

Ground Zero

April 2021

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Choosing to Say “No More!” *Sue Ablao’s Statement to the Court*

By Sue Ablao with introduction by Leonard Eiger

Ground Zero Center member Sue Ablao was one of the activists who blocked traffic leading into Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on March 2, 2020 as part of a public protest of the United States’ Trident ballistic missile submarines based there. The nonviolent direct action came at the conclusion of the annual gathering of the Pacific Life Community, a network of spiritually motivated activists from the Pacific Coast and other western states committed to nonviolent action for a nuclear-free future. Ablao and others (who did not cross over onto the base) were cited by the Washington State Patrol, and she appeared in Kitsap District Court on March 9, 2021. Ablao read her statement to the judge, who then ruled to dismiss “in the interest of justice”. This is the second time Ablao received that ruling. Her statement follows:

A little more than a year ago, I stood in the road at the gates of Sub Base Bangor, home of eight Trident nuclear submarines, along with 8 other folks. We had spent the weekend in retreat discussing the abolition of nuclear weapons along with other members of the Pacific Life Community as I have done for the last 13 years.

We stood in the road at Bangor to say “no to nuclear weapons” with banners that read “Trident Threatens

Life on Earth” and “Abolish Nuclear Weapons”.

In retrospect, this past year has been one of chaos. We have seen the Covid pandemic rage out of control while the climate crisis deepened, and an administration that didn’t lead, and worse, didn’t care. Millions of people are unhoused, the working poor need two or more jobs to support themselves and their families, millions more cannot afford health care, and infrastructure is falling apart while over 500,000 Americans have died in the pandemic.

Yet the US government has been spending on average nearly \$50 billion each year on nuclear weapons, and since 1940 has spent over \$9.5 trillion on nuclear weapons. These trillions could have been spent on life giving policies and programs instead of life exterminating nuclear weapons that can never be used.

I chose to say no “no more!” I have been saying no more for decades and will continue to do so.

I want my grandkids and great-grands to know a world without nuclear weapons. We must take the lead and abolish nuclear weapons before they abolish us!

Sue Ablao serves on the Stewardship Council. In the photo above, courtesy of The Nuclear Resister, she is third from the left.

From the Civil War, to Warheads, to Windmills Join Ground Zero for Mother's Day on Saturday, May 8!

By Mack Johnson

Julia Ward Howe's original proclamation, exhorting the world to oppose the evils of war, still has meaning today. For war has continued, and today the threats of militarism, nuclear war, and environmental collapse are intertwined.

Fortunately, so are the solutions. That is one of the messages of NuclearBan.us. Co-founders Timmon Wallis and Vicki Elson will present (over Zoom) on how diverting military spending to green jobs is possible. This keynote address is part of this year's Ground Zero Center Mother's Day weekend event.

Plowshares activist and nuclear resister Father Steve Kelly, S.J., has also accepted an invitation to speak (see article below). The day's events include a march to the Bangor main gate, vigil, and possible nonviolent direct action against nuclear weapons.

I have to say personally that I was struck in a previous talk by Vicki and Tim how "practical" it seems from their perspective to pay for a clean-energy economy. I feel grateful that we have speakers for Mother's Day whose perspectives combine such clear moral vision and solid scientific and policy information.

We look forward to another combined in-person and virtual gathering. We are optimistic that many attendees will be double-vaccinated against COVID-19 (of



course! We're mostly old!!) and able to come in person. To protect everyone's health, we will require that guidelines for masks, distancing and hand washing be followed, and that attendees bring their own food. Use of the house will be limited.

Here is a general schedule for May 8, subject to change based on "weather and whether":

9:00 House open, attendees gather via Zoom; social hour and informal check-in

9:30 Update on recent Ground Zero activities OR a visit by Steve Kelly

10:00 Zoom presentation by nuclearban.us speakers Tim Wallis and Vicki Elson, with questions, discussion, the current situation, etc

11:00-1:00 Lunch, discernment, action planning, possibly Fr. Steve

1:30 Gathering circle for march to gate

2:00 Vigil, witness, possible action

3:00 Return to Ground Zero grounds, debrief, clean up. The help of any visitors in cleaning, picking up furniture and supplies, scrubbing bathrooms and general tidying is needed and appreciated!

