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Reaching Critical Will  
a project of the Women's International  
League for Peace and Freedom

## News in Review

Civil society perspectives on the Seventh Review Conference of the  
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty  
May 2-27, 2005

### Unmasking Success?

- Rhianna Tyson, WILPF

Yesterday, the Review Conference continued to plod on through its poorly-attended General Debate, even as the prolonged lack of an agenda threatens the continuance of the Conference itself. While President Duarte acknowledged that some progress has been made on particularly sticky points (without divulging further details), the time remaining for serious work is running out.

The second day of the General Debate perfectly demonstrated the type of polarization that has mired so much of the international disarmament machinery. On one side of the spectrum, there are States such as Sweden, South Africa and Indonesia, which remain determined to use the Review Conference to strengthen the disarmament commitments under the treaty and accelerate the implementation of agreements already reached. For these countries, which are equally worried about proliferation of nuclear weapons, they rightly understand, as South Africa noted, that "(t)hose who rely on nuclear weapons to demonstrate and exercise power should recognize that such dependence on weapons of mass destruction only serve to increase insecurity rather than promote security, peace and development."

On the other side of the spectrum, there are States such as Poland and South Korea, which failed to even mention the word "disarmament" in any substantive way. After espousing support for a laundry list of non- and counter-proliferation measures such as the Proliferation Security Initiative, Security Council Resolution 1540 and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, Poland called upon the Conference to "avoid our energy being wasted on petty and

secondary issues."

Then there are other delegations, such as Slovakia, which, while viewing the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference as "highly relevant and of particular importance," continue to prioritize nonproliferation of nuclear weapons as an issue "at the very top of the international danger list."

To make matters worse, we have also seen some significant backtracking and weakening of expectations of our international disarmament and nonproliferation regime. Almost a year after the US announced that it no longer supports the previously-agreed upon Shannon Mandate as a basis for negotiations of a Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty, we hear more and more delegations dropping references to the need for this treaty's verifiability, such as Kyrgyzstan, Poland, China, Russia and Slovakia.

Some lip service is paid to universalization of the Treaty, as well as early entry-into-force of the CTBT, by both disarmament and nonproliferation advocates. (Though perhaps we need to clarify for the delegates the meaning of "early", which surely was not intended to mean nine years- the time that has passed since the negotiation of the CTBT concluded.)

Kazakhstan expressed hope that the Review Conference works to universalize not only the Treaty, but also the responses of States when dealing with suspected cases of nonproliferation. "Some States are punished upon mere suspicion that they might possess weapons of mass destruction; others are constantly warned about the harmful nature of such a policy course or censured by means of unilateral embargo, while still others

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### Special NGO Session Today!

All delegates are implored to remain in the General Assembly hall after today's morning session, to hear statements from Mayors for Peace, hibakusha and the growing civil society movement for nuclear abolition. Today at 1 PM.

## *Unmasking Success continued from page 1*

are simply forgiven.” Hence Kazakhstan recognized a need to adopt “a unified and fair approach” to handling these cases. Equally, they maintained, there should be standardized mechanisms in place “that reward States for honoring...their NPT obligations.

At this stage in the game, States parties are becoming increasingly concerned with the prospects of a failed Review Conference; the perceived need to adopt a final document at all costs seems to be growing. Perhaps Sweden’s assertion that, to do otherwise, would “weaken our collective security” and make us “all be losers.” Perhaps it is the low expectation of this Review Conference that dissuaded governmental representatives from filling the floor of the General Assembly, which remains, two days into this seemingly historic event, eerily empty, with just a dozen or so governments at their seats at any given time.

Though perhaps the delegates, cognizant as Indonesia is of the “unprecedented op-

portunity” of the Review Conference, are squirreled away somewhere, ironing out the remaining disagreements over a program of work, rather than sitting in the GA hall, listening to the somewhat predictable General Debate.

So perhaps, then, progress isn’t always visible to the naked eye. Perhaps, just like the unobservable poison of radioactivity, the Conference that will save the world from the scourge of nuclear weapons has begun in the rays of invisible progress, sorted out behind the scenes, away from the spotlights of the General Assembly and the watchful eye of civil society.

But just as civil society- i.e., hibakusha, downwinders, physicians, mothers and scientists- is needed to shed light on the invisible dangers of the nuclear age, perhaps it is precisely this type of public attention that will illuminate the potential successes of this meeting as well.

## International Wall of Law



Sir Joseph Rotblat is one of many joining the Mayors and youth in building a globally growing monument for international law.

Today, the “symbolic protection wall” is more than 200 meters long, equal to more than 50,000 signed blocks.

Join this demonstration of your will to abolish nuclear weapons and to strengthen International Law.

