

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE BRINGS NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT TO THE TABLE!

Dear Brothers and Sisters on Planet Earth:

ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (www.canw.org) has just won this year's Nobel Peace Prize!

A coalition of non-governmental organizations in 100 countries, ICAN helped draft the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons that was ratified by the United Nations on July 7, 2017 with the approval of 122 nations. **Fully two-thirds of the world's nation-states have voted to banish nuclear weapons** - the most destructive weapon ever created, capable of erasing humanity from the face of the earth.

The United States and some other nuclear nations have thus far declined to sign the treaty. But as one advocate put it: "You cannot wait for the smokers to institute a smoking ban."

In an escalating war of words with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, President Donald Trump - who commands the world's most powerful nuclear arsenal - recently threatened to "totally destroy" North Korea. Such reckless rhetoric has raised tensions and increased the likelihood of a nuclear conflict, either intentional or accidental.

ICAN stated: "All nations should reject these [nuclear] weapons completely - before they are ever used again. This is a time of great global tension, when fiery rhetoric could all too easily lead us, inexorably, to unspeakable horror."

According to the laws of war "we can't target civilians," ICAN said. But "nuclear weapons are meant to target civilians; they're meant to wipe out entire cities." This is unacceptable, ICAN stated, adding: "Nuclear weapons no longer get a pass."

In accepting the prestigious prize, ICAN noted that the belief by some governments that nuclear weapons are a legitimate and essential source of security is not only misguided but dangerous, since it incites other nations (such as North Korea) to proliferate their nuclear arsenal, and undermines disarmament efforts.

"The spectre of nuclear conflict looms large once more. If ever there were a moment for nations to declare their unequivocal opposition to nuclear weapons, that moment is now," ICAN said.

But at a time when most of the world's nations are pursuing the abolition of nuclear weapons, the US is moving ahead with its trillion-dollar rebuild of the entire US nuclear weapons triad. The program will include a new fleet of nuclear-armed submarines, many of which will be stationed here at the Kitsap-Bangor Naval Base.

Can the US step back from the brink of nuclear destruction of the planet? The US nuclear upgrade is certainly giving war a chance; but don't we owe it to humanity to give peace a chance?

Please join us, your friends and neighbors, as we work together for a nuclear-free world.

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