

25 YEARS OF PRACTICING PEACE

VITAL SIGNS

Volume 17 Issue 2 2006

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


Victory! nuclear “bunker buster” funding rejected by US Congress

IPPNW and its US affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), had reason to celebrate in October when Congress turned back a Bush administration request for \$4 million to develop the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, leading the Department of Energy to assert that it would limit its research to conventional bunker busters in the future. Both

IPPNW and PSR had produced significant reports in 2003 and 2005 on the medical and environmental consequences of bunker buster use, garnering support of key members of Congress.

Nevertheless, funding for US nuclear weapons, including the controversial Reliable Replacement Warhead program, is even higher than it was dur-

ing the Cold War. Congress continues to support the National Ignition Facility, construction of a new plant to manufacture plutonium pits, and dual-use delivery systems that are the cornerstones of a new generation of nuclear weapons.

For IPPNW and PSR, the fight to abolish nuclear weapons continues. 



International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)

is a non-partisan federation of national medical organizations in 58 countries dedicated to safeguarding health by working to ban nuclear weapons and to address the impact of militarism and war on human health.

IPPNW is a non-profit organization registered under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

All gifts to IPPNW are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



727 MASSACHUSETTS AVE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139 USA


Tel: 617.868.5050
Fax: 617.868.2560
Email: ipnwbos@ipnwnw.org
Web: www.ipnwnw.org

What makes IPPNW strong

They couldn't be further apart. Alex Rosen is a medical student at Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany. A world away, Khagendra Dahal is studying medicine at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal. While these two IPPNW student leaders live in vastly different cultural, political, and economic circumstances, they both have found in IPPNW common expression of their hopes and beliefs. Alex's main entry point is nuclear weapons; for Khagendra it is conflict, human rights, and health. Both are working for the same cause.

They share the view that a doctor's responsibilities extend beyond the individual patient to include the health and well being of the human

family. That war, terrorism, and nuclear weapons are affronts to the sanctity of life. And that collective action to prevent armed violence, to promote peaceful resolution of conflict, and to eliminate nuclear weapons is our best hope for humanity and future generations.

IPPNW is not an institution made of bricks and mortar. It is a living being composed of tens of thousands of people – doctors, students, health practitioners, and concerned citizens on nearly every continent – who put aside differences and, each in their own unique way, are intervening at various points along the spectrum of violence to build a healthier, safer world. Like Alex and Khagendra. That is what makes IPPNW a powerful and effective force for change. 

IPPNW WORLD NOTES

GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF PEACEMAKERS
MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

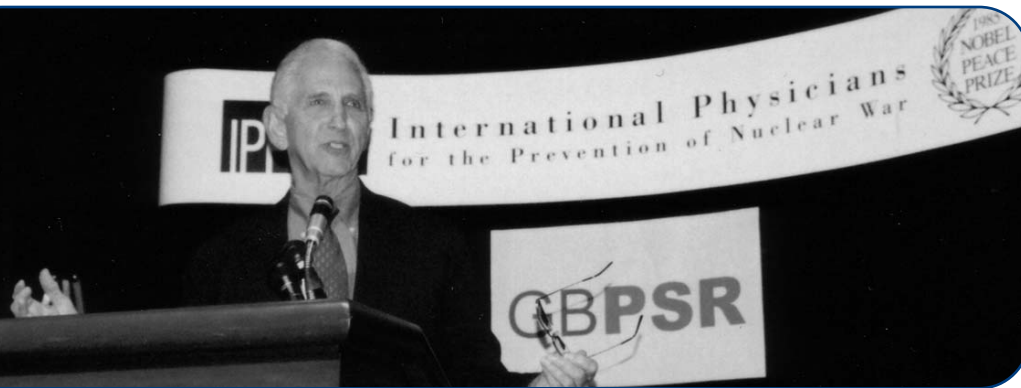


PHOTO: A. KANTER

“COURAGE IS CONTAGIOUS”

At the 25th anniversary event in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Daniel Ellsberg, PhD, received the 2005 IPPNW Distinguished Citizen Award. Previous recipients have included physicist Ted Taylor (1991) and Sir Joseph Rotblat (1989). All recipients have steadfastly contributed to rousing the public to create a foundation for a peaceful, non-nuclear world.