Mack Johnson has been active with Ground Zero since 1998. He lives on Hood Canal close to the Bangor fence. Mack is the recording secretary and serves on the House and Grounds, leafleting, and various action committees.

Nuclear Resister and Kings Bay Plowshares 7 Priest Steve Kelly May Deliver Mothers Day Message in Freedom

By Elizabeth Murray

If Kings Bay Plowshares 7 nuclear resister Father Steve Kelly, S.J., - the Jesuit priest who recently spent nearly three years in Brunswick, GA prison for his nonviolent direct action (along with his fellow Kings Bay Plowshares 7 activists) at the Kings Bay Navy base that is home to six Trident nuclear submarines - is released following his April 13th sentencing hearing - he may be able to personally address the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action's annual Mother's Day event on Saturday, May 8th. Co-directors of NuclearBan.US Timmon Wallis and Vicki Elson are also scheduled to speak at the event, which will likely consist of both virtual and on-the-ground events — factoring in Covid-19 precautions.

Father Kelly - who accepted Ground Zero's Mothers Day speaking invitation immediately despite the uncertainty of what the US justice system would have in store for him - is now in Tacoma, WA awaiting sentencing on probation violation charges.

The charges stemmed from Father Kelly's arrest on trespass charges at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Silverdale, Washington during a [Pacific Life Community](#) nonviolent direct action in March 2017. During sentencing, Father Kelly had declared his intention not to cooperate with a federal judge's probation order, and a

Father Steve Kelly... continued on page 3

warrant was subsequently issued for his arrest. He will be sentenced on Wednesday, April 13th.

Less than 24 hours following his arrival in Tacoma from Pahrump, Nevada on March 30th, Father Kelly was accorded a preliminary hearing by Federal Judge David Christel on March 31st. Steve was represented by his attorney, Blake Kremer, since he had waived his own appearance via Zoom videoconference technology. Steve had earlier requested and been denied an in-person hearing, presumably due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Following the March 31st preliminary hearing with Judge Christel, Attorney Kremer argued successfully with the probation office that since Father Kelly will have already served out the maximum six-month sentence for probation by the April 13th hearing date, it made no sense for the court to impose the probation representative's recommendation that Steve live in a halfway house under court supervision after he completes the maximum sentence on April 13th. The probation office agreed with Kremer's logic — and it is therefore highly likely that Father Kelly will be released following his sentencing hearing on April 13th.

Tacoma, Washington was the final destination in what has been a 5-and-1/2-month arduous ordeal of carceral transport by US federal marshals from the Glynn County Detention Center in Brunswick, GA to the federal courthouse in Tacoma, Washington. Along the journey of imprisonment, Steve was held in prisons in Baker City, Florida, Oklahoma City, OK and Pahrump, Nevada - at times for extended periods.

It was in light of the inordinately lengthy journey imposed on Father Kelly from Brunswick, GA - where he had just completed a 33-month sentence - to Tacoma, Washington that Attorney Kremer had argued for his client's immediate release at the March 31st hearing; however, government prosecutors countered that since 13 more days remained before it could be said that he had served a six-month term, they demanded that Father Kelly remain imprisoned for 13 additional days. Judge Christel concurred.

