

VITAL SIGNS

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR (IPPNW)

THE POINT OF NO RETURN

“ The Nayarit Conference has shown that the time has come to initiate a diplomatic process conducive to [outlawing and eliminating nuclear weapons]... This process should comprise a specific timeframe, the definition of the most appropriate fora, and a clear and substantive framework, making the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons the essence of disarmament efforts.

It is time to take action. The 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks is the appropriate milestone to achieve our goal. Nayarit is a point of no return. ”

—Dr. José Antonio Meade Kuribrefña, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

For anyone who wondered whether the Nayarit conference would be a turning point in the emerging humanitarian movement to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons, the Chair's summary of this historic meeting removed all doubt. The time for action has come, he said, and there is no turning back.

The Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Nayarit, Mexico on February 13-14, fulfilled its promise to extend and deepen the evidence-based understanding of the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons. IPPNW helped shape the agenda for the conference at the invitation of the Mexican government, and nearly every presentation bore our imprint in one way or another. Hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki offered moving testimonies about the effects of the deto-

nations that killed and injured hundreds of thousands of people. A speaker from Mexico's civil defense agency presented a classic IPPNW “bombing run,” describing the devastation a nuclear explosion would inflict upon Mexico City.

Dr. Zhanat Carr from the World Health Organization's radiological

unit reviewed the WHO's long-standing engagement with the nuclear weapons issue and its conclusion that “primary prevention” is the only approach to treating the health consequences of nuclear war. ICRC vice-president Christine Beerli, who spoke at IPPNW's World Congress in Basel in 2010, reiterated the Red Cross position that there could be no meaningful medical response to the use of nuclear weapons, and that outlawing and eliminating them is the only responsible option.

IPPNW had a major presence at the conference podium. Regional vice-president Masao Tomonaga, who is the head of the Japanese Red Cross Hospital in Nagasaki, described what would happen if a modern nuclear weapon were used against Hiroshima today.

Rutger's professor Alan Robock, IPPNW's principal science advisor on the climate effects of nuclear war, presented compelling new data on the severe and long-lasting declines in Chinese grain production that [\[Continued on pg. 2\]](#)



PHOTO: CIVIL SOCIETY DELEGATION APPLAUDS THE CHAIR'S SUMMARY OF THE NAYARIT CONFERENCE AND LOOKS TOWARD VIENNA.



PHOTOS: ICAN

society delegation of some 120 people, which was coordinated by ICAN and which had frequent opportunities to speak from the floor.

The big news from the conference came even before the opening ceremony, with the announcement by Austrian foreign minister Sebastian Kurz that a followup conference will be held in Vienna before the end of this year. This sent a clear signal that Nayarit would be laying the foundation for what many hope will be a new political process to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons. The question on everyone's mind leaving Nayarit, however, was asked in the closing session by Liv Torres of ICAN partner Norwegian People's Aid: "You now know the facts. What are you going to do about it?"

Time will tell. 

 [ADDITIONAL PHOTOS ONLINE GOO.GL/UQET18](http://GOO.GL/UQET18)

The Point of No Return

Continued from page 1

would result from the use of even a fraction of existing nuclear arsenals in a regional conflict. He was followed in the next panel by Co-President Ira Helfand, who held the participants spellbound as he explained the implications of Dr. Robock's findings for the two billion or more people who would face starvation from nuclear famine, and went on to describe the consequences of a major nuclear war between the US and Russia—something that Bruce Blair of Global Zero would later warn

could not be ruled out as long as the weapons exist.

"Friends don't let friends drive drunk, and maybe friends don't let friends have nuclear weapons. Go talk to your friends," Dr. Helfand said—a reference to the P5 nuclear-weapon states, who boycotted Nayarit as they had the previous conference in Oslo.