60 years after the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki WORLDWIDE

August 2005 marked the 60th anniversaries of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Co-presidents Ron McCoy and Gunnar Westberg joined Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba, Nagasaki Mayor Ichio Itoh, and the late Nobel Peace Laureate Sir Joseph Rotblat in a “World Appeal,” stating that *“the day of deterrence is done... the time has come to liberate ourselves, our children, and their children from the intolerable, unconscionable threat of [nuclear] annihilation.”* Affiliates and student groups in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, India, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, the UK, and the US responded to the Appeal by organizing a global series of events to commemorate the victims of the nuclear age and to support the abolition of all nuclear weapons.

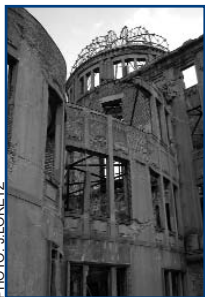


PHOTO: J. LORETZ

Generously offering a helping hand in disaster relief PAKISTAN AND INDIA

Medical relief teams from Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD) and Pakistan Doctors for Peace and Development (PDPD) rushed to earthquake-stricken Jammu and Kashmir in October, assisting with efforts to treat the hundreds of thousands of people who were injured and left homeless by the massive quake. Working with the Pakistan Medical Association, Dr. Ali Afridi spent two weeks working from tent camps in several villages, managing trauma care and providing follow-up treatment, while Dr. Tipu Sultan arranged for dozens of severely injured victims to be transferred to Karachi. A four-member IDPD team led by Dr. Arun Mitra traveled to remote parts of Kupwara in mid October, where they distributed clothing and other relief materials. In meetings with government officials and medical college faculties in the affected areas, Dr. Mitra stressed the connections between peace in the region and the need to redirect resources toward health and disaster response infrastructure.

- 1 & 2 DR. ARUN MITRA (FAR LEFT) WITH THE INDIAN DOCTORS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (IDPD) EARTHQUAKE RELIEF TEAM AT KUPWARA
- 3 VISIBLE AND VOCAL NGO PRESENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS SMALL ARMS CONFERENCE: 4TH FROM LEFT, REBECCA PETERS, IANSA DIRECTOR, 4TH AND 5TH FROM LEFT, IPPNW DRs. CRESPIN AND MTONGA
- 4 (L TO R) DR. ADEMAR GUARDADO OF EL SALVADOR'S EMESARES, MESARES PRESIDENT DR. IGNACIO PANIAGUA, AND DR. CRESPIN AT A PRESS EVENT ON HOSPITAL ROSALES INJURY STUDY
- 5 DR. BALKRISHNA KURVEY SPEAKS ABOUT SMALL ARMS AND HEALTH AT A MEDICAL CONFERENCE IN INDIA
- 6 (L TO R) MRS. LOUISE LOWN, DR. BERNARD LOWN, CO-FOUNDER OF IPPNW, DR. DANIEL ELLSBERG AND MUSICIAN JAMES TAYLOR AT IPPNW'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
- 7 TARGET CAMBRIDGE: DR. PETER WILK AND IPPNW MEDICAL STUDENT VICKY FERA, IRELAND, DISCUSS NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITH AN UNIDENTIFIED STUDENT IN HARVARD SQUARE, CAMBRIDGE, MA
- 8 TARGET CAMBRIDGE: MEDICAL STUDENTS AND PHYSICIANS WORKING TOGETHER IN A PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION (L TO R): ALEX ROSEN, GERMANY, DAN FROM NEW ORLEANS, DR. ANDY KANTER, USA, KHAGENDRA DAHAL, NEPAL, CAECILIE BOCK-BUHMANN, DENMARK
- 9 DR. IME JOHN, IPPNW REGIONAL VP FOR AFRICA, CO-PRESIDENT DR. RON MCCOY AND INT'L STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ALEX ROSEN ATTENDED THE 6TH NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES SUMMIT IN ROME, ITALY
- 10 EN ROUTE TO PYONGYANG: GERMAN MEDICAL STUDENT LENA SELIG (R) AND IPPNW CO-PRESIDENT DR. GUNNAR WESTBERG (L) DISCUSSING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN NORTH KOREA.
- 11 MEDICAL STUDENTS AT THE NORTH ASIA REGIONAL MEETING IN HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