Easter Sunday - April 4, 2021 - marked the third anniversary of the Kings Bay Plowshares action in Kings Bay, Georgia - and also the 53rd anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. — renowned civil rights leader, powerful advocate of nonviolent resistance, and passionate opponent of the US military-industrial complex. On that deliberately chosen MLK death anniversary day in 2018, Father Kelly and his six co-activists Martha Hennessy, Clare Grady, Elizabeth McAlister, Patrick O'Neill, Carmen Trotta, and Mark Colville - were moved to act by their collective moral conscience and deep love for humanity. They stepped into the US Navy base at Kings Bay, Georgia, home to six Trident nuclear missile-armed submarines, capable of inflicting multiple Hiroshimas on the planet, using nonviolent symbols to bring urgent attention to these immoral and illegitimate

weapons, which threaten all life on earth. Such bold and life-affirming actions are more timely and relevant than ever in light of the Biden administration's announced plans to ramp up the scale of US nuclear weapons programs (see <https://mronline.org/2021/03/13/whats-behind-the-biden-administrations-new-100-billion-nuclear-missile-system/>)

The Ground Zero Center is deeply honored by Father Steve Kelly's affirmative response to the invitation to speak at the Mother's Day 2021 event. We look forward to the inspiring words of a person of deep spiritual and moral conviction who has sacrificed years of personal freedom to oppose our government's continued embrace of weapons of mass destruction - and this despite the enactment into law of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on January 21, 2021.



Fr. Kelly conducting Mass and shared Eucharist in front of the gates of the Trident Sub Base in 2015. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

As we await Steve's final sentencing – and hopefully the end of his extended ordeal of incarceration – we ask that you keep him in your thoughts and prayers, along with the other Kings Bay Plowshares witnesses currently serving out their prison sentences: Martha Hennessy, Clare Grady, Carmen Trotta and Patrick O'Neill; and Mark Colville, who will be sentenced on April 9. Elizabeth McAlister has completed her prison sentence. See the Kings Bay Plowshares website for information on writing to each of these prisoners of conscience: <https://kingsbayplowshares7.org/>.

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4)

Elizabeth Murray serves on the Stewardship Council. She is a member of *Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity*

End the Nuclear Collusion Between the US and the UK!

By Leonard Eiger

On March 16 the United Kingdom announced (in its Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Foreign Policy and Development titled “Global Britain in a Competitive Age”) that it will increase the limit on its nuclear arsenal for the first time in decades. Instead of maintaining a cap of 180 warheads, the UK will increase its stockpile cap to 260 warheads—a 40% increase. The review also broadens the role of nuclear weapons to include their possible use to address emerging technologies (cyber attacks). This is shocking and unacceptable! Indeed, it seems the British Empire is flexing its imperial muscles as it breaks away from the rest of Europe.

The announcement comes at a precarious time. A new nuclear arms race is brewing. The US and Russia, the two largest nuclear powers (with some 93% of global nuclear warheads) are failing to lead the world away from reliance on nuclear weapons, and other nations are following their lead. At a time when most nations are calling for an end to nuclear weapons (UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons), rather than setting a positive example and supporting the treaty, the UK is instead fanning the flames of proliferation. And, it is getting loads of help along the way.

Just prior to the announcement a spokesperson for the UK Ministry of Defence reiterated the longstanding claim that the “UK is committed to maintaining its independent nuclear deterrent, which exists to deter the most extreme threats to our national security and way of life.” The British have been claiming their nuclear weapons systems to be “independent” for so long that the world seems to have accepted this fraudulent claim. In fact, the UK’s nuclear



Boris Johnson, elite conservative cowboy, currently flexing his nuclear muscles.

forces are anything but independent, and there is ample evidence to disprove the government’s claim. To more fully understand the situation, we need to study a bit of history.

Although the US declared its independence when the original 13 American colonies severed their political connections to Great Britain, the two countries have since found it mutually beneficial to develop a strong alliance; what has become known as the “Special Relationship,”

an unofficial term used to describe certain aspects of their relationship including political, diplomatic, cultural, economic, and military.

And nowhere has their relationship been quite as special as is the case involving nuclear weapons. The two countries signed the Mutual Defense Agreement (MDA) in 1958, a secretly negotiated bilateral treaty on nuclear weapons cooperation under which both countries agreed to exchange classified information to develop their respective nuclear weapon systems.

