

For a Peaceful and Fair World, Without Nuclear Weapons

First of all, I would like to express the solidarity of the french Peace Movement (*le Mouvement de la Paix*) and all our compassion for the families who were bruised by the terrible floods that particularly affected the province of Hiroshima.

It is with great pleasure that we respond to the call of the organizing Committee of this World Conference against A and H Bombs.

A victory of citizen mobilizations

The adoption by the UN of a treaty to ban nuclear weapons could not have been possible without the tireless testimony of the Hibakushas and the permanence of the mobilizations of the peace movements in Japan. It is also a victory for millions of people and NGOs who, throughout the world, have acted for decades for the definitive elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in connection and convergence with the actions of a number of countries and national and international institutions such as the UN, the International Red Cross, the ILO, the ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation).

Global issues

Nuclear weapons are a deadly danger for humanity. The challenge of their eradication is linked to other issues such as war and peace, fair and sustainable development, the fight against global warming and more broadly for a world of justice, fraternity and equality (especially between men and women), so with the general struggle for human rights.

Humanity has never had as today the capacity and the means to face these challenges and to create the conditions so that every human being can live in peace and security.

The logic of power, domination and hoarding typical to present globalized economies is a major obstacle to building a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. It also comes with a questioning of the United Nations Charter and multilateralism for the benefit of NATO or supranational organizations such as the G8 or G20.

Thus this logic has favored the development of the military-political-industrial complex which is the main adversary in this phase of the struggle towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The military-industrial complex, which is mainly responsible for increasing military expenditure, also dominates and controls the media power. In France, for example, the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was totally ignored by the media or was fought by so-called experts.

Balance of power

The success of the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons should not be underestimated, nor overestimated, and we should neither underestimate the

determination of our opponents to delay the elimination of nuclear weapons. What is really positive is that the balance of power has evolved in favor of the elimination of nuclear weapons. In France, for example, in a recent poll, 76% of French people are in favor of France taking part in an international process of total and controlled elimination of atomic weapons, as planned by the UN. This will is very strong across the political spectrum.

And 67% of French people answer favourably, more than two-thirds of the population, to sign and ratify the Nuclear Weapons Treaty. These figures confirm, at the national level, the global developments towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

For the french Peace Movement, these data reinforce the dynamics of the fundamental movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons, which is expressed through the constitution of a vast international gathering for the elimination of these weapons, illegal for international law, dangerous because threatening the very existence of humanity, ineffective and militarily useless to ensure the safety of our people, financially costly and morally inadmissible.

However, these results can be shaded by the fact that to a first question concerning public expenditure, only 18% of pooled people consider that the budget of "defense, army", would be the second position to reduce. The security context with which citizens are flooded since the 2015 attacks may explain this result down from previous studies.

But this opinion study contradicts the choices made by the government and parliament who have just voted, without any effort of public debate, a new Military Program Law aiming in particular at renewing the whole of the French atomic arsenal, in complete contradiction with the international law that makes illegal the possession, manufacture and threat of use of the atomic weapon.

In France, the majority and the current government (Macron) is in favor of nuclear deterrence, the militarization of international relations, military interventions abroad and alignment with NATO policies.

Regarding the doctrine of nuclear deterrence, more and more voices raise in France to question it, including those of former ministers of defense.

For the french Peace Movement this doctrine inevitably leads to proliferation.

Proof of this is the possession of the nuclear weapon by North Korea.

Following the meeting between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un, the french Peace Movement declared itself satisfied and vigilant considering that these first steps allow hope.

However, this should not lead us to forget some angles of the current international situation, namely

- the new United States nuclear weapons policy with the resumption of the building of tactical nuclear weapons,
- the serious withdrawal of the US from the Iranian nuclear agreement,
- the will of the nuclear powers to prevent the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

It is therefore necessary to support the demands of the Peace Movements, the States and the United Nations for the demilitarization of this region, its denuclearization and the closing of foreign military bases.

Similarly, the initiatives of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its Member States should be supported for peaceful solutions to the conflicts in the region and to build a zone of peace, cooperation and development, without nuclear weapons, with the objective of extending these efforts to North-East Asia.

In Europe

The European Parliament has passed resolutions in favor of nuclear disarmament, but we must also act for a Europe of Peace including all European states, including Russia for a common security based on a logic inspired by the Helsinki principles. The next European elections in 2019 will be an opportunity for European pacifist movements to express themselves in this direction.

Campaign

The french Peace Movement has launched a campaign for France to commit, sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). A petition has already collected several thousand signatures. The film "The Bomb and us" is broadcast in many cinemas in partnership with the Peace Movement and the member organizations of ICAN-France. It allows for public debates on the issues of dangerousness, the uselessness of nuclear weapons but also on the doctrine of deterrence.

This campaign will be expressed during the initiatives around the International Day of Peace on September 21st and during the Peace Marches organized throughout France on Saturday, September 22nd 2018 in association with the national collective "*Marching for Peace*" including 153 organizations.

On Sunday, October 14 2018, many partners are organizing with the french *Peace Movement* **a day of mobilization on "the scene of crime"**. The *Peace Movement* insists: "*We want to challenge the President of the French Republic to tell him: Mr President, Remove the bomb from your skull*". The pacifists will converge on the places where the French state is preparing the atomic war to denounce the humanitarian consequences and the illegality of the nuclear weapon. "*Now it's confirmed, we are the majority; Mr President, you must listen to this will and commit France to the ratification of the TPNW.*"