Despite the absence of most of the nuclear-armed States (India and Pakistan, to their credit, sent delegations), 146 countries registered for Nayarit, and they were fully engaged with the program from beginning to end. So was a civil

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NAYARIT

HOPE AMIDST HIBAKUSHA TESTIMONY AND PRESENTATIONS ON NUCLEAR FAMINE

WWW.SRE.GOB.MX/EN/INDEX.PHP/HUMANIMPACT-NAYARIT-2014

ICAN held a **two-day campaigners meeting** in Nayarit on February 11-12 for more than 100 civil society delegates to the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. Campaigners shared perspectives on how the nuclear weapons issue presents itself in different countries and political environments, and what strategies for pursuing a ban might be most effective. In an emotional conclusion to the meeting, Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow displayed a long yellow banner bearing the seal of her high school and the names of her classmates—hundreds of them—who died in the US atomic bombing of her city. Banning nuclear weapons, she said, would honor their lives and their deaths.


A **new ICAN video** about the road to the ban treaty was premiered in



ICAN CAMPAIGNERS PLANNING REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR A BAN TREATY.

Nayarit for the 500 State and civil society participants at the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. You can watch the six-minute video on YouTube (<http://goo.gl/SZas9j>). In a closing statement to the conference, ICAN steering group member Ray Acheson captured the meaning of the two-day event in a single sen-

tence: “The claim by some states that they continue to need these weapons to deter their adversaries has been exposed by the evidence presented at this conference and in Oslo as a reckless and unsanctionable gamble with our future.”

Twenty Red Cross Red Crescent national societies from every part of the world met for two days in Nayarit to plan the next steps in implementing the **nuclear weapons action plan** adopted in Hiroshima in May 2013. IPPNW Co-President Ira Helfand led a discussion about climate effects of nuclear war and nuclear famine, and pledged the federation’s support in helping the Red Cross advocate that nuclear weapons are never used again, and that they are prohibited and eradicated under international law. 

CLIMBING KILIMANJARO FOR PEACE!

MAY-JUNE 2015


Governments are now unanimous that a world free from nuclear weapons is necessary. But they are uncertain on how to get there. US statesmen have said that the goal of a nuclear weapon free world is like the top of a very tall mountain—the climb is difficult and the top cannot be seen.

To demonstrate that it’s possible to reach such a high goal—and to reach it soon—IPPNW Africa will bring together international peace advocates to scale the highest free-standing mountain in the world: Mt Kilimanjaro. We will climb in Africa, a continent which has demonstrated leadership by eliminating all nuclear weapons from its territories

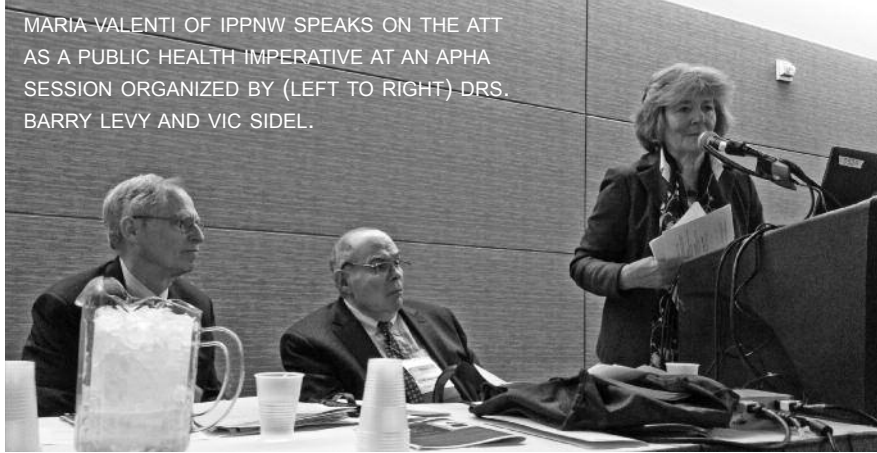
and declaring itself a nuclear-weapon-free-zone.