The treaty permits “the transfer between the United States and the United Kingdom of classified information concerning atomic weapons; nuclear technology and controlled nuclear information; material and equipment for the development of defense plans; training of personnel; evaluation of potential enemy capability; development of delivery systems; and the research, development, and design of military reactors.”

The MDA was last amended in 2014. In 2018 officials from the UK and US met to celebrate the 60-year anniversary of the MDA. The official statement from the US State Department referred to “promoting peace to fighting terrorism” and “advancing each nation’s mutual understanding of the safety, security, and reliability of their respective nuclear weapon stockpiles,” while making no mention of the direct transfers of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems (missiles) currently deployed on British Trident submarines.

The MDA only came about after the UK developed its own thermonuclear weapons, and the US then agreed to supply delivery systems, and designs and nuclear material for British warheads. Both countries’ ballistic missile submarines are commonly referred to as “Trident” due to the missiles they both carry, which are the Trident II D5 submarine-launched ballistic missile manufactured by Lockheed Martin Aerospace, a US-based corporation.

The UK leases the Trident missiles, deployed on its four Trident submarines, from the US government. Those submarines return regularly to the US Trident submarine base in King’s Bay, Georgia, for the maintenance and replacement of the missiles. As of 2017, the UK paid an annual contribution of approximately \$16.7 million towards the operations cost of Kings Bay.

The Trident missile’s navigation and guidance systems are the same on both US and UK versions, and utilize US software. The US Navy supplies weather and gravity data to both US and UK submarines, which is vital to ensuring missile accuracy. Both hardware and

End the Nuclear Collusion!... continued on page 5

software for the fire control system (used to assign targets to warheads) are produced by US companies. The hardware is produced by General Dynamics, a US-based corporation.

All test launches of Trident missiles from British Trident submarines are conducted off the Florida coast and under US supervision. The test data is analyzed by the Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) at Johns Hopkins University and by the Charles Stark Draper Laboratories.

The UK's warheads are what the UK calls "Holbrook", and are mounted on Trident II D5 missiles carried on British Vanguard-class "Trident" nuclear submarines. The "Holbrook" thermonuclear warhead is nearly identical to the US W76 warhead deployed on those same Trident II D5 missiles on US OHIO-class "Trident" submarines. Is this a case of plagiarism or just an all-too cozy, mutually beneficial relationship between two nuclear-armed nations?

According to the British government, their nuclear warheads are designed, manufactured and maintained by the UK's Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE). AWE has been managed since 2000 by AWE Management, of which US-based Lockheed Martin Corporation is a partner, holding a 51% stake in the operation. It was announced in late 2020 that the British government will regain direct control of operations and development of AWE in June 2021.

A UK Ministry of Defense fact sheet states that their warheads are "designed and manufactured in the U.K." However, a declassified U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) document obtained by the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) under the Freedom of Information Act directly links the warhead designs on U.S. and U.K. Trident missiles. Alas, the British nuclear warheads are not so British (if at all).

According to Hans Kristensen, Director of the FAS Nuclear Information Project, based on information in that document, "the 'U.K. Trident System,' as the British warhead modification is called, is similar enough to the U.S. W76 warhead to make up an integral part of the W76 engineering, design and evaluation schedule." The DOE document referred to specific work to be performed on W76 warheads belonging to the "UK Trident System."

Kristensen reported in 2011, based on a report from Sandia National Laboratories, that British Trident submarines would be receiving the upgraded (US) W76 warhead, known as the W76-1," thereby dispelling any rumors of an "independent" British deterrent. Kristensen also noted that "the missile compartment on the next-generation SSBN" – now in production and known as the

Common Missile Compartment - "will be supplied by the United States, and new reactor cores that last the life of future submarines hint of substantial U.S. nuclear assistance."

