Ban Treaty Adopted!

This deserves celebration. The “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” was overwhelmingly adopted on July 7 at the United Nations in New York, with 122 states parties in favor, one opposed (Netherlands) and one abstention (Singapore).

The ban treaty, as it is popularly called, will now open for signatures by states at the UN on September 20, 2017. According to the treaty’s “entry into force” provision, it will become fully operational 90 days after achieving its threshold requirement for 50 states to sign and complete its ratification.

With this treaty, the world unequivocally informs the nine nuclear-armed nations (U.S., Russia, China, U.K., France, Israel, India, Pakistan & North Korea) that they stand outside the law. And, while these countries are not expected to sign the treaty in the near term, the ban treaty’s greatest power may lie in its establishment of a new global norm.

The treaty strips nuclear weapons of any shred of legitimacy and lays bare the fundamental truth of their horrific humanitarian and environmental consequences. The treaty expressly outlaws nuclear weapons development, testing, possession, use, transfer and/or assistance in any prohibited activity. Further it bans the “threat of use” of a nuclear weapon, which rips away the underpinning for deterrence policy upon which the U.S. and other nuclear-armed states have so long relied for legitimacy.

The vast majority of countries in the world now say in a single voice that nuclear weapons are not acceptable. Period. This is how societal patterns are changed – and how national behaviors are altered over time. With this in mind, the ban treaty is written so that the present-day nuclear weapons states may come into compliance over time and join the kinship of nations in a nuclear weapons free world.

It is exciting to consider that countries large and small have important roles to play in achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as does civil society. More than 130 countries participated in the negotiations at some point, and about as many non-governmental organizations, including Tri-Valley CAREs, were present and conducting important advocacy at the UN.

Now, the ban is no longer in the process of “becoming” a treaty. It has arrived. First, we celebrate. Then, we get back to work. It is up to each of us to continue to propel the nuclear weapons ban process forward. And, for those of us who live in the U.S. or another of the nuclear-armed states, we have a special role and responsibility.

“\[I will write peace on your wings...\]”

\[–Sadako Sasaki\]

March for Nuclear Abolition & Global Survival is the theme for a major rally, march and nonviolent action at 8 AM on Nagasaki Day, Weds., August 9, at the Livermore Lab. We will stand in solidarity with all radiation victims to say “Never Again!” to the use of nuclear weapons and demand their total elimination.

Daniel Ellsberg will join us. Ellsberg is the military analyst and whistleblower who released the Pentagon Papers, an act that helped end the Vietnam War. He will speak on rising nuclear dangers in the era of Trump.

Takashi Tanemori will offer compelling testimony of his experience at age eight when the atomic bomb shattered his family, ultimately taking the lives of his parents and two sisters. His book, “Hiroshima: Bridge to Forgiveness,” details his transformational journey.

Emma’s Revolution, the award-winning, singer-songwriting duo of Pat Humphries & Sandy O, will perform at the rally.

Marylia Kelley will speak about weapons programs taking place today at the Lab. She will also share insights into the negotiations at the United Nations leading to the overwhelming adoption on July 7th of the “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.” Kelley and other NGOs will hand-deliver a copy of the ban treaty to the Lab at the West Gate following the rally.

Chizu Hamada will lead a traditional Obon dance to welcome the ancestors. Mike Rufo and Daniel Zwickel will offer guitar and songs at the gate.

There will be free parking at the rally site. A Peace Camp at lake Del Valle Regional Park will precede the rally, RSVP needed. See enclosed flyer for program details and key logistics.
Litigation Success

Last summer Tri-Valley CAREs filed a Federal lawsuit against the government for failing to comply with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) with respect to four separate requests involving dozens of documents.

Soon after we filed, documents started pouring in. However, many were heavily redacted (blacked out). After careful review, great persistence, and a year of negotiation, we can now announce that our demands were met in a satisfactory manner on all four requests.

The documents we obtained included new information about Livermore Lab activities, including a bio-incident, plutonium experiments in the National Ignition Facility laser, and four contaminated buildings designated “high risk” due to their severe threat to workers and the public. We also received data on plutonium at Los Alamos Lab in NM.

By dragging its feet, the government not only violated the law, it stymied our right to get information during time-critical opportunities to impact decisions. Still, now we know the Lab’s plans for plutonium in NIF fell way behind schedule. During litigation we learned that some of the NIF reports we requested were finalized just after the date of our request. So, we are filing a “fresh” FOIA request to get them now.


