



Media Advisory - for immediate release August 3, 2017

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“March for Nuclear Abolition & Global Survival”

Major Rally, March & Nonviolent Direct Action on Aug. 9 at Livermore Lab will commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima, Nagasaki at the site where U.S. is designing new nuclear weapons; call on Trump Admin. to sign Ban Treaty & reduce, not escalate, U.S. and global nuclear dangers

WHAT: More than 3-dozen Northern California organizations and the public will mark the 72nd anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan at an unprecedented historical moment as a volatile U.S. President escalates global risks at nuclear flashpoints ranging from the Korean Peninsula to NATO-Russia tensions and beyond. The ***March for Nuclear Abolition & Global Survival*** will expose the humanitarian consequences of the bomb and place them in the present-day context of opportunities to move toward the elimination of nuclear weapons with the “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” adopted July 7, 2017 by an overwhelming majority of the world’s nations, on the one hand, and President Trump’s nuclear posture and budget on the other. It is significant that we gather at the site where new and modified nuclear weapons are being created today, and 88% of Livermore Lab’s fiscal 2018 budget request is for its nuclear weapons activities. http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/FY2018_LLNL_Budget_Request_PieChart.pdf

WHEN: Wed., August 9, 2017. Rally at **8:00 AM** (*see below*). At **9:30 AM**, participants will march to the Lab West Gate, where a traditional Japanese dance and the chalking of bodies on pavement will commemorate the vaporized remains found after the atomic bombings. The just-adopted nuclear weapons ban treaty text will be delivered. ***Those who choose will peaceably risk arrest.***

WHERE: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, corner of Vasco & Patterson Pass Roads in Livermore. The march will go southward down Vasco Road to Westgate Drive.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Daniel Ellsberg is best known as the whistleblower who released “The Pentagon Papers” and was sentenced to 109 years in prison before his conviction was overturned. Ellsberg has been an analyst at RAND Corp. and consultant to the Defense Dept., specializing in problems of command and control of nuclear weapons, war plans and crisis decision-making. He is working on a memoir, “America’s Domsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner.”

Takashi Tanemori is a survivor of the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima when he was eight years old. Tanemori-san is a renowned artist, writer and poet. His experience of losing both parents, two siblings, his eyesight and overcoming hate is documented in, “Hiroshima: Bridge to Forgiveness.”

Christine Hong is an assistant professor at UC Santa Cruz where she specializes in transnational Asian American, Korean diaspora, and critical Pacific Rim studies. Hong is co-editor of the Critical Asian Studies special edition on North Korean Human Rights. She is a member of the National Campaign to End the Korean War, the Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea, and the Working Group on Peace and Demilitarization in Asia and the Pacific. *(Cont. on p. 2 of 2)*

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Barbara Rose Johnston is an award-winning anthropologist and senior research fellow at the Center for Political Ecology. She is an affiliated member of the faculty at Michigan State and UC Santa Cruz, exploring the intersections between environment, health and human rights. She is an expert witness for the Marshall Islands Nuclear Claims Tribunal. Recent books are, "Consequential Damages of Nuclear War - The Rongelap Report," and, "Life & Death Matters: Human Rights, Environment and Social Justice."

Marylia Kelley is Executive Director of Tri-Valley CAREs. She brings 34 years of research, writing and facilitating public participation in decisions regarding the Livermore Lab and the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. Kelley has testified before the U.S. Congress, the California Legislature and the National Academy of Sciences, among other deliberative bodies. She participated in the 2017 negotiations at the UN on the "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons." Kelley was inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame in 2002. She has lived in Livermore since 1976.

Janice L. Kirsch, M.D., M.P.H., is a medical doctor specializing in internal medicine, medical oncology and hematology. She has served as an investigator with the Northern California Childhood Leukemia Study of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. Since 1983, she has worked with Physicians for Social Responsibility, speaking on nuclear war and environmental issues. Dr. Kirsch also trained with the Climate Reality Project and serves as coordinator of the 350 Bay Area Speakers' Bureau. She is also the Bay Area chapter leader for the Climate Mobilization.

MUSIC: Singer-songwriting duo, **Emma's Revolution**, and guitarist **Daniel Zwickel**.

WHY: As the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists recently noted, "***It is two and a half minutes to midnight, the Doomsday Clock is ticking, global danger looms.***" The iconic Clock represents the threat of global nuclear war and its hands were set this year at 2.5 minutes to midnight, the closest they have been to annihilation since 1953. We stand at a pivotal moment, one that can turn very suddenly toward a nuclear exchange or abolition. Under Trump, the U.S. is on a path to spend *more than* one trillion dollars over thirty years to upgrade its nuclear bombs, warheads and delivery systems. Russia, China, France, U.K., India, Israel and Pakistan have begun nuclear modernizations of their own, and North Korea is testing warheads and missiles to deliver them. The world has never faced so many nuclear flashpoints simultaneously as all of the nuclear-armed states are tangled up in conflicts and crises that could catastrophically escalate at any moment.

On the other side of the fulcrum, stands the Ban Treaty, as it is popularly called, adopted by 122 states parties in July and opening for signatures this Sept. 20 at the UN. While the nuclear-armed states are not expected to sign in the near-term, the treaty delegitimizes nuclear weapons globally and renders them unacceptable. It establishes both new law and a new norm, outlawing nuclear weapons development, testing, possession, use, transfer and/or any offer of assistance in a prohibited activity. Moreover, it bans the threat of use, which is the basis for "deterrence" policy. The treaty is an historic, giant step forward toward global abolition of these horrific weapons.

OPS: Interviews with speakers, artists and organizers are available on request. Photo opportunities will be available at the rally site at 8:00 AM, and also along the march route and at the Livermore Lab's West Gate. Call for details.

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