Now is the time for the people of Africa to elevate the global campaign against the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. It is simply unacceptable that a small group of nations continues to put global health and human civilization at risk. It’s critical that the people of Africa raise a collective voice against the continued possession of some 17,000 nuclear weapons. It’s also time to stop the damaging

and dangerous uranium exploitation in Africa.

To learn more about supporting this climb, or to join the Kilimanjaro project, contact Dr. Hellen Barsosio, International Councilor for IPPNW Kenya: hellen.barsosio@gmail.com. 





MARIA VALENTI OF IPPNW SPEAKS ON THE ATT AS A PUBLIC HEALTH IMPERATIVE AT AN APHA SESSION ORGANIZED BY (LEFT TO RIGHT) DRS. BARRY LEVY AND VIC SIDEL.

In a series of efforts to raise awareness of the ATT as a public health imperative, IPPNW has:

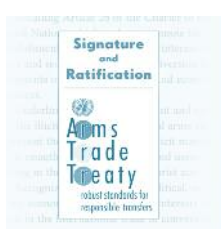
- **Published a “Health Professionals Guide to the ATT”** to highlight the actions health professionals can take to make the ATT effective.
- **Published a commentary “The Arms Trade Treaty: A Public Health Imperative”** in the international *Journal of Public Health Policy*. It describes how IPPNW was involved in a 1997 Nobel Peace Prize laureates call for an International Code of Conduct on arms trade.
- **Presented at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association** at the invitation of Drs. Barry Levy and Vic Sidel, as part of the Peace Caucus educational offerings.
- **Participated in a meeting in Geneva on developing an ATT Monitor** for when the Treaty enters into force.

ATT Race to 50

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) “race to 50” (#Raceto50), coined by the Control Arms Coalition, got a lot faster-paced with the February European Union (EU) vote to authorize EU members to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty.

Norway, a long-time champion for a strong and humanitarian-based ATT, recently became the 11th country to ratify the ATT. Prior to Norway, Panama was the 10th country to ratify.

The ATT requires 50 nations to ratify to enter into force 90 days later. If all 28 countries in the EU follow Norway’s lead, the magic number “50” will be within reach. 🇺🇸



THE UN HAS PUBLISHED A STEP BY STEP GUIDE ON SIGNING AND RATIFYING THE ATT.

ONLINE: UN.ORG/DISARMAMENT/ATT

DOWNLOAD RESOURCES

Overview of the ATT and the UN guide
un.org/disarmament/ATT/

Health Professionals Guide to the ATT
ippnw.org/pdf/health-guide-to-att.pdf

IPPNW abstract in the *Journal of Public Health Policy*
goo.gl/Krdx9W

How Healthy is the UN Program of Action on Small Arms?

Aiming for Prevention activists from around the world will join other NGOs at the United Nations in New York City June 16-20 to review progress on the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UN PoA) at the 5th Biennial Meeting of States. IPPNW will present a paper “How Healthy is the UN PoA” at the June meeting. 🇺🇸

Violence a Top Killer of Young People: What Can Health Professionals Do About It?



“Violence is one of the top killers of young people worldwide,” said Dr. Etienne Krug, director of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Department of Violence and Injury Prevention, at the opening of the sixth Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention meeting in Mexico City attended by more than 300 people.

This grim reality set the stage for discussions of risk factors, including the availability of firearms, and how to address them, as well as prevention strategies, such as how to improve education for women. He described a landmark publication currently being compiled by WHO, the Global Status Report on Violence Prevention, due out at the end of

2014, which will tell us how over 100 countries are implementing the recommendations of the 2002 WHO World Report on Violence and Health. He also reported on plans for introducing a new resolution on violence prevention at the 2014 World Health Assembly – a key step in ratcheting up worldwide priorities on this issue, including the post-MDG agenda.


“Violence gets under the skin and influences chronic disease like diabetes and cardiovascular disease,” said Dr. James Mercy, of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “We can change the world in many ways if we can prevent violence.”