DC Days & Next Steps

Tri-Valley CAREs sent a team of advocates to Washington, DC in late spring. We were joined by scores of activists who, like us, are affected by U.S. nuclear weapons sites. We teamed up to speak to decision-makers and share first-hand experiences from communities that would, otherwise, be left out of policy debates.

We held more than 100 scheduled meetings with members of Congress and senior Administration officials. We shared a new grassroots report, Nuclear Accountability Audit, with conservatives and progressives alike.

“DC Days” also featured a special awards reception to honor exceptional work over the past year. Among the awardees, Rep. Ted Lieu was recognized for his bill to restrict the President’s ability to launch a nuclear first strike. And, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons was honored for its advocacy on behalf of the nuclear weapons ban treaty. (More about the event, the report and a video clip from the awards ceremony are on our website.)

While we were in DC, President Trump sent his fiscal year 2018 budget request for nuclear weapons to Congress. It contains $14 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) including more than $10 billion for nuclear weapons activities, a nearly 16% rise.

One of the notable increases for new warheads is $399 million for development of the W80-4 at Livermore Lab for the new Long-Range Stand Off nuclear weapon. This is nearly double its budget last year of $220 million. LRSO warhead funding illustrates the wrong policy direction that is evident throughout the FY18 request.

In some ways it’s the Obama nuclear budget on steroids. More than that, it presages a dangerous escalation of nuclear risks, hinting for example at a start up next year of the Interoperable Warhead-1 program that could lead us back to full-scale nuclear testing in Nevada.

As you are reading this, the Trump budget is wending its way through Congress. Nothing is final yet. Call the Capitol Switchboard today at 202.224.3121.

Planning Strategically

Tri-Valley CAREs board members, interns, staff and membership recently got together to think strategically, review our last year, and plan the priorities for the next year. After looking at the strategic opportunities and potential threats expected in the coming year, balanced against the group’s current strengths and weaknesses, participants voted on what program areas should rise to the top. The program areas that received enough votes to be considered priorities for next year are as follows:

1st Clean up and prevent pollution at Livermore Lab.
2nd (tie) Obtain justice for sick lab workers
2nd (tie) Stop new nuclear bombs and bomb plants
2nd (tie) Watchdog Livermore Lab activities generally
5th Promote global nuclear disarmament

Our annual retreat is essential for planning our work in the following year. Thanks so much to all those who participated and we hope you can come next year.
Dear Tri-Valley CAREs supporter,

I hope you are enjoying your summer edition of Citizen’s Watch.

I also want to say “thank you” for your generosity, which plays such a crucial role in Tri-Valley CAREs’ ability to stop nuclear weapons where they start… at the Livermore Lab.

Together, you and I and the entire Tri-Valley CAREs team have accomplished a lot. Recently, we won a Federal lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act, brought a crew of young people to Washington to speak truth to power about nuclear policy, and participated at the UN in the negotiations that resulted in the adoption of the historic nuclear weapons ban treaty.

I am excited to share the news, too, that our communications team is expanding. Valeria Salamanca brings marketing and bi-lingual skills to our outreach to youth and Spanish speakers, two constituencies that Livermore Lab has conspicuously left out of environmental decision-making. Eric Luna is assisting Tri-Valley CAREs with web maintenance, social media and electronic outreach. And, this summer, we are fortunate to welcome Makayla Whitney as our legal intern.

Despite our considerable success, we are not resting on any laurels! In this new era of Trump, with its increasing nuclear dangers and myriad threats to basic democracy, you and I and everyone at Tri-Valley CAREs must redouble our efforts. Let me share just a little of what we have planned, and ask for your vital financial support to make it happen.

As I write this, I am facilitating planning efforts for a major rally, march and action at the gates of Livermore Lab on August 9 to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I will also be speaking, along with Dan Ellsberg and others.

Then, I leave for Washington to meet with Congress and the Administration on the nuclear weapons budget. In doing this, I will be following up on the foundation laid this spring by our “DC Days” team. Indeed, I am happy to say that dogged follow up is a hallmark of Tri-Valley CAREs!

Our work is pivotal to creating social and political change. Tri-Valley CAREs’ research, analysis and advocacy influence the nation’s nuclear policy. Litigation led by our staff attorney, Scott Yundt, unearth truths the government would rather keep secret. Articles by Joseph Rodgers educate next-gen professionals. Our outreach keeps you and others informed. With these facts in mind, I ask you to support our crucial work with a generous gift.