After that disclosure, UK defense sources confirmed to the Guardian in 2011 "that the new arming device [on the W76-1] would make Britain's nuclear missiles more accurate and more effective." After further, extensive research, Kristensen reported in 2017 about the "revolutionary increase in the lethality of the W76-1 due to the "super-fuze" device that the US Navy had been incorporating into the W76-1 since 2009 as part of its "Life Extension Program," and is currently installed on all W76-1 warheads, in both the US and UK.

Kristensen described how the greatly increased effectiveness of the "super-fuzed" W76-1 in its ability to destroy "hardened targets" [Russian land-based missile silos] essentially "creates exactly what one would expect

to see, if a nuclear-armed state were planning to have the capacity to fight and win a nuclear war by disarming enemies with a surprise first strike." Thanks to the "super-fuze," the warheads on US and UK Tridents combined are far more than enough to destroy all Russian land-based missiles in a first strike. And this has not gone unnoticed by the Russians! Can you say Arms Race Redux??

The UK has been a NATO member since the 1960s, and therefore Trident could be

used against a country attacking another NATO member state. Since NATO has not adopted a no-first-use policy, Trident could also be used in a pre-emptive strike against another nation that was perceived to be a threat. Neither the US nor the UK have no-first-use policies.

Looking into the future, both the US and UK are engaged in programs to build the next generation of ballistic missile submarines to replace their current fleets. Both new subs will incorporate the US-built Common Missile Compartment. There has been talk about a replacement missile for the D5, and a new warhead called the W93 is already being planned, and the British government is engaged in extensive lobbying for it.

The evidence is abundantly clear. The British Trident system is dependent on and, in many ways controlled by, the US in essentially every aspect. It is by no means an "independent nuclear deterrent," even if you believe in deterrence theory. And this has deeply important meaning under international legal norms.

Article I of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of



The "special relationship" involving nukes is a clear danger to the world.

Only Rogue Nations Have Nuclear Weapons!

Op-Ed Originally Published in the Kitsap Sun Newspaper

By Elizabeth Murray and David Swanson

From January 18 to February 14, four large billboards were on display around Seattle that proclaimed “Nuclear Weapons Are Now Illegal. Get them out of Puget Sound!”

What can this possibly mean? Nuclear weapons may be unpleasant, but what is illegal about them, and how can they be in Puget Sound?

Since 1970, under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, most nations have been forbidden to acquire nuclear weapons, and those already possessing them — or at least those party to the treaty, such as the United States — have been obliged to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.”

Needless to say, the U.S. and other nuclear-armed governments have spent 50 years not doing this, and in recent years the U.S. government has torn up treaties limiting nuclear weapons, and invested heavily in building more of them.

Under the same treaty, for 50 years, the U.S. government has been obliged “not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly.” Yet, the U.S. military keeps nuclear weapons in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and Turkey. We can dispute whether that state of affairs violates the treaty, but not whether it outrages millions of people.

“Do the people of Seattle support this? Certainly we have never been consulted.”

ons won the Nobel Peace Prize. On January 22, 2021, this new treaty becomes law in over 50 nations that have formally ratified it, a number that is rising steadily and is widely expected to reach a majority of the world’s nations in the near future.

Three years ago, 122 nations voted to create a new treaty to ban the very possession or sale of nuclear weapons, and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

to Abolish Nuclear Weapons won the Nobel Peace Prize. On January 22, 2021, this new treaty becomes law in over 50 nations that have formally ratified it, a number that is rising steadily and is widely expected to reach a majority of the world’s nations in the near future.

