70 YEARS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS: AT WHAT COST?

August 6, 2015; Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab

Co-sponsoring organizations: American Friends Service Committee; Asian Americans for Peace & Justice; Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian-Universalists; Communist Party USA, Northern California District; Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose; Eclipse Rising; Ecumenical Peace Institute; Grandmothers for Peace International; Holy Names Peace & Justice Committee; Just Faith Community at Newman Hall, Berkeley; Lamorinda Peace & Justice Group; Livermore Conversion Project; Los Altos Voices for Peace; Marin Peace & Justice Coalition; Middle East Children's Alliance; Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center; Nevada Desert Experience; Newman Nonviolent Peacemakers/Fr. Bill O'Donnell Social Justice Committee; Night on the Streets Catholic Worker; No Nukes Action Committee; Northern California Friends of Sabeel; Pacific Life Community; Pax Christi Tri-Valley; Peace Action West; San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Physicians for Social Responsibility; San Jose Peace & Justice Center; Berkeley Friends Meeting; Sisters of St. Dominic, San Rafael; Social Justice Center of Marin; St. John's Presbyterian Church of Berkeley; St. Leander Pax Christi; Tri-Valley CAREs; United Nations Association, East Bay Chapter; United Nations Association of San Francisco; Veterans for Peace Chapter 069; Veterans for Peace East Bay Chapter 162; Western States Legal Foundation; Women in Black, Berkeley; Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Monterey
The U.S. plans to spend a trillion dollars over the next thirty years “modernizing” its nuclear bombs, warheads, delivery systems and infrastructure to sustain them for decades to come. The human cost is immeasurable—to our health, environment, ethics, and democracy, to our prospects for global peace, and to our confidence in human survival. We gather at Livermore Lab to demand that nuclear weapons spending be slashed and redirected to meet human needs. On this 70th anniversary date, we welcome the Iran deal and call on the U.S. government to now lead a process, with a timetable, to achieve the universal elimination of nuclear weapons.
Following the program, we will process to the West Gate of the Lab. Upon arrival at the gate, we will participate in a traditional Japanese Bon dance. Following the dance, sirens will sound in remembrance of the victims of the second atomic bomb dropped by the United States, on Nagasaki, on August 9, 1945. The sirens will signal a die-in. Those who so choose may lie down and be outlined in chalk in the gate area. Some may choose to get up and leave their outline when the order is given to disperse. Others may choose to stay in position and risk arrest. Some may choose to risk arrest by standing in the gate area in front of the prone bodies and outlines. Those who choose not to risk arrest will stand aside and bear witness. The chalk outlines we will briefly leave behind today are a solemn reminder of the shadows of human beings vaporized by atomic bombs 70 years ago that still haunt the walls and sidewalks of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

All participants are expected to abide by the Livermore Conversion Project’s Nonviolence Guidelines (see back page).
Seventy years after the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, preparations for nuclear war are ongoing at the Livermore Lab. Over 85% of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget request for the Lab is dedicated to Nuclear Weapons Activities. Scientists at Livermore are developing a modified nuclear warhead for a new long-range stand off weapon to replace the air-launched cruise missile. Nearly 16,000 nuclear weapons - 94% of them held by the U.S. and Russia - continue to pose an intolerable threat to humanity. Nuclear weapons have again taken center stage on the borderlands of Europe, one of several potential nuclear flashpoints. Whether a nuclear exchange is initiated by accident, miscalculation or madness, the radiation and soot will know no boundaries.

Livermore Conversion Project’s Nonviolence Guidelines*

We agree to abide by the following guidelines in all of today’s actions:

- We will be open and respectful to everyone we meet;
- We will not use verbal or physical violence;
- We will not destroy property;
- We will not bring drugs or alcohol, except for medicinal purposes;
- We will not bring weapons;
- We will not run, which can cause panic;
- If arrested, we will not resist;
- If legal consequences follow our actions, we will treat all those we encounter in the process with openness and respect.

*Adopted by consensus of the planning group for the Aug. 6, 2015 actions at Livermore Lab