Dag Hamrskjöld Plaza at the  
United Nations  
May 4<sup>th</sup>, 3pm.



The WMD Awareness Programme  
invites you to a discussion on:

### **‘Raising Awareness, Creating Engagement’**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
1.15 – 2.45  
Conference Room E

Carol Naughton and Janet Bloomfield will present the research and approach we have taken in the UK

Others leading the discussion will be:

A representative from Canada  
Susi Snyder Sec. Gen. of Wilpf  
Amb. D’Alba of Mexico and Amb. Labbe of Chile  
invited

[www.comeclean.org.uk](http://www.comeclean.org.uk)

## IPPNW Brings the Reality of Nuclear Warfare Home to New Yorkers



German medical student Stefanie Berkmann explains the medical consequences of nuclear war and the importance of nuclear disarmament to a pedestrian in Times Square as part of the IPPNW Target Project.

## A View from South Korea

Today around the world, amidst the unprecedented dangers of nuclear war, the peace movement's demand for the abolition of nuclear weapons is more urgent than ever. The "NPT Action Plan 2000 -- 13 Steps" for nonproliferation and disarmament, adopted by all states-parties at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, has now become scrap paper. The US and Russia are increasing their nuclear arsenals and the US refuses to sign onto the NSAs (Negative Security Assurances).

The US especially is regressing, destroying the spirit of the NPT by planning preemptive nuclear attacks and increasing the development of new nuclear weapons. Moreover, the IAEA, instead of safeguarding the peaceful use of nuclear materials by non-nuclear-weapon states, is yielding to the US's ambition to control NNWS' development of nuclear power programs.

*The US should adhere to the spirit of the NPT by withdrawing preemptive nuclear strike plans and suspending the development of nuclear weapon systems.*

The US formulated the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) in 2002, which espouses preemptive nuclear strikes, and has initiated the development of usable nuclear weapons such as "bunker-busters". The Bush administration spent \$6 million in 2003 and has allocated \$8.5 million for development of this weapon.

This runs counter to the NPT 2000 Conference, which called for active dismantlement of nuclear weapons. Moreover, preemptive nuclear strike plans contradict the NSAs' provisions, which strengthened the NPT by prohibiting the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons by a nuclear weapon state against a non-nuclear-weapon state.

The US's nuclear attack plans and development of new nuclear weapons instigate a renewed nuclear arms race. This is a criminal activity that will plunge the world into a cyclone of nuclear conflict.

If the US is serious about strengthening the NPT, the US should scrap its nuclear attack

plans and end its development of nuclear weapons.

Prior to this conference, the US stated its oppo-

*The US needs to abide by the NPT by adopting the international agreement that will implement the NSA.*

sition to an international agreement with legal obligations and has refused to adopt the international agreement on the NSA, thus showing stubbornness in not reversing its preemptive nuclear strike plans or development of nuclear weapons. Thus, the US rejected the international covenant agreed on at the NPT 2000 Review Conference. The US's refusal to adopt an agreement on the NSA is an action that denies the nuclear powers' minimal responsibility to maintain the NPT by legally guaranteeing the security of non-nuclear nations. If the US honestly wishes to strengthen the NPT, it should listen to the international community's demand for comprehensive nuclear weapon dismantlement through international agreement on the NSA.

*The IAEA should oppose the US's ambition to gain control over NNWS' development of nuclear power, which aims to make the NPT more unequal.*

The US is asking for a revision of the NPT in order to prevent NNWS from exercising their rights to enrich uranium and reprocess nuclear materials, citing the perceived danger that these materials could be diverted to weapons production. The US has pressured the IAEA to monitor and control non-nuclear weapon states with their civilian nuclear programs. Now the US is trying to regulate nuclear materials as well. The IAEA has now proposed regulation of the trade in nuclear materials and proposed an international distribution of nuclear fuel. This clearly violates the principles of peaceful use of nuclear materials stated in the NPT and will weaken the NPT.

The IAEA does not have the authority to monitor nuclear weapon states. This limits the IAEA's effectiveness fundamentally. Disregard-

ing this reality, if the IAEA initiates a policy of nuclear fuel regulation, which will only strengthen US-centered nuclear hegemony, the IAEA will be criticized for allowing the US's selfish and double-standard policy, weakening the NPT and causing it to lose credibility.

The IAEA should focus on the revival of the spirit of the NPT by ending the US-centered nuclear regulatory policy.