IPPNW Drs. Jans Fromow-Guerra, Ruby Chirino, and Jorge Landetta from IPPNW Mexico, and AFP’s Maria Valenti, participated in the meetings that included a pre-conference on Mexican-specific violence issues, and the annual meeting of



PHOTO: DR. RUBY CHIRINO MAKES HER MARK ON THE “HANDS FOR PEACE” POSTER AT THE WHO MEETING IN MEXICO CITY.

the WHO’s Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA). IPPNW is helping to organize a VPA “Storybank” page linking to VPA member organization personal stories from survivors and others affected by violence, including IPPNW’s One Bullet Stories, and Medical Voices Against Violence.

We are also participating in efforts to create an academic, research and editorial VPA network to help foster more publishing from low and middle income countries on violence prevention. 

IPPNW South/North Small Arms Project Wins Award

An exciting new South/North project, “Raising awareness on small arms through interactive radio programmes,” got a financial boost from the “Mazda Make Things Better Award.” The joint project of PSR Finland, in cooperation with the Society of Nigerian Doctors for the

Welfare of Mankind, Zambian Healthworkers for Social Responsibility, and IPPNW was chosen from more than 120 submissions from students. Medical student Antti Junkkari from Finland submitted this idea. He based it on a pilot radio project developed a few years ago

by Nigerian doctors Ogebe Onazi and Homsuk Swomen (then medical students), because of repeated eruptions of violence in the region.

The Mazda award was launched at the summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in October, 2013 in Warsaw, and the award to IPPNW is the first to be granted. “We believe [this] initiative will effectively improve the lives of local people, which is exactly what this award is all about,” said Mazda Motor Europe President & CEO Jeff Guyton. This project will now be expanded in several areas in Nigeria and Zambia, with additional broadcasts on some of the original themes—small arms and health, election violence, Arms Trade Treaty—and on new themes which will be developed in consultation with experts and community leaders. 



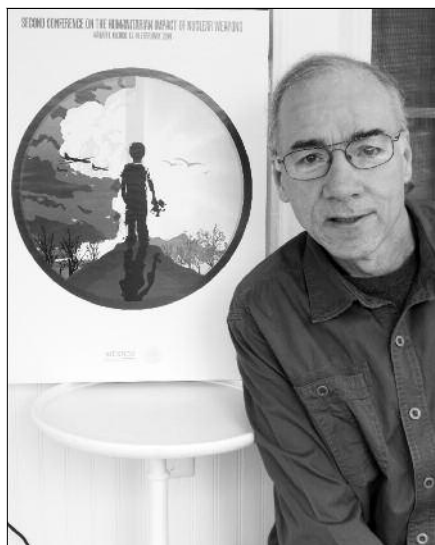
THE PILOT RADIO PROJECT: MEDICAL STUDENTS ACTIVE WITH IPPNW’S NIGERIAN AFFILIATE WERE INSPIRED TO DEVELOP A RADIO SHOW TO PROMOTE PEACE.

 ONLINE: <http://goo.gl/fVaVOP>

THE HUMANITARIAN CASE IS DECISIVE

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN LORETZ, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, IPPNW CENTRAL OFFICE

 [READ MORE ONLINE: PEACEANDHEALTHBLOG.COM](http://PEACEANDHEALTHBLOG.COM)



Program Director John Loretz coordinated IPPNW's participation at the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Nayarit. As a member of the international steering group of ICAN, he also had a role in promoting the campaign's call for a ban treaty among the participating States. We asked John why Nayarit was so important and what comes next.

VS: *You blogged from Nayarit on peaceandhealthblog.com that “the ban is coming.” Why do you think that?*

JL: The Nayarit conference really put an exclamation point on the message that had already been conveyed in Oslo and that has been building in a series of joint humanitarian statements now endorsed by some 130 States: that the unspeakable suffering caused by nuclear weapons trumps all justifications for their continued possession by anyone. Once you look at nuclear weapons from this humanitarian framework, the conclusion that they must be banned and eliminated is inescapable.

