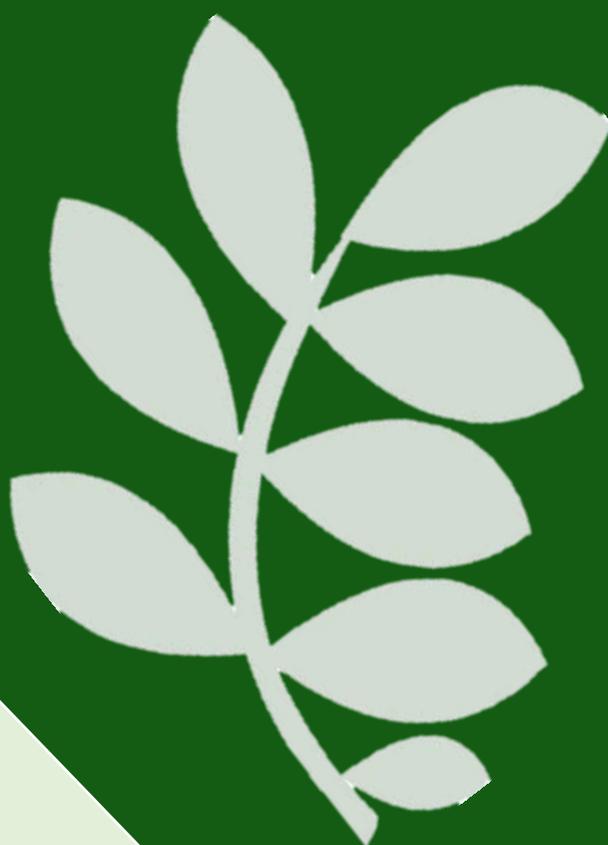




Newsletter

September 2017
Special Issue



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The reasons for publishing this IPB Newsletter Special Issue are shown in the photo on the right.

It shows one of the Peace Wave Starting Actions in Japan (this one is in Tokyo) requesting the Japanese Government to “Sign the Ban Treaty Now”.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted on July 7th 2017, is open for signature at the United Nations in New York today.



In front of Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo: Fifty-seven Hibakusha join the sit-in and urge PM Abe to sign the treaty. © Gensuikyo

More than 50 states are on the list to sign it today. That is a very good starting point.

Simultaneously, the present day marks the start of the Peace Wave, initiated at our member organization Gensuikyo's World Conference Against A and H Bombs. The Peace Wave is a week of actions in all countries from 20th to 26th September. Gensuikyo and IPB are collecting information about these actions. You will find more information below.

Not to forget that tomorrow we shall celebrate the International Day for Peace on the 21st of September.

We expect a wonderful week, with many signatures to the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty and lots of colourful actions all around the globe, all of them having the same message: “Peace!”

With our warmest regards,

Amela Skiljan



IPB MEMBERS MARK BAN TREATY OPENING WITH CANADA-WIDE DAY OF ACTION

*By Steven Staples
IPB Board Member, Ottawa*

The peace movement in Canada is confronting the Trump agenda as it becomes entrenched north of the U.S. border, and the International Peace Bureau is playing an essential coordinating and catalyzing role.

IPB members in Canada are at the forefront of efforts to press Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to adopt policies that will build peace and promote disarmament. Peace activists are growing alarmed that the Prime Minister is subsuming decades of leadership on Canada's disarmament agenda to the belligerent demands of the Trump

administration and its defence lobby allies within Canada. The country that led the way in banning landmines and refused to join the Iraq invasion must not lose sight of its values.

On September 20, the day the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty opens for signature in New York, IPB members and allies will launch a Day of Action in support of the Ban Treaty in 10 cities and communities from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast.

Groups are holding "Citizen Signing Ceremonies," inviting anyone to come and "sign

the treaty.” In Ottawa, every Member of Parliament was sent a personal invitation to join with citizens before the Peace Tower to sign a giant replica of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons during a Citizen Signing Ceremony. The symbolic action is intended to contrast with the Trudeau government’s rejection of the treaty, largely in response to US pressure (see more on Ceasefire.ca

<https://www.ceasefire.ca/?p=25348>).

The September 20 Day of Action was collectively organized by 20 IPB member groups and allies, and was built upon an earlier social media awareness campaign on the Ban Treaty that reached more than a half-million Canadians on Facebook. In the days leading to Hiroshima commemorations, the groups ran three video ads on Facebook, which helped to generate several thousand letters to Prime Minister Trudeau urging Canada to sign the Treaty.

Social media such as Facebook has played an important role in the IPB’s work in Canada. At the NATO summit in May, Trump pressured Canada and other NATO members to increase military spending, denying resources for social programs and environmental protection. The IPB in Canada launched a campaign on Facebook with a video and petition, which earned national media attention and was highlighted by the Facebook campaign tool, ActionSprout, as an example of effective campaigning by its users (read more on ActionSprout at <https://actionsprout.com/inside-actionsprout/leveraging-facebook/>).