Public Health presentations well received at small arms conference UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) Biennial Meeting of States, IPPNW Drs. Robert Mtonga (Zambia) and Emperatriz Crespin (El Salvador) presented the public health message during the NGO presentation to the general assembly of delegates at the UNPoA meeting on small arms. IPPNW Kenya's “One Bullet Story” was shown on the giant screen in the assembly hall, bringing the graphic reality of human suffering to all the delegates. IPPNW also organized a special session on public health and small arms that included presentations from Mtonga, Crespin, IANSA board member Kathy Kaufer Christoffel, WHO's David Meddings, Diego Zavala from Puerto Rico, and former IPPNW co-president, Vic Sidel. Balkrishna Kurvey from India participated with the delegation in fruitful advocacy meetings.

(WORLD NOTES continued on page 4)

a few affiliate highlights



PHOTO: D. KOUYOUMJIAN

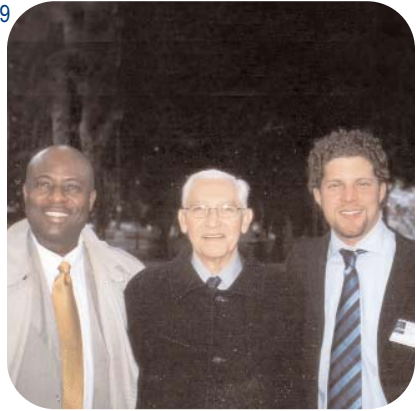


PHOTO: H. LEVANDER



Aiming for Prevention: emphasizing the public health approach from the local to global level

IPPNW and the International Action Network for Small Arms (IANSA) have teamed up to form the new **IANSA Public Health Network (PHN)**.

The PHN was launched at the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) Biennial Meeting of States in New York City in July 2005. It will seek to increase the strength and effectiveness of work to reduce international gun violence. The PHN called on all member states to include health professionals in the National Commissions on small arms established under the UNPoA, and for these representatives to contribute a public health perspective to a policy debate on this issue.

IPPNW's Robert Mtonga of Zambia is PHN medical director (see pg. 6).

To learn more about the **IANSA Public Health Network**, contact the Aiming for Prevention coordinator, Maria Valenti:

mvalenti@ippnw.org
617.868.5050 x203

IPPNW WORLD NOTES (continued from page 3)



GROUP PHOTO: PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS AT THE IPPNW EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETING IN AUBAGNE, FRANCE

Moving beyond the failure of the 2005 NPT Review Conference **UNITED NATIONS**

The 2005 NPT Review collapsed despite a massive civil society presence, including IPPNW physicians, medical students, and staff members from nine countries, more than a hundred Mayors for Peace, and thousands of civil society participants from around the world. According to IPPNW Co-president Gunnar Westberg, the principal reason for the failure of the month-long conference was "the refusal of the United States to build on the foundations for disarmament that were laid in 1995 and 2000, or even to acknowledge that those foundations exist." Drs. Westberg and McCoy led a large contingent of IPPNW members to Central Park on May 1, where they joined a 40,000-strong crowd who formed a human peace symbol in a massive show of public support for nuclear abolition. Later in the month, IPPNW medical students

from Germany, Sweden, and the US took to the streets again, organizing "Target New York" events in Times Square to engage pedestrians in conversation about nuclear war and the need for the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

Dialogues bring nuclear issues to the forefront **US, UK & FRANCE**

Just weeks before the bunker buster victory, in early October, IPPNW members met in Washington, DC with the legislative staff of Senator Richard Lugar to discuss the importance of reducing the risks of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. The Dialogues With Decision Makers session in the US capital was followed later in the month by Dialogues in London and Paris. The IPPNW delegation arrived in London just as the issue of Trident replacement was heating up, both in Parliament and in the media. In Paris, the delegation learned that the



French Ministry of Defence is producing studies of the health and environmental effects of its former nuclear testing program, and will be turning these over to the IAEA, perhaps as early as January.