For peace, justice and a healthy environment,

Marylia Kelley
Executive Director

P.S. Please don’t put this letter aside and risk forgetting it. Send your tax-deductible donation today by check, or donate on-line at www.trivalleycares.org. THANK YOU!
“Testing Fate,” by Joseph Rodgers, was published on July 7 in the journal of the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy. He is a Master’s Candidate in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies. Joseph Rodgers also serves as a Nuclear Policy Analyst at Tri-Valley CAREs. The article, excerpted below, was written as part of Tri-Valley CAREs’ project to address the rising nuclear dangers in the era of Trump. The full version is available at www.trivalleycares.org.

**TESTING FATE:** From 1945 to 1992, the US conducted 1,032 nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, under the ocean and below ground. These tests took their toll on the environment and communities downwind from test sites, with certain radioactive materials, such as Strontium-90, still measurable in our bodies. In the quarter century since the last explosive nuclear test, cold war realities like “duck and cover” have faded from the public consciousness. We would be well advised to examine the geopolitical context and the risks that would accompany any U.S. return to testing.

The United States signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996, but Congress has yet to ratify [it]… There is a small, yet growing, number of nuclear weapons aficionados in the US calling for the resumption of a nuclear weapons test readiness posture and even the commencement of explosive testing itself… Testing by the United States would almost certainly light an international fuse, triggering other states with nuclear weapons to resume testing. Russia is making substantial infrastructure investments at their old Novaya Zemlya testing facility, and could be expected to detonate a test soon after the United States does. China would likely follow. Additionally, India and Pakistan have collectively completed five nuclear weapons tests and would see new opportunities in renewed global testing. Of all the nuclear states, India and Pakistan have the most scientific knowledge to gain from a resumption of testing. A recommencement of nuclear testing would result in widespread environmental damage and a more dangerous, less politically stable world.

Arguments for renewed nuclear weapons testing by certain nuclear weapons experts, such as former Sandia National Lab President C. Paul Robinson, are appearing because the US is planning to spend one trillion dollars modernizing every aspect of its nuclear arsenal. This costly modernization project is aimed at enhancing nuclear weapons capabilities… Wholly new concepts are being considered, including warheads with launch “interoperability” from multiple platforms. The farther away the stockpile moves from pedigreed (certified) weapons into uncharted novelty designs, the louder the voices to resume explosive nuclear weapons testing will become. Instead, if a particular design change would introduce a significant uncertainty about its explosive reliability, that should be a “stop” sign, not a “blow it up to see what happens” signal… Resuming nuclear weapons testing is politically untenable, internationally destabilizing, and environmentally catastrophic. Modernization of nuclear weapons by introducing novel design elements is provocative and is already contributing to an arms race. Testing will accelerate the nuclear dangers without commensurate benefit to the United States and will make our nation and the world less safe.

**Tri-Valley CAREs**

4049 First St., # 139A
Livermore, CA 94551

**YES! Here is my tax-deductible donation of**

___ $100  ___ $500  ___ $1000  ___ $50  ___ $25  ___ Other

Name _______________________________  Phone _______________________________
Address _______________________________  Email _______________________________
State ___________  Zip ___________  City _______________________________
March for Nuclear Abolition & Global Survival

No Nukes! No Walls! No Wars! No Warming!

Wed., August 9, 2017 at 8am
Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab, Corner of Vasco & Patterson Pass Rds.

Commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the place where new US nuclear weapons are created today;
Change the future!

Rally, March & Nonviolent Direct Action

PROGRAM

8 AM - Daniel Ellsberg (pictured) renowned whistleblower, former Pentagon war planner, disarmament advocate; Emma’s Revolution (pictured) acclaimed singer-songwriting duo of Pat Humphries and Sandy O; Christine Hong, North Korea expert, UC Santa Cruz; Marylia Kelley, nuclear weapons watchdog, Executive Director at Tri-Valley CAREs; Barbara Rose Johnston, advisor to the Marshall Islands radiation claims tribunal, senior research fellow, Santa Cruz; Jan Kirsch, M.D., M.P.H., medical oncologist, global warming specialist at SF Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility; Hibakusha speaker invited.