IPB members are gearing up for next year’s Global Day of Action Against Military Spending, which is expected to focus on Prime Minister Trudeau’s plan to nearly double Canadian military spending as a result of pressure from the Trump Administration. A membership drive will also be held to increase and

consolidate the IPB’s expanding reach and influence in Canada.



IALANA Statement Regarding the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on the Occasion of its Opening for Signature on 20 September 2017

IALANA – the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms – welcomes the adoption on 7 July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The nuclear weapons ban treaty is a powerful and eloquent statement, grounded in an understanding of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear explosions, of the political, moral, and legal standards enjoining non-use and elimination of nuclear arms and of the need to redress the damage wrought by the nuclear age to people and the environment. At the same time, it must be acknowledged that trends in the wider world are negative, as threats of use of nuclear weapons are made in the Korean context and elsewhere, and as all nine nuclear-armed states proceed with long-term programs for the maintenance and modernization of their nuclear arsenals. It is imperative that the nuclear-armed states and their allies be persuaded of both the humanitarian values and the disarmament logic underlying the treaty.

IALANA is particularly pleased that the treaty – as we strongly advocated – robustly recognizes and reinforces existing treaty- and custom-based international law requiring the non-use and elimination of nuclear weapons. That law applies to states whether or not they join the treaty. That includes the nuclear-armed states, which did not participate in the negotiations, as well as states in nuclear alliances, most of which likewise did not participate.

Considerations relevant to all states are set out in the treaty’s preamble, whose legal elements:

- *Reaffirm* the need for all states at all times to comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law;
- *Identify* key principles and rules of international humanitarian law, including the rule of distinction between civilians and combatants and civilian objects and military objectives; the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks; the rule of proportionality; the rule of precaution; the prohibition of infliction of unnecessary suffering; and the rules for the protection of the environment;
- *Consider* that any use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, in particular the principles and rules of international humanitarian law;
- *Recall* the UN Charter prohibition of the threat or use of force;
- *Reaffirm* the obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. That obligation was set forth in a unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice in its 1996 Advisory Opinion, based on Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and UN practice going back to the very first General Assembly resolution, in 1946.

The treaty’s core prohibitions, set out in Article I, bar states parties from developing, testing, producing, and possessing nuclear weapons, and from using and threatening to use such weapons. At least the latter prohibitions, of using and threatening to use nuclear weapons, apply to all states whether or not they are party to the treaty, as a matter of universal law rooted in international humanitarian law, the UN Charter, and principles of humanity and dictates of public conscience.

We emphasize that the use and threatened use of nuclear weapons is presently incompatible with international humanitarian law regulating the conduct of warfare. Above all, due to their uncontrollable blast, heat, fire, and long-lasting radiation effects, nuclear weapons cannot meet the requirement of distinguishing between the civilian population and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives. Indeed, the catastrophic consequences of use of nuclear weapons vastly exceed the ordinary boundaries of armed conflict and adversely impact populations in third-party states, the natural environment necessary to sustain human life, and future generations. The use and threatened use of nuclear weapons accordingly also violates international human rights law, most centrally the right to life. It is therefore appropriate that the preamble to the nuclear weapons ban treaty invokes international human rights law as well as international humanitarian law.

In view of the centrality of threat to now decades-old reliance on nuclear weapons in military and security postures, IALANA also emphasizes the importance of the explicit inclusion of the prohibition of threatened use in the treaty. It will be an important tool in the ongoing campaign to delegitimize 'nuclear deterrence' as contrary to international law as well as common sense in view of the immense risks involved. Delegitimization of nuclear deterrence is essential to success in achieving the global abolition of nuclear arms.

The treaty's preamble refers to the "unacceptable suffering of and harm caused to the victims of the use of nuclear weapons (hibakusha), as well as of those affected by the testing of nuclear weapons." IALANA welcomes the human-rights based obligation on all states parties in a position to do so to assist affected states parties with victim assistance and environmental remediation. There is still much to do to help victims of the use and testing of nuclear weapons, and clean-up or other appropriate management of contaminated areas remains a daunting task. IALANA urges all states to take seriously the obligation of assistance to affected states, with special emphasis on the responsibility of states having used or tested nuclear weapons.

IALANA hopes that the several pathways created by the treaty for nuclear-armed states to verifiably and irreversibly dismantle their arsenals will serve as a framework for global nuclear disarmament. If the treaty is not itself used as such a framework, at least it points the way toward a convention – a comprehensive agreement on the permanent global elimination of nuclear arms.