High Priority: Opposing Trident UNITED KINGDOM

Newly released public opinion polls showed a majority of the British public opposing Trident replacement once they were informed of the £20 billion estimated cost. IPPNW's UK affiliate, Medact, has made opposition to Trident replacement one of its highest campaign priorities in the coming year.

Growing support from the European Parliament for challenging the nuclear status quo EUROPE

IPPNW-Germany has stepped up as a leader in the European campaign to evict the 480 US tactical nuclear weapons that continue to be based in NATO countries. Affiliate activists obtained signatures from 89

PHOTO BOTTOM LEFT

IPPNW AFFILIATE LEADERS AND COLLEAGUES AT THE CONTROL ARMS CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI, KENYA: DR. WALTER ODHIAMBO, IPPNW/KENYA, DR. EMERATRIZ CRESPIN, IPPNW/EL SALVADOR, KHULENI XOMA OF ISS SOUTH AFRICA, DR. IME JOHN, IPPNW/NIGERIA, PATRICK OF NIGER DELTA PROJECT, NIGERIA, ANGELA, IPPNW KENYA, DR. ROBERT MTONGA, IPPNW/ZAMBIA

NOT PICTURED BUT IN ATTENDANCE: DRS. SIMON BOKONGO AND RUKU BHILENI OF IPPNW/DR CONGO

PHOTO BELOW

DR. PETER OLUPOT-OLUPOT FROM UGANDA, AIMING FOR PREVENTION COORDINATOR, MARIA VALENTI, DR. JULIE OMUSEBE FROM KENYA AND DR. SIMON BOKONGO FROM THE DRC IN BEIJING.



members of the European Parliament from those countries, calling for the withdrawal of these Cold War artifacts from European soil and for an end to NATO's nuclear sharing policies.

"WMDs" in Europe and the world: from pathogenesis to prevention FRANCE

Similar strategies for achieving a nuclear-weapons-free Europe were on the agenda at the IPPNW European regional meeting (group photo pg. 4), which brought more than 60 physicians and medical stu-

dents from 15 countries to Aubagne, France in October. Co-president Ron McCoy called on the participants to join other NGOs and civil society in a global campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Convention in response to the failed 2005 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review.

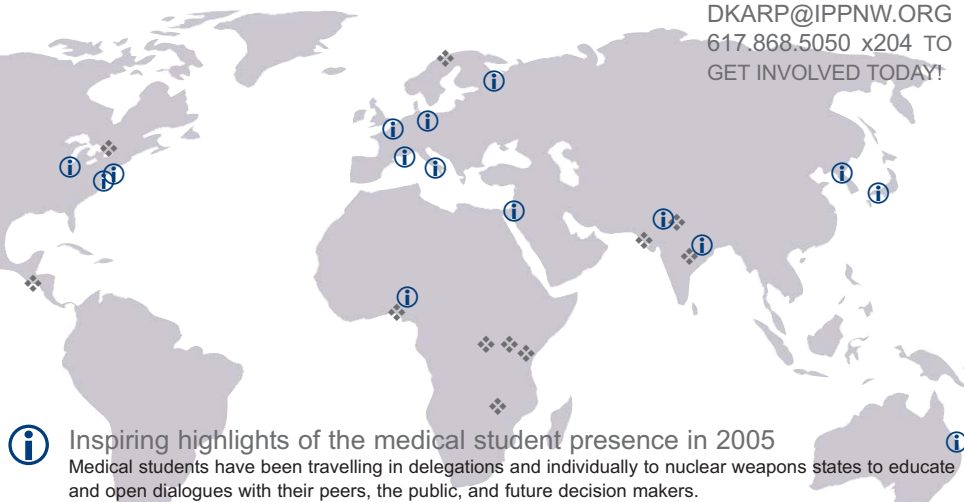
Medical students active in Africa NIGERIA

From December 16 to 18, medical students and physicians from around the African continent travelled to Jos, Nigeria to discuss the health impact of HIV/AIDS, and

(more World Notes on page 7)

Join the Partners in Peace monthly sustainer program and help ensure the continuity of our global campaigns.