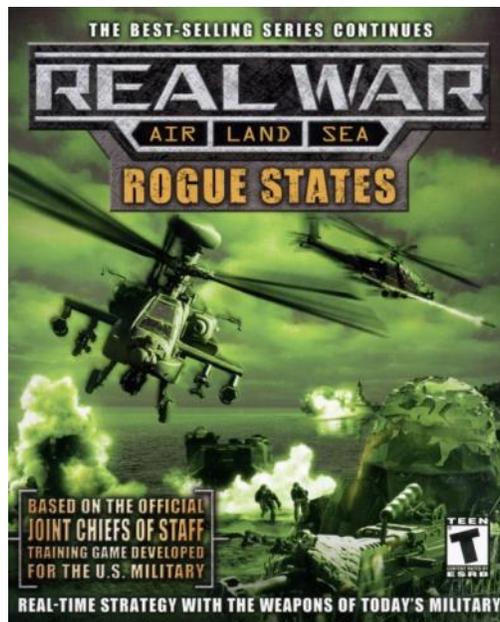
What difference does it make for nations with no nuclear weapons to ban them? What does it have to do with the United States? Well, most nations banned landmines and cluster bombs. The United States did not. But the weapons were stigmatized. Global investors took their funding away. U.S. companies stopped making them, and the U.S. military reduced and may have finally ceased its use of them. Divestment from nuclear weapons by major financial institutions has taken off in recent years, and can safely be expected to accelerate.

Change, including on such practices as slavery and child labor, has always been far more global than one might infer from the typical U.S. history text. Globally, nuclear weapons possession is becoming thought of as the behavior of a rogue state. One of those rogue states keeps some of its stigmatized weaponry in Puget Sound.

The Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor hosts eight Trident submarines and arguably the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the world. Former Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen famously characterized Kitsap-Bangor as “the Auschwitz of Puget Sound.” New nuclear-armed submarines are now planned for deployment to Kitsap-Bangor. The relatively tiny nuclear weapons on these submarines, horrifyingly characterized by U.S. military planners as “more usable” are two to three times as powerful as what was dropped on Hiroshima.

Do the people of the Seattle area support this? Certainly we have never been consulted. Keeping nuclear weapons in Puget Sound is not

democratic. It’s also not sustainable. It takes funding badly needed for people and our environment and puts it into environmentally destructive weaponry that increases the risk of nuclear holocaust. Scientists’ Doomsday Clock is closer to midnight than ever before. If you want to help dial it back, or even eliminate it, you can get involved with the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and with World BEYOND War.



“Real War: Rogue States” was a popular video game created from a near-identical “game” developed by the US Military. Needless to say, Rogue States did not include the US.

Elizabeth Murray serves as Ground Zero’s Member-in-Residence and on the Stewardship Council. **David Swanson** is the executive director of World BEYOND War.

Floyd Schmoe Peace Scholarship Restarted

By Glen Milner

The Floyd Schmoe Peace Scholarship was established in 1997 and is available to all high school seniors in the Seattle Public Schools and Shoreline Public Schools with post-high school education plans. The scholarship is one of the first of its kind in recognizing an outstanding student dedicated to humanitarian causes. This person could have worked in food banks, tutored homeless children, or any other work for the betterment of our world.

The Floyd Schmoe Peace Scholarship has given awards to 22 deserving students, dispersing \$25,500 over a 15-year period.

Beginning in 2021, one or more \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to deserving applicants. The restart of the scholarship was made possible due to the willingness of the nonprofit Ground Zero Community to receive the recent bequest for the scholarship and to establish an account for funds.



Floyd Schmoe with Travis Jo Cufley, the first recipient of the scholarship, in 1998 in the Seattle Peace Park, which he created from a weedy patch at the north end of Lake Union. *Photo by Karol Milner.*

As the nonprofit administrative sponsor for the scholarship, Ground Zero Community helped to receive an \$84,000 bequest from Fumiko T. Lee in honor of her late husband, Robert Lee. The Lees lived in Morton Grove, Illinois. Fumiko T. Lee's generous donation to the scholarship restarted the Floyd Schmoe Peace Scholarship. The scholarship funds are held in a separate account with the Ground Zero Community.