Finally, the nuclear weapons ban treaty is the product of a participatory, conscience-driven and non-discriminatory movement of states taking responsibility for the future of humanity working together with civil society. It is a harbinger of the democratization of disarmament and of the United Nations, and of a paradigm shift toward human security, placing the individual at the centre rather than considerations guided only by states' interests.

We accordingly call on all states to sign the treaty and then soon to ratify it in order to bring it into legal force at the earliest possible date. We urge states in nuclear alliances to modify their national policies appropriately so that they can sign the treaty and act consistently with its object and purpose as required of signatories by international law, and to ratify the treaty when they are in a position fully to comply with it. We call on nuclear-armed states to, now, adopt policies and to, now, effectively engage in disarmament negotiations, which are required by international law, so that they too are able to join the treaty or to engage in a parallel process for ending the spectre of use of nuclear arms and achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. In this regard, the treaty provides confirmatory evidence of the utmost importance of existing international law in requiring that nuclear weapons be banned from the face of the earth; it is a powerful call to the nuclear-armed states, and to the world, to effectively honour the obligations of nuclear disarmament.



Hiroshima: "2017 Peae Wave Starting Action: Japanese Government, Sign the Prohibition Treaty!" © Gensuikyo

PEACE WAVE

SEPT 20 – 26 2017

by Lisa Clark, IPB Co-President

A GREAT EXCITEMENT ran through all the thousands and thousands of delegates at our member organization Gensuikyo's World Conference Against A and H Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki this year, as I wrote in my report in the last issue of IPB Newsletter. The adoption of the Ban Treaty was a remarkable success of our campaigns, and especially of our model of open collaboration between civil society and governments.

As we wrote in the Final Declaration, however, "To move forward towards completely eliminating nuclear weapons, it is of decisive importance to build a majority of opinion in favour of the treaty in the nuclear-armed

countries and their allies and press their governments to sign and ratify the treaty with the force of public opinion and movements." In pledging to do this, we have launched a variety of actions, the first one being the global Peace Wave, a week of actions in all countries from 20 to 26 September, for on 20 September the United Nations will host a ceremony where States come and sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons!

On the IPB website (<http://www.ipb.org/peace-wave-sept-20-26/>) we will try and keep track of the myriad actions that have been planned! And Gensuikyo, too, is collecting and then disseminating the lists of actions

(<http://www.antiatom.org/english/>). A real WAVE will show the planet how strongly NGOs, social movements, students, trade unions, doctors and lawyers, and all sorts of citizens' organizations care about the need to move forward towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. And, of course, the victims: the Hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but also the many victims of nuclear tests. I shall take this opportunity to thank our friends from the Marshall Islands and from Australia: as Sue Coleman-Haseldine said so movingly, "They looked upon us as flora and fauna. But now finally, I feel that the world has finally heard our voice."

Our Canadian colleagues have come up with a great action proposal! If our governments are not willing to sign, then we shall hold a Citizens Signing Ceremony. See the very long list of cities where there are going to be such events in Canada on 20 September. <https://www.ceasefire.ca/?p=25368>

In Italy, we have borrowed this idea and plan to use it in an extended campaign, to be launched on 20 September, but which will go on and on ... perhaps until the Italian government has changed its mind and decides to join the Ban Treaty process. We have added a draft city council resolution, suggesting to local government administrations that cities' representatives should sign alongside their citizens: at a meeting of the city council, open to the public, the Treaty is signed and then photographs and an official adopted resolution are sent, by way of information, to the government. The overall list of events planned in Italy is to be found at: <http://www.ipb.org/peace-wave-sept-20-26/>

In France, our member organization Mouvement de la Paix has opted for its traditional strength: People marching in the streets! The (very long) list of cities and towns where Mouvement de la Paix, with all its

constituent members, is growing every day: the last time I looked it stood at more than 30!!!

In Japan, there is going to be a paper crane action in front of the Prime Minister's office. In the USA, Peace&Planet have put together another long list of events. And, of course, ICAN has drawn up a whole serie of useful suggestions and materials that we can all use to underscore the importance of 20 September.

The signing ceremony itself, at UN Headquarters in New York, will be held on the morning of 20 September as part of the High-Level Segment of the UN General Assembly, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. Just a few representative speakers have been invited: the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the President of the General Assembly Miroslav Lajcak from Slovakia, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons! Congratulations, ICAN! An honour that is well deserved: you have been both leaders and servants to our global movement, successfully showing the way, but also doing a lot of hard work to make available to us all the knowledge, the materials, the suggestions necessary to carry out a splendid world campaign! <http://www.icanw.org/campaign-news/sign-the-nuclear-ban-treaty/>



Nagasaki: "Let us take action together to achieve a nuclear weapon-free world -- Japanese Government Must Join the Ban Treaty!" © Gensuikyo