CONTACT DANIEL KARP,
DKARP@IPPNW.ORG
617.868.5050 x204 TO
GET INVOLVED TODAY!



Inspiring highlights of the medical student presence in 2005

Medical students have been travelling in delegations and individually to nuclear weapons states to educate and open dialogues with their peers, the public, and future decision makers.

Delegation to NATO Headquarters, Brussels
Delegation to Karachi and Islamabad, Pakistan
Delegation to Nagpur and Patna, India
Delegation to Dem. People's Republic of Korea
Delegation to St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia
6th Nobel Peace Laureates Summit in Rome, Italy
NPT Review Conference in New York, USA
IPPNW Board Meeting in Cambridge, MA, USA

Nuclear Awareness Day in Hamburg, Germany
Training Workshop in Queensland, Australia
African Student Conference in Jos, Nigeria
European Conference in Marseilles
N. American Student Conf. in Chicago & Vancouver
N. Asian Student Congress in Nagasaki, Japan
Refugee Camp Project in Jerusalem and Bethlehem
S. Asian Student Congress in Kathmandu, Nepal



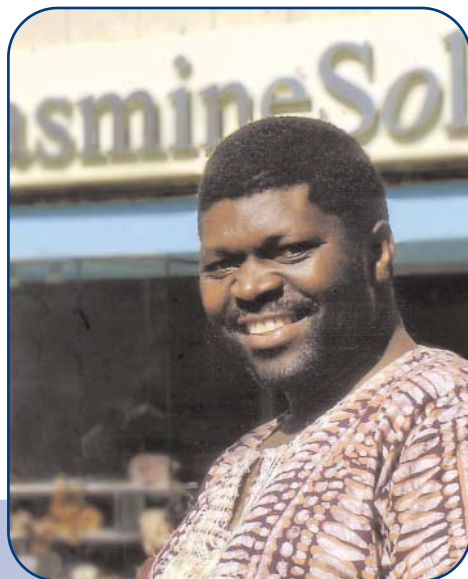
IPPNW affiliate leaders of Aiming for Prevention are:

Congolese Physicians for Peace (CPP)
Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD)
Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament & Environmental Protection (IIPDEP)
Kenya Association of Physicians and Medical Workers for Social Responsibility
Norwegian Physicians Against Nuclear Weapons
Pakistan Doctors for Peace and Development (PDPD)
Physicians for Global Survival (PGS)
Salvadoran Physicians for Social Responsibility (MESARES)
Society of Nigerian Doctors for the Welfare of Mankind
Ugandan Association of Medical Workers for Health and Environmental Concerns
Zambia Healthworkers for Social Responsibility (ZHSR)

AFFILIATE IN ACTION

ROBERT MTONGA, MD

ZAMBIA
HEALTHWORKERS
FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY (ZHSR)




In between his global travels for ZHSR to speak to the public, policy makers, and health professionals Dr. Mtonga manages his own private medical practice and also serves on the IPPNW Board.

“guns
are
bad
for
health”

Dr. Robert Mtonga has been active with IPPNW/Zambia since 1988 when he joined as a third year medical student. He recently assumed the role of Medical Field Director of the new IANSA Public Health Network, which is coordinated by IPPNW (see pg 4 for more on the PHN). His responsibilities cover a broad scope, from strategic planning, to assisting colleagues in submitting abstracts on the public health consequences of SALW violence to international science conferences.

Dr. Mtonga recently represented IPPNW/Zambia and the PHN as one of only two physician speakers to address public health issues during the NGO presentation to the general assembly of delegates at the UN's Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action on SALW (photo on pg. 3).

In addition to participating in advocacy activities for peace in general, he has been a leader of ZHSR's campaign against landmines, working as the Landmine Monitor Reporter. His work was instrumental in the Zambian Government's ratification of the International Mine Ban Treaty in 2001. 



HARNESSING THE TOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ADDRESS THE GLOBAL PROBLEM OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS


Leaders of IPPNW's **Aiming for Prevention** campaign have been engaged in a range of efforts from the local to the global level to bring the message to the health community, the public, and policy makers that “guns are bad for health,” and thus for stability, development, and prosperity.