Thanks to Ground Zero Community, and to Treasurer Tom Rogers (who has waded through setting up the scholarship funds at the credit union, and who will soon be wading through how to report tax statements for Ground Zero Community, and the scholarship.)

Glen Milner has worked against the threat of nuclear weapons since the days of White Train resistance, and leads legal efforts on behalf of Ground Zero. He lives in Lake Forest Park with his wife Karol.

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Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to which the US and UK are both signatories, explicitly prohibits the “transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly...” Under international law the NPT should take precedence over the US-UK mutual defense agreement, and therefore the agreement would be in violation of the NPT.

The US and UK have, for decades, undermined both the letter and intent of the NPT through their special nuclear relationship. They have found ways to make their nuclear arsenals more effective and continue to modernize in the name of deterrence and national security. And now, the UK has announced an increase in its nuclear warhead cap. While the UN and a number of countries have chimed in with grave concerns about the UK's announcement, the US has been noticeably silent. Might the US be pondering such an increase? After all, aren't treaties meant to be broken (as we saw in the prior US administration)?

Isn't it time to end the special nuclear relationship? Isn't it time to re-think “deterrence” theory and “national security”? Isn't it time to recognize that so long as nuclear weapons exist, humanity teeters on the brink of disaster?

And speaking of history, we need to learn the lessons of the past. We have come close to the nuclear precipice far too many times, and the (Doomsday) clock

is still ticking. We can't stop the Clock until we abolish nuclear weapons. Empires come and empires go, yet humanity has only one chance. As for the US and UK, it is time for citizens of both nations to come together to pressure our governments to end the special nuclear relationship, and sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, showing real leadership towards a world free of the threat of nuclear annihilation.

The CND invites you - no matter what country you are from—to write UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson opposing the new policy and calling on the UK to commit to nuclear disarmament, scrap the UK nuclear weapons program and reinvest the nuclear weapons budget in public health, climate protection and peace: <https://cnd.eaction.org.uk/timetoscraptidentnow>.

I also invite you to endorse the Appeal for a Nuclear Weapon Free World which calls on all nuclear-armed States to pledge never to initiate a nuclear war, and also to slash nuclear weapons budgets to fund public health and the SDGs, and commit to eliminating all nuclear weapons—at the very latest by 2045, the 100th anniversary of the United Nations. (Go to <https://www.unfoldzero.org/protect-people-and-the-planet-appeal-for-a-nuclear-weapon-free-world/>.)

Leonard Eiger chairs the Communication and Outreach Committee, and sends out press releases and information on behalf of Ground Zero.

GROUND ZERO

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imperative to resist with all our
being the drift toward the brink.”*

*— Dr. Bernard Lown,
Co-Founder of Physicians
for Social Responsibility*

Banners Announce Ban Treaty

By Leonard Eiger

January 22 was a momentous day. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force after surpassing 50 ratifications. The TPNW outlaws not only the use of nuclear weapons, but everything to do with nuclear weapons, making it illegal under international law for participating countries to “develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess, or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.”

People around the world celebrated that day, with many engaging in public witness to announce the news. Ground Zero Center participated by bannerizing in three locations around Puget Sound. In two locations on the Kitsap peninsula activists held a banner reading “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Nuclear Weapons

are Illegal: Get Them Out of Kitsap County!” In Seattle, the banner held over Interstate 5 read “Nuclear Weapons are Illegal: Get Them Out of Puget Sound.”



Getting out the good news. Ground Zero members bannerizing in Seattle. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

In all locations the banneristas received positive responses from drivers – honks and thumbs up. We hope that many of the people who saw our message will want to learn more and get engaged in the movement to rid the world of nuclear weapons. You can enjoy a slideshow of the day’s bannerizing around the country prepared by the folks at The Nuclear Resister:

vimeo.com/515883787. Learn more and get involved in the movement supporting the TPNW at ICAN (icanw.org).

Leonard Eiger chairs the Communication and Outreach Committee, and sends out press releases and information on behalf of Ground Zero.