

No to Nuclear Weapons!

核兵器に
NO!



24,000

Did you know that eight countries have a total of almost 24,000 nuclear weapons?



No
I had no idea!



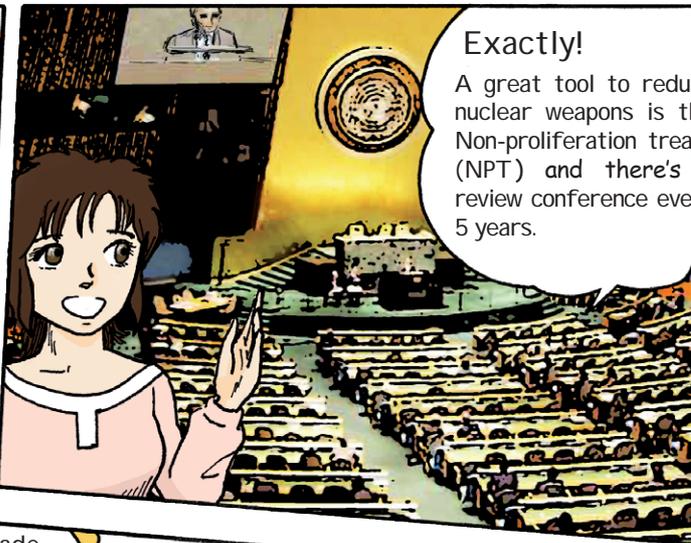
Photo by US Army

Altogether, these arsenals have the destructive power to cause devastation equivalent to 400,000 Hiroshimas where more than 140,000 people died!



No way!

But that's a huge threat to all of us! We need to get rid of them!



Exactly!

A great tool to reduce nuclear weapons is the Non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and there's a review conference every 5 years.

The 2010 NPT conference at the United Nations has to reach an agreement on a clear path towards abolition of nuclear weapons. And by 2020 we must realize the total abolition.



I see...
But - what can I do?



The International Trade Union Confederation is now making a big campaign on this including a petition.

Cool!
Let's join.

Let's sign!



The ITUC is pretty big you know, representing 170 million workers in 157 countries all over the world.

Here you can read the petition and see what they ask for.

Read and sign the petition here :
www.ituc-csi.org/peace



TO: Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General, United Nations

We wish to add our voices to the global campaign for an end to nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We believe that the world needs to take urgent action to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, and to make the world free of nuclear weapons, as part of an overall drive for worldwide peace and the transfer of military spending to socially-useful ends. The international treaties concerning nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear weapons test-ban and fissile material cut-off are essential to achieving this goal.

In May 2010 the United Nations will meet to review the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons (NPT). Trade unionists from around the world are urging that meeting to establish a clear path to abolition of nuclear weapons in the shortest possible time. We ask that:

- Those countries which have not joined the NPT to do so, and for all countries to comply with it in full;
- The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty enter into force as soon as possible;
- There be rapid conclusion of agreement on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty; and
- International agreements to support nuclear-weapon-free zones be established.

We support the campaign of the “Mayors for Peace”, headed by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in calling for abolition of all nuclear weapons by 2020.

Production and maintenance of nuclear weapons, and military expenditure overall, cost more than one trillion dollars each year. We call for major reductions in military expenditure, to free this money to be spent on social and economic development and fighting poverty. We further ask that this transformation from military to peaceful expenditure be done in a way which protects the livelihoods of those who would be affected by it.

Please Sign!

Signature: _____

Country: _____

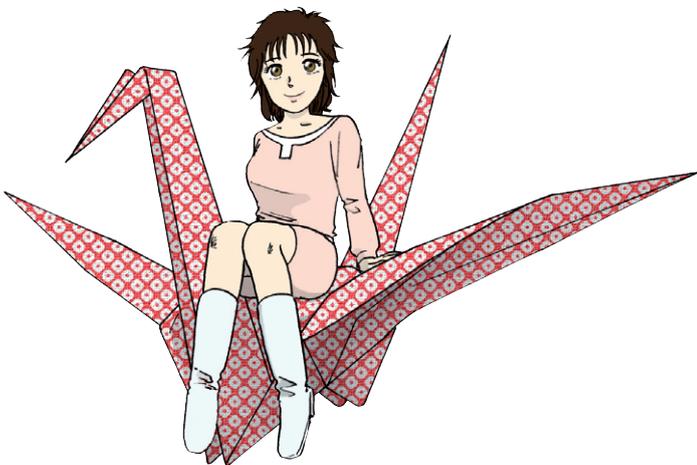
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Armed conflicts:

In 2007, 14 major armed conflicts were active in 13 locations around the world. Over the past decade the global number of active major armed conflicts has declined overall. The number of wars between countries has declined nearly every year over the past two decades. Most armed conflicts are now within national borders.