As a member of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Violence Prevention Alliance, IPPNW members from the Democratic Republic of Congo to El Salvador, from Zambia to India, are carrying the WHO message that violence is preventable and must be addressed using the proven tools of public health.



Hands on public health approach in the DR Congo: Dr. Simon Bokongo dismantling a weapon at a workshop. Recently, Dr. Bokongo has been helping train health care workers on demobilization of combatants in DR Congo.

The public health approach is a critical, and currently lacking, demand-side adjunct to traditional arms control activities, one that helps to unravel the causes of firearm violence, enabling the design of interventions. It is needed to help inform public policy. The public health model has a successful history of helping to mitigate major scourges including infectious disease. By applying the same principles to small arms, and involving the medical community in a comprehensive fashion, we can bring a new and powerful tool to bear on this issue.

Affiliates in Africa, India, and Latin America have undertaken country research projects on injuries from SALW, including preliminary work on a multinational injury study that promises to provide important information on the nature of SALW violence in 10 Global South countries. They have also conducted numerous educational sessions in small towns and big cities, medical centers and community forums. They have traveled the world to present at major policy forums as well as scientific and medical meetings, helping to educate and activate colleagues and politicians. 

IPPNW WORLD NOTES (continued from page 5)

small arms and light weapons in Africa. Photos and a report by Mansur A. Ramalan, African Regional Student Representative are available on the student website:

www.ippnw-students.org/Jos/index.html

Japanese physicians receive Nagasaki peace award

JAPAN

Dr. Kenjiro Yokoro, a Hiroshima survivor, and Dr. Michito Ichimaru were given the 6th Takashi Nagai Memorial Nagasaki Peace Award last year for their contributions to research of medical and social welfare problems associated with radiation exposure after atomic warfare and nuclear accidents.

Upcoming medical forum on small arms injuries and prevention


SOUTH AFRICA

8th World Injury Conference – IPPNW and the Public Health Network (PHN) have facilitated the submission of a record number of abstracts on injuries from small arms and light weapons (SALW) at this major medical forum due to take place in Durban, South Africa in April 2006. Members from Africa, South Asia and Latin America will also participate in the pre-conference being

organized by the Institute for Security Studies, WHO, and others with a focus on SALW and “Data to Action.”

Five days in Pyongyang DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK)

Following months of delicate and sometimes difficult negotiations, an IPPNW delegation comprising an IPPNW Co-president Gunnar Westberg, Hans Levander of Sweden, Lars Pohlmeier, and Stephan Kolb of Germany, and German medical student Lena Selig visited Pyongyang in August at the height of the crisis over North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. Prior to their trip, Hanah Paik, an IPPNW intern and international relations student at Tufts University compiled an extensively researched briefing packet for the delegates.

The five-day fact-finding mission opened with a visit to Kim Man Yu hospital. Following a series of medical lectures, Ms. Selig greeted the Korean doctors on behalf of IPPNW’s medical students and spoke movingly about nuclear abolition and the responsibility of physicians everywhere to speak out for a more peaceful, more secure, less militarized world. 

David Lange

1942 – 2005

A system of defence serves its purpose if it guarantees the security of those it protects.

A system of nuclear defence guarantees only insecurity.

The means of defence terrorise as much as the threat of attack.

from “Nuclear Weapons are Morally Indefensible”, Oxford Union debate
March 1, 1985

Late New Zealand Prime Minister Lange made his name on the international stage with a passionate and long-running campaign against nuclear weapons. He refused to allow nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed ships into New Zealand waters, a policy that New Zealand continues to this day.