9:15 AM - March begins. Bring enlarged photos of people, animals or nature for which you care deeply; drummers, singers, guitarists, traditional Japanese bon dance & symbolic die-in at the Lab’s West Gate; followed by an opportunity to peaceably risk arrest in the gates.

Stop Trump’s dangerous nuclear weapons policies

There will be free parking set up at the rally site and vanpools from Dublin-Pleasanton BART (925-443-7148 to reserve a seat). Peace Camp info is on the reverse side.

More info: 925.443.7148 or 510.839.5877
A Peace Camp will be held in conjunction with the August 9 action

Lake Del Valle Regional Park, south of the City of Livermore, available for August 7 and 8, 2017

WHAT: A group camp out at beautiful Lake Del Valle, available for one or two nights. Family friendly.

WHEN: Mon., Aug. 7 and/or Tues., Aug. 8. Confirm check-in times with Scott when you RSVP. At 7:15 AM on Aug. 9, we will caravan to the Lab for the event. (Park gate opens at 5 AM.)

WHERE: Ardilla group campground at Del Valle Regional Park, located on Del Valle Road off Mines Road, about 9 miles outside of Livermore.

PARKING: Limited parking at the campground, carpooling is suggested.

COST: $10 per person/campsite per night.

DETAILS: RSVP REQUIRED to Scott Yundt, Tri-Valley CAREs, 925-443-7148, scott@trivalleycares.org

• Musical instruments welcome • No pets • No alcohol

The Livermore Conversion Project 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. 9, 2017 actions at Livermore Lab

August 9 action co-sponsored by:
Alameda County Peace & Freedom Party; American Friends Service Committee; Berkeley Friends Church; Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose; Dominican Sisters of San Rafael; Earth Abides Catholic Worker Farm; East Timor Religious Outreach; Ecumenical Peace Institute; Jane Addams Peace Association; Konko Church of San Francisco; Lamorinda Peace & Justice Group; Livermore Conversion Project; Marin Peace & Justice Coalition; Middle East Children’s Alliance; Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center; Nafsi ya Jamii; Newman Nonviolent Peacemakers/Fr. Bill O’Donnell Social Justice Committee; Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library; Night on the Streets Catholic Worker; No Nukes Action Committee; NorCal District, Communist Party USA; Pacific Life Community; Pax Christi NorCal Region; Peace Action; Peacemakers; People’s World NorCal Bureau; SF Bay Area Chapter, Physicians for Social Responsibility; San Jose Peace & Justice Center; Social Justice Center of Marin; Tri-Valley CAREs; Veterans For Peace, East Bay; Western States Legal Foundation.

To become a co-sponsor, contact Livermore Conversion Project, PO Box 28119, Oakland, CA
Youth Video Contest

If you are between 10 and 30 years old, we invite you to create a **two-minute video** with your thoughts about nuclear weapons and how they affect human health and the environment.

The Youth Video Contest is part of our program to involve the next generation in nuclear and environmental policy. “Too often, young people are often left out of environmental decision-making,” said Valeria Salamanca, who is coordinating local youth outreach for Tri-Valley CAREs. “The video contest encourages youth to engage on an important topic in a creative way.”

Video submittals can be cartoons, live-action, documentary style, etc. Contestants can film with such technologies as cell phones and laptop webcams. Videos must be two minutes or less. We are offering a **Grand Prize of $500**, a Second Place Prize of $250, and a Third Place Prize of $100.

**The Youth Video Contest opens on August 15, 2017 and closes on October 31, 2017.** All videos must be submitted electronically. Winners will be notified in November. The three winning videos will be shown at a special awards ceremony and party on December 7, 2017.

For contest rules and other information you will need in order to submit your entry, check our website August 15 at [www.trivalleycares.org](http://www.trivalleycares.org) and our Youth Video Contest Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/youthvideocontest2017/](http://www.facebook.com/youthvideocontest2017/)

Winning videos from past years can be viewed at [www.trivalleycares.org/new/content2016.html](http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/content2016.html)

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**NPR: A Push for Open Process & Disarmament**

Shortly after taking office, President Trump announced he would undertake a new Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), undoing the one conducted by Obama in 2010. Trump’s NPR authorization memo used words like “modern, robust, flexible, resilient…” to signal its more aggressive tilt toward wholly new weapons programs and policies. Trump Administration officials speculated openly that the NPR might eschew even the mere mention of U.S. disarmament obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Further, it is being conducted in deepest secrecy in the bowls of the Pentagon.