Military Expenditure:

World military expenditure is estimated to have been \$1339 billion in 2007—a real-terms increase of 6 per cent over 2006 and of 45 per cent since 1998. This corresponded to 2.5 per cent of world gross domestic product (GDP) and \$202 for each person in the world.



Nuclear weapons:

Nuclear weapons kill through effect of heat, shockwaves, radiation and radioactive fallout. The attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killed an estimated 200,000 people, mostly civilians. The weapons in one strategic nuclear-armed submarine have a combined explosive force several times greater than all the conventional bombs dropped in World War II.

At the beginning of 2008 eight nuclear weapon states possessed a total of almost 10,200 operational nuclear weapons. Several thousand of these nuclear weapons are kept on high alert, ready to be launched within minutes. If all nuclear warheads are counted — operational warheads, spares, those in both active and inactive storage, and intact warheads scheduled for later dismantlement — these states together possess a total of more than 23,000 warheads. Over 90 per cent of those weapons are in the arsenals of the United States and Russia. If one hundred nuclear weapons were used to attack cities, the soot from the firestorm would trigger a decade of diminished sunlight and thus significantly shorter growing seasons, leading to one-billion deaths by starvation and untold more from pandemics.

Weapons of mass destruction:

Nuclear, biological and chemical weapons are rightly called weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Designed to terrify as well as to destroy, they have the potential to kill massive numbers of people in a single attack, and their effects would persist in the environment and in our bodies, in some cases indefinitely.

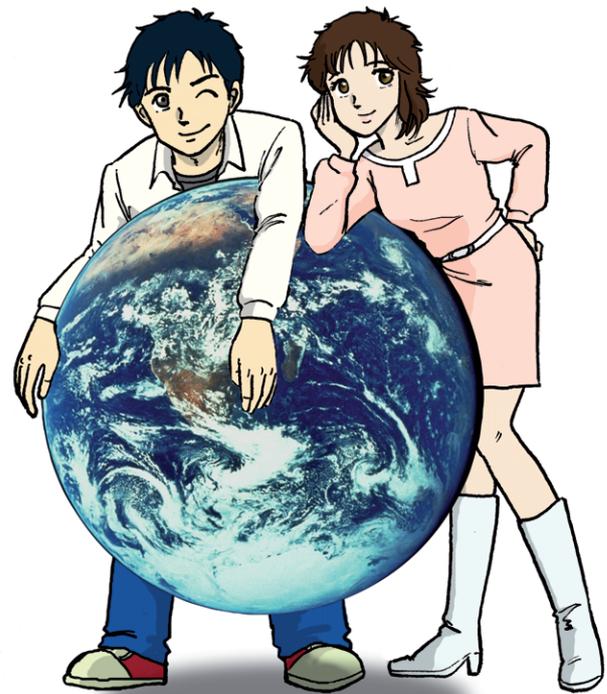


Biological and toxin weapons:

Biological and toxin weapons kill by using pathogens to attack cells and organs in human bodies, although they can also be used to target crops and livestock on a massive scale.

Chemical weapons:

Chemical weapons kill mainly by attacking the nervous system and lungs, or by interfering with a body's ability to absorb oxygen.



What's NPT?

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a treaty which recognises five nations as "nuclear weapon states" (NWS): the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia and the People's Republic of China, and bans other non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS) from receiving, manufacturing or acquiring nuclear weapons.

The NPT was concluded in 1968 and entered into force on 5 March 1970. It is currently ratified by 191 countries (as of UN website April 2009).

What's "Mayors for Peace"?

On 24 June 1982, at the 2nd UN Special Session on Disarmament held at UN Headquarters in New York, then Mayor Takeshi Araki of Hiroshima proposed a new programme to promote the solidarity of cities toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons. In 2003, Mayors for Peace launched the 2020 Vision Campaign mobilising cities worldwide to promote achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world by the year 2020. As of 1 April 2009, membership stood at 2,817 cities in 134 countries and regions.

Websites:

www.ituc-csi.org
www.icnnd.org
www.sipri.org
www.un.org
www.2020visioncampaign.org

Sources: SIPRI Yearbook 2008 and the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission Federation of American Scientists www.mayorsforpeace.org/english www.2020visioncampaign.org