The US has dwelt solely on its own security and has weakened the international disarmament

*The NPT must counter US nuclear policy and move forward to complete elimination of nuclear arsenals.*

and nuclear non-proliferation movement by unilaterally withdrawing from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, pursuing its Missile Defense system, and refusing to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

With its unilateral and double-standard nuclear policy, the US has weakened the NPT; now it is challenging the NPT directly through preemptive nuclear strike plans, development of nuclear weapons, and refusal to agree on the NSA. With its nuclear fuel regulation plan, it is leading to the destruction of the NPT. Without countering the US's aggressive, unilateral, and double-standard nuclear policy, the NPT, built already on a premise of discrimination between nuclear powers and non-nuclear powers, will be further limited in its effectiveness.

With this in mind, we expect the Seventh NPT Review Conference to force the US to ratify international agreements on nuclear weapon non-proliferation such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, give up preemptive nuclear strike plans, and end its new nuclear weapon programs, thereby providing a road map towards complete and comprehensive abolition of nuclear weapons, in harmony with the whole world's aspirations for peace.

*See page 6 for organizational sign-ons to this statement.*

## What's On: Today's Calendar of Events

### Daily morning interfaith prayer vigil

Where: Ralph Bunche Park, 42nd Street, 1st Avenue

When: May 2-6, 7:30 AM

Contact: Caroline Gilbert, Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

### Abolition 2000 Morning Caucus

Where: United Nations Church Center (44th street and 1st avenue), Boss Room, 8th floor

When: Daily, 8 AM- 9 AM

Contact: Monika Szymurska, Global Coordinator

### Governmental Briefing- New Zealand

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 9 AM- 10 AM

Contact: Rhianna Tyson, RCW

### Middle East Nuclear Free Zone

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 10- 12 PM

Contact: Odile Hugonot Haber, WILPF

### NGOs present Abolition Now! to the governments

Where: General Assembly Hall

When: 1-2 PM

Contact: Aaron Tovish, MfP

### Back to Basics: Reviving Disarmament in the Non-Proliferation Regime

Where: Conference Room IV

When: 1:15 to 2:45 pm

Contact: Carah Ong, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

### Rethinking "Radiation" Inside and Out: From Hiroshima-Nagasaki to Iraq

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 3-6 PM

Contact: Dr. Nobuo Kazashi, Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (HANWA) and NO DU Hiroshima Project

### Monument for International Wall of Law Unveiling

Where: Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza

When: 3 PM

Contact: Felix Graedler, International Law Campaign

### NGO Meeting to Finalize the May 11 presentations

Where: UN Church Center, 10th floor

When: 3:30 PM

Contact: Rhianna Tyson, RCW

### We Dun Gi Muu (We Are All One.)

Where: UN Church Center, 8th Floor Boss Room

When: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Contact: Pete Litster, Shundahai Network



For more than 20 years, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has provided quality independent research and analysis on nuclear and international security issues.

### We invite you to utilize our free educational and advocacy resources, including:

**Back to Basics:** *Reviving Nuclear Disarmament in the Non-Proliferation Regime*, the Foundation's briefing booklet for the 2005 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference;

**WagingPeace.org**, our education and advocacy website;

**The Sunflower**, a monthly e-newsletter resource providing news, information and analysis on nuclear and international security issues;

**NuclearFiles.org**, a comprehensive website dedicated to all aspects of the Nuclear Age, mixing a diversity of perspectives with contemporary and historical primary source documents; and

**Turn the Tide**, a public advocacy campaign to chart a new course for US nuclear policy.

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## Hibakusha: The Survivors of the A-Bomb Live to Tell

- Alexandra Sundberg, WILPF

The air was cool in the room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the UN Church Center when the audience entered to hear the testimonies of four out of the about 50 Hibakusha who are participating in the NPT RevCon. However, as they stood up to speak about their experiences of the US atomic bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, it was no longer the cold air sending chills down our spines, but the horrifying stories we were invited to share.

Mr. Terumi Tanaka, President of Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A- and H- Bomb Sufferers Organizations) welcomed us and Undersecretary General of the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs Mr. Abe pointed out the importance for all of us, governments and civil society alike, to remember what happened to the Japanese cities those days in August 1945, to stay motivated for working towards complete abolition of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Sunao Tsuboi and Mrs. Seiko Ikeda of Hiroshima together with Mr. Taniguchi Sumiteru and Mr. Shigemitsu Tanaka of Nagasaki, took the audience along with them to the dreadful scenes following the bombings. For one and a half



hours, it was as if we all were there to feel the blast, be blinded by the bright light, and experience the chaos. As if we could smell the rotting

bodies all over, hear the screams of children, and see the maggots infesting the wounded. The last speaker concluded "No more Hiroshimas. No more Nagasakis. No more war." and Mary Lord of the American Friend's Service Committee then stated that her organization, awarded with the Nobel Peace Price in

1947, has nominated Nihon Hidankyo for this year's award, receiving standing ovation.