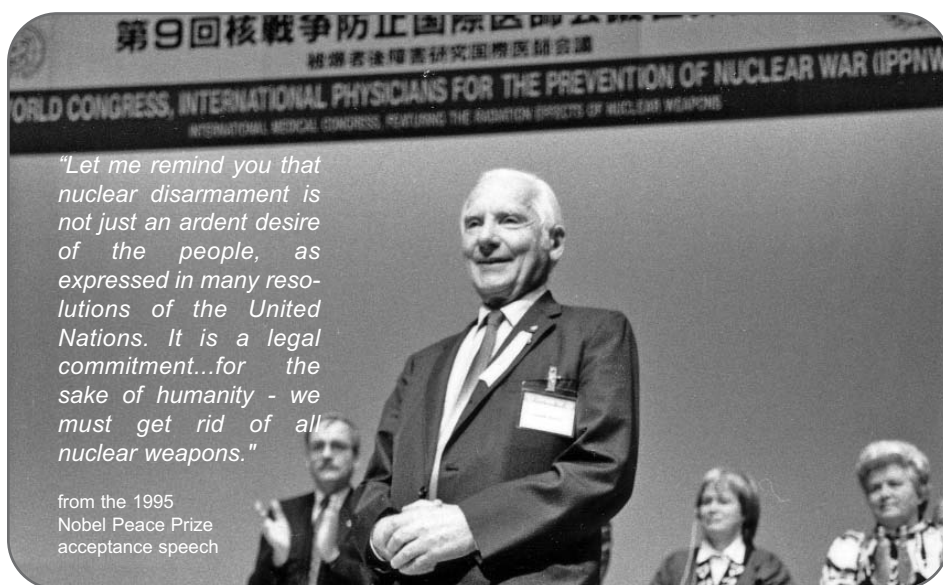


Sir Joseph Rotblat

1908 – 2005

(left) Sir Joseph Rotblat receiving the IPPNW Distinguished Citizens Award at the 1989 World Congress in Hiroshima, Japan.

After leaving the Manhattan Project on moral grounds, Sir Joseph devoted his life to averting the danger posed by nuclear weapons, working with the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, the organization he helped to found, and with which he shares the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize.



“Let me remind you that nuclear disarmament is not just an ardent desire of the people, as expressed in many resolutions of the United Nations. It is a legal commitment...for the sake of humanity - we must get rid of all nuclear weapons.”

from the 1995
Nobel Peace Prize
acceptance speech

MISSION OF PHYSICIANS:

WAR OR HEALTH?

IPPNW 17th
WORLD CONGRESS

SEPT 7-10, 2006
HELSINKI, FINLAND

www.ippnw2006.org

OR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT CONGRESS SECRETARY:
lauri.vuorenkoski@stakes.fi

**DUE TO SEVERAL CONCURRENT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN
HELSINKI, HOTEL SPACES ARE
EXTREMELY LIMITED.**

**PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE THE END
OF MAY TO GUARANTEE A SPACE.**

January 9 – 20
UNITED NATIONS, NYC, USA

March 30
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS

March 31
NATO HEADQUARTERS, BRUSSELS

March 31 – April 1 Pre-Conference
April 2 – 5
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

April 3 – 4
MOSCOW, RUSSIA

April 7 – 9
BONN, GERMANY

May 11 – 14
NAPOLI, ITALY

June 23 – 28
VANCOUVER, CANADA

June 26 – July 3
UNITED NATIONS, NYC, USA

July 7 – 8
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2006 Prepcom to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the **United Nations** Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Dialogues with Decision Makers (DWDM)
For more information on any of the Dialogues,
contact Liz Waterston: a.j.r.waterston@ncl.ac.uk

Dialogues with Decision Makers

Safety 2006: Data to Action
8th World Injury Conference
www.safety2006.info

Dialogues with Decision Makers

Nuclear Power Time Bomb - 20 Years after Chernobyl!
www.tschernobylkongress.de
uhe@ippnw.de

"What one person can change.."
IPPNW European Student Conference
www.ippnw-students.org/Napoli/info.html

"Cities and Communities: Working Together to End War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World"
World Peace Forum & Abolition 2000
Annual General Meeting
www.worldpeaceforum.ca

2006 Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the **United Nations** Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Conference to mark the 10th Anniversary of the ICJ Opinion on Nuclear Weapons
Co-Sponsored by IPPNW, IPB, IALANA. Organized jointly by the Institute for International Law at the Catholic University of Leuven and Abolition 2000 Europe with Forum voor Vredesactie, For Mother Earth and World Court Project UK.



INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS FOR THE
PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR
727 MASSACHUSETTS AVE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139 USA



Non -Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Burlington, MA
Permit No. 145