VS: *Does that mean negotiations for a ban treaty will begin at the next conference in Vienna?*

JL: Probably not. While we heard an overwhelming desire for action to eliminate nuclear weapons in Nayarit, our work is still cut out for us to persuade States that they have the power to outlaw nuclear weapons even without the cooperation of the nuclear-armed States, and that a ban treaty would compel

the US, Russia, and the others to do what they've been unwilling to do under the NPT. Mexican foreign minister Meade threw down the challenge. What happens next is up to us.


VS: *Why has the humanitarian perspective shaken things up so much? Hasn't this been IPPNW's message for more than three decades?*

JL: Several things have come together in the past few years.

IPPNW's work on nuclear famine—tirelessly pursued by Ira Helfand and Alan Robock of Rutgers—has added shocking new evidence to what we already knew about the horrifying medical and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons. The humanitarian case has been decisive in banning chemical and biological weapons, landmines, and cluster munitions. Nuclear weapons can no longer be exempt from these arguments. Finally, the impact of the recent Red Cross and Red Crescent resolutions, which parallel IPPNW's position in every respect, cannot be underestimated.

VS: *ICAN has put the humanitarian case at the center of its campaign for a ban treaty. Can you tell us more about how that came to be?*

JL: IPPNW has said from its earliest days that nuclear weapons must

never be used again, and that abolition is the only sure way to prevent their use. When we launched ICAN in 2007, it was out of frustration that that message had been lost in a never-ending debate about deterrence, proliferation, and the “security value” of nuclear weapons to those who have them. The step-by-step approach to disarmament, with step-by-step modernization going on at the same time, was—and is—a road to nowhere. So even as ICAN has grown far beyond its roots in IPPNW—more than 300 partner organizations in almost 100 countries now—the humanitarian perspective we've championed has become the explicit foundation for the ban. 

[The US is investing \\$10 billion in the new B61-12 nuclear bomb.](#)

In fact, every nuclear-weapon-state is modernizing its arsenal instead of disarming. How much are you willing to invest in a world without B61-12s or any other nuclear weapons?

Please support IPPNW's work with a donation today.

NEW REPORT WARNS TWO BILLION AT RISK

NUCLEAR FAMINE: TWO BILLION REASONS TO ELIMINATE NUCLEAR WEAPONS



UN PHOTO / DAVID CHANA

IPPNW and its US affiliate Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) have released a new report concluding that more than two billion people—a quarter of the world’s population—would be at risk of starvation in the event of a limited nuclear exchange, such as one that could occur between India and Pakistan, or by the use of even a small number of the nuclear weapons held by the US and Russia.

“A nuclear war using only a fraction of existing arsenals would produce massive casualties on a global scale—far more than we had previously believed,” said the report’s author, IPPNW Co-President Dr. Ira Helfand.

Nuclear Famine: Two Billion People at Risk? updates a study originally written by Dr. Helfand in 2012. Like


the previous edition, the report released in December is based upon research published by climate scientists who have assessed the impact of nuclear explosions on the Earth’s atmosphere and other ecosystems.

The report comes as momentum builds internationally to reframe disarmament efforts around a renewed understanding of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. In October, 130 nations issued a joint statement at the UN calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons as a humanitarian imperative. In February, more than 100 nations convened in Mexico and discussed the humanitarian consequences posed by nuclear war and the need to act on that knowledge.

“Countries around the world—those who are nuclear-armed and those

“ A nuclear war using only a fraction of existing arsenals would produce massive casualties on a global scale—far more than we had previously believed. ”

who are not—must work together to eliminate the threat and consequences of nuclear war,” Dr. Helfand said. “In order to eliminate this threat, we must eliminate nuclear weapons.”

Former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev has said the nuclear famine findings underscore that, “we must discard Cold War-style plans for the possible use of these weapons and move rapidly to eliminating them from the world’s arsenals.” 

