

Statement to the Court

Mitigation Hearing September 30, 2016

August 8, 2016 was the week of the 72nd anniversary of the first and only use of nuclear weapons. These weapons were used on the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. More than 200,000 people were killed and many more were severely injured.

I stepped into the roadway at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on August 16th to say this must never happen again, that business as usual at Bangor MUST stop!

The weapons of mass destruction that are stored, maintained and deployed from this Base are an affront to humanity and an insult to God and God's creation. They kill indiscriminately and have the power to destroy the planet. They are wrong on so many levels.

In the next 30 years, this government is set to spend 1 TRILLION dollars to replace, upgrade and maintain these weapons of mass destruction.

In the meantime, our infrastructure is crumbling. Roads and bridges are falling apart. Many of our water systems are contaminated with lead and other chemicals. Social services for the poor are being drastically cut. Quality health care is still out of reach of many. Student debt is crippling. Housing is out of reach for many, with homelessness ever increasing. Education is unequally and in some cases, barely, funded.

So what could 1Trillion dollars get us today? Just one example: Investing in the education sector would create 26.7 million jobs. Plus the millions of jobs that would be created while rebuilding roads, bridges and out dated and dangerous water systems.

Congress says they just cannot find the money to fund these life giving programs.

BUT it seems they can find money to fund these weapons of mass destruction and death.

The sign that Mack Johnson and I held, pointed out that the largest concentration of nuclear weapons in one place in this country, is at Bangor. The sign Phil Davis and George Rodkey held said, "No more genocide in my Name". Raymond Hunthausen, the Catholic Archbishop of Seattle in the 70' and 80's, called Bangor, "the Auschwitz of Puget Sound". The weapons at this Base can indeed cause genocide of epic proportions if they are ever used.

Indeed, the question is, can these weapons ever even be used, be it as a first strike or in response to an attack from some other nuclear power. We are, after all, the only nation in the world that has actually used these weapons of mass destruction.

We are now back to the era of the cold war of the 50's and 60's, MAD. Mutually Assured Destruction.

To quote David Hall of Physicians for Social Responsibility and Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and Leonard Eiger also of Ground Zero Center, in a recent article in the Seattle Times op-ed, " The use of nuclear weapons is illegal under international law and humanitarian law - unusable because there is no way to limit escalation, are exorbitantly expensive, and are a massive diversion of human talent and resources away from resources, diplomacy, foreign assistance, innovation and public health."

Our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren deserve better. They deserve a life. They deserve a nuclear free world.

And that is why I stepped in the road to say, never again, no business as usual, at this base.

I would invite you to inform yourself on this very important issue and join us in saying no to nuclear weapons.

Thank you.

Sue Ablao