, 08 February 2015 22:22

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## PEOPLE FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

### UNITED NATIONS STATEMENT ON CATASTROPHIC HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS USE WELCOMED

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People for Nuclear Disarmament has strongly welcomed the joint statement made by New Zealand at the United Nations First Committee on behalf of 124 governments, on catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use.

A similar statement signed by 17 governments was coordinated by Australia.

According to PND nuclear weapons campaigner John Hallam, who has campaigned over the years at the United Nations, and whose work has resulted in a resolution on the General Assembly on accidental nuclear war, "The Joint Statement coordinated by NZ follows on from similar statements that have come from last years General Assembly, signed by 32 governments, and last May's NPT meeting in Geneva, signed by 80 governments."

"The joint Statement correctly points to the existential nature of the threat posed by large-scale nuclear weapons use, and in a number of places from 1955 onwards states that many authorities including the UN itself have said that nuclear weapons are a potential threat to human survival. There is no reasonable doubt that this is so."

"The use of the nuclear arsenals held by India and Pakistan, assuming each of them has approximately 100 Hiroshima – sized weapons each, would lead to a 'nuclear autumn' in which up to a billion people could still die of famine resulting from the climatic effects of the 5 million tonnes or so of very black soot lofted into the upper stratosphere from burning cities in South Asia – itself producing a body – count of up to 150 million."

"The use of the 2000 or so warheads each kept on high alert by the US and Russia, each of them 10-20 times the size of the Hiroshima warhead, would according to peer-reviewed climate modeling that uses the same climate models as those used to model global warming, create the coldest conditions since the last ice – age, and these would last approximately a decade."

"That nuclear weapons represent a potential threat to human life and to what we call civilization is not a new idea, but it is one that has been assuming greater and greater prominence in United Nations forums

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and nuclear disarmament meetings.”

“Nuclear weapons are about as valuable to human security as a suicide – vest. It is high time they were gotten rid of, and the apocalypse taken off the global agenda.”

A statement welcoming the Joint Statement has also been issued by ICAN.  
(See <http://www.icanw.org/media/media-releases/> )

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