**122 Nations Make Huge Progress toward Banning Nuclear Weapons!**

**Grassroots Organizing Is Absolutely Crucial for Preventing War!**

Autumn 2017 news compiled and written by Glen Anderson

**The “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” was adopted on July 7, 2017, through the United Nations, and many nations are signing onto it:** Of the UN’s 193 member states, 122 of them supported this treaty, but none of the 9 nations with nuclear weapons did. If enough nations sign on, the treaty will prohibit the possession, development, testing, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. On September 20, 2017, when this Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons opened for signatures at the United Nations, 50 nations immediately signed it. More nations have continued signing onto it. Also, on Nov. 1, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly scheduled its first-ever high-level conference on nuclear disarmament for May 14-16, 2018. **Now is the time for grassroots people worldwide to push our respective governments to act responsibly and abolish nuclear weapons!**

**2017 Nobel Peace Prize will be awarded Sun. Dec. 10 to international organization that successfully organized this United Nations treaty:** Years of hard work are paying off for the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winner, the **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**. ICAN is comprised of hundreds of partner organizations in 100 countries, including the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo WA. ICAN’s victory in moving the United Nations and the world community toward peace shows how powerful non-government organizations and civil society can be. Democracy Now! reported on this great news. See this link: [**www.tinyurl.com/y79zxo49**](http://www.tinyurl.com/y79zxo49) Also see the next two news items below.

**Olympia FOR’s nuclear weapons committee plans local activities leading up to Sunday December 10:**  We invite people to bring signs opposing nuclear weapons to our weekly peace vigils for the two weeks before the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony on Sunday December 10 (Wed. Nov. 29 and Wed. Dec. 6 from 12 noon to 1 pm at Sylvester Park’s NW corner at Legion & Capitol Way, and Fri. Dec. 1 and Fri. Dec. 8 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm at Percival Landing’s SE corner at 4th & Water). We are making a large “Abolish Nuclear Weapons” banner and will hold it on an I-5 freeway overpass on one or a few occasions too. If we can organize an event for Sunday December 10 locally, we will notify you by e-mail.

**A great event will occur in Ballard, Seattle’s Norwegian neighborhood, on Sunday December 10 early evening to celebrate the Nobel Peace Prize award in Oslo, Norway,** to the organization mentioned above. For information about this see [**www.wpsr.org**](http://www.wpsr.org)or call (206) 547-2630.

**Daniel Ellsberg warns us that Trump poses a serious nuclear threat to the entire world:** Read the article at[**www.tinyurl.com/y8nvuesy**](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8nvuesy)

**Urge Congress to pass legislation preventing Trump (or any president) from starting a nuclear war:** Trump is probably actually insane. He has no impulse control. He is grossly ignorant about nuclear weapons. But his finger is on the nuclear button and he has unilateral authority to start a nuclear war! This is outrageous!  **Urge Congress to correct the situation by passing S. 200 and H.R. 669**, the **Restricting the First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act**. The U.S. Constitution is full of checks and balances, including the restriction on the President that **only Congress can declare war**. However, the Constitution’s writers did not anticipate nuclear weapons, so since 1945 the President has had sole authority to begin a nuclear war – the biggest, most horrible war of all – despite the Constitution’s explicit wording. This nuclear loophole has existed for 72 years, but people are worried especially now that a madman is in the White House (or on the golf course or watching TV) with the nuclear suitcase always available for him to trigger if he gets mad and feels like lashing out. We urgently must restore the Constitution’s checks and balances! Peace folks statewide – including Olympia FOR’s nuclear weapons committee – have been urging U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and our state’s ten U.S. House members to co-sponsor this **absolutely necessary legislation**, but they have refused to do so. Representative Pramila Jayapal from Seattle promptly signed on as a co-sponsor, and Olympia FOR’s committee convinced Rep. Denny Heck to co-sponsor it too.