THE 870 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO ARE CHRONICALLY MALNOURISHED TODAY HAVE A BASELINE CONSUMPTION OF 1,750 CALORIES A DAY. EVEN A 10% DECLINE IN THEIR FOOD CONSUMPTION WOULD PUT THIS ENTIRE GROUP AT RISK.



UN PHOTO / BRT GONZALEZ FARRAN



UN PHOTO / STUART PRICE

 [DOWNLOAD THE NEW REPORT
IPPNW.ORG/NUCLEAR-FAMINE.HTML](http://IPPNW.ORG/NUCLEAR-FAMINE.HTML)

April 28-May 9, 2014 New York, NY USA	Third Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
May 9-11, 2014 in Helsinki, Finland	24th IPPNW European Students Conference Online: ippnw-students.org
June 16-20, 2014 New York, NY USA	5th Biennial Meeting of States to Consider Implementation of the PoA (BMS5)
August 6-24, 2014 Semey to Astana, Kazakhstan	IPPNW Bike Tour IPPNW medical students have organized a two-and-a-half week, 750km/466 mile journey starting in Semey, Kazakhstan, and ending at the 21st World Congress in Astana, Kazakhstan. Online: ippnw-students.org/biketour
August 27-30, 2014 Astana, Kazakhstan	IPPNW World Congress The 21st Congress will be hosted by IPPNW Kazakhstan in cooperation with IPPNW CIS Regional Affiliates.
October 8-11, 2014 Durban, South Africa	World Medical Assembly The health sector has in the last decades increasingly addressed peace issues in an explicit manner. In 1981, the World Health Assembly gave its support to the idea that the preservation and promotion of peace is "the most significant factor for the attainment of health for all" (Resolution 34.38).
October 13-15, 2014 Capetown, South Africa	14th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates The annual gathering of Nobel Peace Prize recipients is held to discuss challenges facing the world and to promote peace and humanity. It is attended by leading figures in the social, cultural, scientific and political arenas.
October 13-15, 2014 Washington, DC USA	WHO's Violence Prevention Alliance Annual Meeting Online: www.who.int/violenceprevention/en/



The Partners in Peace Sustainers Circle, IPPNW's growing network of dedicated monthly donors, forms the backbone of our annual fundraising efforts. Here's how it works: your monthly gift is automatically charged to your credit card or checking account, allowing

IPPNW to rely on a steady stream of funding to continue our global fight for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

For only \$5 a month you'll receive IPPNW's biannual newsletter, Vital Signs, along with other IPPNW publications and urgent action alerts.

To join, please use the form on the reverse side of the enclosed donation slip, call (617) 440-1733 x304, or email IPPNW Development Associate Garrett FitzGerald at gfitzgerald@ippnw.org.

Dr. Milton K.D. Bosch, who has been an IPPNW contributor for almost 30 years, wrote us recently to explain why he has decided to do even more as we head into a crucial year for achieving a global ban on nuclear weapons:

"You made me think, am I committed to supporting the work of IPPNW to bring about the end of nuclear weapons, and am I willing to spend a larger portion of my income to bring that about? I simply could not say no to either question. I see it as a strategic investment in our future as a species."

We hope you agree with Dr. Bosch and that you will join him in making a gift that will enable us to take full advantage of the enormous opportunities we will have in 2014 to make the dream of eliminating nuclear weapons a reality.

Become a Partner in Peace today!

IPPNW is a non-partisan federation of national medical organizations in 62 countries dedicated to safeguarding health by working to ban nuclear weapons and to address the impact of militarism and war on human health.

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Vital Signs is published twice a year by IPPNW. 66-70 Union Square, #204, Somerville, MA 02143 USA Tel:+1.617.443.1733 Email: director@ippnw.org

Editor and Designer: Aki Morizono IPPNW Staff: Michael Christ, Doug Kline, John Loretz, Maria Valenti, Aki Morizono, Garrett FitzGerald, Anne Kieran, and George Cani.

