

October 27, 2015

Your Honor and fellow Citizens,

I plead with you as a fellow American citizen to abolish nuclear weapons! I'll be 65 this December; I've lived with the terrible threat of nuclear destruction my entire life--"duck and cover" when I was a child. As a youngster, I watched "The Trial At Nuremberg" with my Jewish mother and heard the American judge rule that the German judges who did not try to stop the Holocaust were guilty of crimes against humanity. The United States signed the Nuremberg Principles which declare the making of, preparation for, and use of weapons of mass destruction illegal and require all citizens to try to stop their government from making, preparing for use, and using them.

My fellow citizen protestors used the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to draw attention to the horrors of nuclear weapons. We gave public witness, wrote letters to our President and members of Congress, and committed nonviolent civil disobedience in order to repent and prevent our country's horrible crime against humanity and say, "Never Again"!

I am a teacher and community activist. I volunteer as a Community Response Team member with my local fire department. We prepare for and respond to disasters; there is no possible response to nuclear war except to prevent it! I run the Kiwanis Kids program at Belfair Elementary School because I support young people's chance to better their lives and community. They are awesome and being cheated! Their school and technology are inferior. They face terrible obstacles to affordable higher education and getting good jobs with reasonable pay and security. Prior to this, I worked for fifteen years with homeless children who faced the terror of hunger and not knowing where they would go at the end of the school day. It is inexcusable that we allow children to starve while wasting billions on weapons we say we will never use!

While the US spends \$60 billion a year on weapons of mass destruction and proposes using another \$100 billion to upgrade the Trident submarine program, we can not provide an excellent, affordable educational system, healthcare for all, social security, or decent homes. Why?

My mother died from Alzheimer's disease and I have early symptoms. It is estimated that millions of Americans will suffer from this disease and that we need \$2 billion yearly to research causes and cures, but we don't have the money. Why? We are wasting current lives and threatening our future because of out dated models of thinking about defense and security.

The US nuclear weapons industry and US military's willingness to build and deploy Trident submarines are a crime against humanity, targeting millions of civilians, and threatening the continuation of life on our planet. I am doing my part to stop this immorality and insanity and I urge you to do yours!

For peace and terra,



Michael Siptroth  
2160 E Trails End Dr  
Belfair, WA 98528  
1-360-275-8441