This year is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Hibakusha are growing old. The people of the world need to listen to them when they still have the strength to tell us, and our governments need to learn from what they have to say. In the words of one of the speakers, "The existence of the Hibakusha is the most powerful nuclear deterrence in the world."

*Alexandra Sundberg is an intern with the Reaching Critical Will project of WILPF*

[www.reachingcriticalwill.org](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org)

Building trust through verification

[www.vertic.org](http://www.vertic.org)

Visit [www.vertic.org](http://www.vertic.org) for background information on issues being discussed at the 2005 NPT Review Conference:

### Verification Yearbook 2004

- 'Introduction: the state of play of verification' by Trevor Findlay
- 'Effective CTBT verification: the evidence accumulates' by David Hafemeister
- 'Verifying Libya's nuclear disarmament' by Jack Boureston and Yana Feldman
- 'Iran and nuclear safeguards: establishing the facts and seeking compliance' by Wyn Q. Bowen

### Verification Organizations Directory (VOD)—[www.vertic.org/vod](http://www.vertic.org/vod)

- Contact details and brief descriptions of organizations involved in verification-related activities in the field of arms control and disarmament, including national safeguards authorities and nuclear weapon-free zones.

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**VERTIC**



## Who's Who: New Zealand's Ambassador Tim Caughley

*Many analysts and experts are saying that the NPT is at its greatest crisis in history. Do you agree with that statement?*

Crisis applies more broadly in the disarmament arena than just to the NPT, but the description of this situation is less important than efforts to resolve it. The Review Conference offers an opportunity for common cause to face up to the threats of proliferation and nuclear terrorism and the need to pick up the pace of nuclear disarmament. The UN Secretary-General's response to the High Level Panel Report should serve as a further impetus to deal decisively with these problems this year.

*What is the greatest priority for your delegation at this Conference?*

New Zealand's priorities are to be an effective Co-ordinator of the New Agenda Coalition and to promote with like-minded States the strongest possible outcome that enhances the NPT in terms both of advancing systematic and progressive efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament and of minimizing proliferation risks.

*In the view of your delegation, what would be the best outcome of the Conference?*

The best outcome would be explicit recognition by the nuclear-weapon states that the NPT can be strengthened in practical ways under all three pillars that enhance global security at no cost to their own security.

*The worst?*

The worst outcome would be empty resolutions that merely restate unfulfilled commitments of previous Review Conferences.

*In your view, how can NGOs be more effective at these NPT meetings?*

The commitment of NGOs to the cause of the NPT is a vital adjunct to the work of the parties to the Treaty within the Review Conference. Continuing pressure needs to be applied to all parties - not just those in the vanguard of strengthening the NPT - to encourage compliance with every obligation of the Treaty.

*How did you get interested in disarmament and non-proliferation issues?*

Like many New Zealanders and other people from the South Pacific, for me nuclear testing in our region was the inspiration for getting involved in these issues. The combined pressure of Governments and civil society in that instance proved crucial to the cessation of those tests. It remains my hope that this kind of pressure can be brought to bear to quicken the pace of nuclear disarmament and ensure non-proliferation throughout the world.

Contributors to this edition of the *News in Review* include:

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The following organizations and individuals signed on to the page 3 statement:

Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea; Korean Confederation of Trade Unions; Korean People Solidarity; Solidarity for Reunification of Korea; People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy; People's Solidarity for Social Progress; Green Korea United; Citizen's Solidarity for Peace & Unification; Korean Federation of Medical Groups for Health Rights (KFHR); Rhee Yueng-Huie, Fr Mun Jeong-Hyeon, Hong Chang-Yee; Kang Jeong-Koo, Lee ChuKi, Rev. Kim Min-Woong, Lee Won-Sup, Lee Jae-Bong, Mun Gyu-Hyeon, Lee Su-Ho, Jung Kwang-Hoon, Han Sang-Yeol, Lee Jang-Hee.

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### CHALLENGING AND CHANGING DANGEROUS NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICIES IN THE USA!

Conference Room E, 3-6 pm, Thursday, May 6

*An invitation to dialogue among U.S. and international NGOs on What Now and What Next re the US and the NPT.*

#### Part I: Beyond Nuclear Warheads: Challenging U.S. Plans for High Tech Global Military Dominance

Jackie Cabbasso and Andrew Lichterman of *Western States Legal Foundation*

#### Part II: Changing U.S. Nuclear Policies with Congress and Civil Society

Eleanor Barfield and Carol Urner, Co-Chairs of the DISARM Campaign of U.S. Section *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*

Carah Ong, Director of Washington D.C. office, *Nuclear Age Peace Foundation*

*Other U.S. NGOs are encouraged to share What Now and What Next on the NPT in the USA. Counsel and advice from international NGOs is welcome!!!*