

August 9, 2016 (Nagasaki Day)
Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab

Remarks by Tara Dorabji,
On behalf of Tri-Valley CAREs

We gather here in Livermore on the 71st anniversary of the US bombing of Nagasaki to not only remember those who were killed and whose lives and homes and families were destroyed, but to stand in living resistance to the ongoing design and development of nuclear weapons.

We gather at the Livermore nuclear weapons lab because this is one of the world's primary design centers for new nuclear weapons. Behind this fence nuclear weapons are created and "modernized" for possible use.

Today, nuclear weapons designers at Livermore are creating the warhead for a new long-range stand off cruise missile, capable of launching a nuclear sneak attack.

On the anniversary of the horrific atomic bombing of Nagasaki by the United States, we are here to demand an end to nuclear weapons.

Instead of new warheads, we call for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

We are here to hold our government accountable. The U.S. plans to spend 1 trillion dollars over the next 30 years to upgrade every nuclear weapon in the stockpile and to create new bomb plants to manufacture these new nuclear weapons.

The US continues to "modernize" nuclear weapons through "Life Extension Programs." How is it that we fund the life extension of nuclear warheads, but we lack basic access for health care?

Let's have universal health care for people not warheads.

Behind this fence line is one of the premiere scientific institutions of our time. I ask you, what are we doing in the name of science?

When I lived in Livermore, I witnessed good, smart people, spending their time, resources and energy in the pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.

Many people who work here have said to me, *I conduct theoretical research.*

Yet, 86% of Livermore Lab's budget goes directly into nuclear weapons activities. There is nothing theoretical about how our tax dollars are spent at Livermore Lab – they pay for the design and development of the next generation of nuclear weapons.

There is another thing that our tax-dollars pay for at Livermore. It is the quiet death of workers and residents. Over 1 million curies of airborne radiation has leaked out of this facility. This is roughly equivalent to the amount of radiation deposited on the people in the US bombing of Hiroshima.

According to the national academy of science's report on ionizing radiation there is no safe level of radiation exposure. Any amount can cause damage. The national academy of science also found that infants are the more vulnerable to cancer from radiation than adults, and female infants are the most vulnerable of all.

The CA State Health Department found that children born in Livermore were six times more likely to develop malignant melanoma than other children living in Alameda County.

Livermore Lab's environmental reports state that the *fifty-mile radius* surrounding the Laboratory is the directly affected population. Raise your hand if you live within fifty miles of where we are standing. From San Francisco, to Oakland, to Concord, to San Jose to Stockton, more than 7-million people are within the affected radius.

The groundwater is contaminated here and also at Livermore Lab's high explosives testing facility in Tracy. Thousands of workers at Livermore Lab have been made ill; many have died from their exposures.

Radioactive hydrogen, or tritium contaminates the air, water and soil in Livermore.

As the late Marion Fulk, a weaponeer who worked on the Manhattan Project explained in an interview prior to his death, "A lot of the poor bastards out there had, and still have, no idea what the dangers of tritium exposure are or consequences of those exposures and now years later, they are all sick."

We are here today – to demand an end to science that is fueled by the human desire to kill. To the belief that we can harness fusion to kill. We are here standing under the power of the sun. We are here standing with our feet on the ground in the belief that creation is stronger than destruction.

We understand that from violence we will create only more violence. Sometimes, we must enter darkness to find the light.

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