On July 19, led by Dianne Feinstein and Ed Markey, 22 U.S. Senators sent a letter to the Trump Administration demanding an “inclusive, transparent review process” for the NPR that includes “broad interagency input” and a “publicly-available document.” Further, the signers called for the NPR to maintain all U.S. obligations under ratified treaties including a “commitment to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons.”

Senator Feinstein noted that the Trump NPR should “reject calls for new nuclear weapons.” Senator Markey added, “U.S. nuclear policy should focus on reducing the role of nuclear weapons.”

The Senate letter follows on a similar communication by 42 members of the U.S. House of Representatives in June. Both letters are available on our website. These congressional actions mark a good first step in moving the NPR out of the shadows and into the public debate. Much more needs to be done, however.

What can you do? First, if your Senator is on the letter, call or email to say “thank you.” CA’s Kamala Harris is on the letter, and she and Dianne Feinstein can be reached at 202.224.3121. There are also a number of Bay Area Reps on the June letter, as well as a few who are conspicuously absent including Eric Swalwell, whose district encompasses Livermore Lab. Call or email them. **And, thank you for all you do!**

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**Alerts 4 U**

**Thursday, August 17**

Tri-Valley CAREs meets
7:30 PM – 8:30 PM, TVC Conference Room, 4049 First St. Livermore
(925) 443-7148 for details

Tri-Valley CAREs’ monthly meeting is a chance to hear about the issues we are currently working on, meet and mingle with our members and staff and discuss upcoming events. Don’t miss it. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

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**Thursday, September 7**

Letter to the Editor Writing Party
5:30- 7:00 PM, TVC Office
4049 1st St. Suite 139A, Livermore
(925) 443-7148 for details

Write a letter to the editor of your favorite newspaper in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. We welcome beginners and experienced letter writers. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

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**Thursday, September 21**

Tri-Valley CAREs meets
7:30 PM – 8:30 PM, TVC Conference Room, 4049 First St. Livermore
(925) 443-7148 for details

Tri-Valley CAREs’ monthly meeting is a chance to hear about the issues we are currently working on, meet and mingle with our members and staff and discuss upcoming events. Don’t miss it. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

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**Thursday September 28**

Tracy Community Meeting
7:00 - 8:30 PM, 333 Civic Center Plaza, Room 203, Tracy
(925) 443-7148 for details

Come and learn how toxic and radioactive pollution at Livermore Lab’s Site 300 in Tracy affects you and your community. Hear presentations from the EPA and an environmental scientist about the progress of the cleanup program under the Superfund law. There will be Q & A time.
Illegal Airborne Plutonium Shipment to Livermore

This summer the Los Alamos Lab in New Mexico sent two illegal shipments of nuclear bomb material by commercial airliner in containers authorized solely for ground transportation. One airborne shipment went cross-country to the Savannah River Site in South Carolina while the other traveled 1,100 miles to the Livermore Lab.

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) released a short statement on June 23, noting that the prior week “improper shipments” had occurred with “small amounts” of “special nuclear material” traveling by air from Los Alamos to the two sites. NNSA vowed to undertake “an investigation.” The agency then refused to answer questions or issue any further statements.

None-the-less, key details are beginning to emerge about the nuclear airlift to Livermore Lab. The shipment involved 100 grams of weapons-grade plutonium, and it came by Fed-Ex air.

The plutonium was packaged in a 9975 Type B container. Department of Transportation regulations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations and the container’s technical specs all state that plutonium transport by air is prohibited. So far, neither NNSA nor Los Alamos will say whether Fed-Ex was ever notified.

According to documents, the plutonium had been packaged in April and was awaiting paperwork from Livermore Lab. The general rule is for a 90-day schedule. The Department of Transportation requires that a minimum 15-day advance notification go out to every state through which the plutonium will travel, according to its published regulations.

Yet, apparently, Livermore Lab suddenly told Los Alamos that it needed the plutonium in three days.

Reporters and Tri-Valley CAREs alike have asked what Livermore Lab was planning to do with the plutonium, but NNSA and both labs have gone mum and will not answer. We have sent emails that have gone unanswered, and we are now preparing a formal Freedom of Information Act request that will trigger response deadlines and leave the government open to litigation if it refuses to comply.

We are inquiring also about the shipment to South Carolina. Stay tuned.