**Read these articles about North Korea and nuclear weapons:** This article debunks 5 myths about war with North Korea that make Americans think they are safe, so we absolutely must act now to prevent World War III: [**www.tinyurl.com/y9tafjn6**](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9tafjn6)This article points out that North Korea sees clearly how the U.S. overthrows governments it does not like (“regime change” against nations that do not have nuclear weapons), so North Korea’s nuclear weapons are very understandable: [**www.tinyurl.com/yasuqg3m**](http://www.tinyurl.com/yasuqg3m)The following article says, “Trump sees power as military strength — and nukes as the apex of that power.” Read it at [**www.tinyurl.com/yacm3b49**](http://www.tinyurl.com/yacm3b49)

**Click this link for info and four actions you can take regarding nuclear weapons**: The Basel Peace Office does good work. Click [**www.tinyurl.com/y7jfajva**](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7jfajva)

**In 2009 the Olympia City Council adopted a resolution calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons:** See [**www.tinyurl.com/y9eggfub**](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9eggfub)Olympia FOR’s committee is communicating with some City Council members about taking new actions.

**The U.S.’s 65 years of nuclear threats against North Korea prompted them to build nuclear weapons to protect their national security:**  If you want to resolve a conflict with someone, it is necessary to understand how the other person sees it. Actually, the Korean War never ended. No peace treaty was ever signed to formally end the war, but a ceasefire has been in effect for about 65 years. During all of that time the U.S. has been militarily threatening North Korea – including threatening them with nuclear weapons. Since the early 1950s the U.S. has attacked and/or overthrown a huge number of other nations’ governments, but none of those have had nuclear weapons. Knowing this, we can understand why North Korea’s government feels the need to create its own nuclear weapons for self-defense. Trump’s threats only give North Korea more reason to feel in severe danger. Trump is giving North Korea more reasons to build nuclear weapons. The remedy is not more threats. The remedy is for ALL nations to abolish nuclear weapons.

**U.S. should de-escalate tensions and intensify diplomacy with North Korea now:** The peace group United for Peace and Justice (**www.unitedforpeace.org**) calls for these now:

• Trump should stop his provocative rhetoric.

• The U.S. should fully respect North Korea’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

• The U.S. and South Korea should immediately cease provocative joint military maneuvers in the region, so North Korea will have an opportunity to reciprocate. We should de-activate and remove the THAAD missile defense system deployed near North Korea’s border.

• The U.S. should engage in good faith direct talks with North Korea, without pre-conditions, to bring these two nuclear powers back from the brink.

• The U.S. should negotiate in good faith with North Korea, South Korea and China to replace the 1953 Armistice Agreement with a Peace Agreement, finally ending the Korean War.

• The U.S. should sign, ratify and rigorously implement the treaty adopted on July 7, 2017, by 122 countries at the United Nations. The U.S. is legally obligated under the 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to negotiate in good faith the elimination of its nuclear arsenal.

**Expert Lawrence Wilkerson says Trump is clueless on North Korea, and the only way to defuse the nuclear standoff is through direct negotiations:** Wilkerson has extensive experience in the government and military. Read his interview at this link: [**www.tinyurl.com/yawe7ht2**](http://www.tinyurl.com/yawe7ht2)

**Pope Francis denounces nuclear weapons**: On November 10, 2017, Pope Francis spoke to a high-profile conference about nuclear weapons. He was bold and explicit as usual. Info: [**www.tinyurl.com/y75hgfte**](http://www.tinyurl.com/y75hgfte)

**Olympia FOR’s nuclear weapons committee organizes vigorously and chooses a new name:** We started this committee in May 2017 with great energy and have been organizing vigorously ever since. We want to bring more people and organizations into this community-based effort, so in November we created a new name, the **Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**. We are continuing to reach out to the local community, pressure our members of Congress, and participate in the statewide coalition, which also chose a new name, **Washington Against Nuclear Weapons**. For more information – or to join our local Olympia committee – contact Tim Russell at **nuclearweapons@olympiafor.org**(360) 705-2407. You can contact the statewide coalition through Lilly Adams at Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, [**www.wpsr.org**](http://www.wpsr.org)(206) 547-2630