

US wrecks Iran Nuclear Deal, threatens war

Tensions between the US and Iran have increased dramatically over the past month. A substantial US military build-up in the Middle East followed Trump's abandonment of the 2015 'Iran nuclear deal' in May 2018 and the subsequent re-imposition of US sanctions against Iran. Almost a year after Trump's withdrawal, Iran has now suspended some of its commitments under the 2015 deal.

return, crippling sanctions were eased. The deal established a verifiable non-proliferation arrangement and improved living standards in Iran. The IAEA, which carried out inspections under the remit of the deal, repeatedly confirmed in its quarterly inspection reports that Iran was in compliance.

All of this has now been undone and the US – alongside regional allies – looks set on a course of military aggression. Repeated claims that the US is not intent on 'regime change' in Iran are not a repudiation of all military intent. Likewise, President Trump's insistence that he would like a new deal with Iran – maybe one negotiated by

International labour and the struggle for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World

I'm pleased and honoured to have been invited to speak today to lend the support of the global Labor movement to the call for a new approach to peace.

The International Trade Union Confederation represents 207 million members in over 150 countries. We have members in the countries that have been immiserated by conflict and also in the industries which make weapons of mass destruction. Our affiliates in Germany and Japan have led our work on peace, not least because of their national experiences of war, but our membership in the nuclear and arms industries brings a rather different perspective to our engagement in the peace movement. Nevertheless, our founding principles, set out in our constitution, commit us to "a world free of weapons of mass destruction and to general disarmament" and rejecting "recourse to war to resolve conflict." Our members are concerned about the deterioration described in this ... *continued on page 3 ...*



Under the deal – agreed between Iran, the US, UK, France, Germany, China and Russia – Iran committed to restrict nuclear activities and to allow international inspectors into the country. The specific restrictions included commitments to eliminate stockpiles of medium-enriched Uranium, cut by 98% stockpiles of low-enriched Uranium, and cut centrifuges by two thirds. These measures, which were to run over a period of thirteen years, were designed to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weaponry. In

the Japanese – does not diminish the harm done by his withdrawal from an existing treaty and does nothing to assure Iran and other signatories to the original deal.

The European signatories to the Iran Deal must continue to stand firm against the US. They should do everything in their power to maintain essential supplies to Iranian people and hold back Trump's drive for war.

The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation is working on a dossier on Iran. Please look out for further information.

International Meeting
**NUCLEAR SECURITY
IN EUROPE**
**AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF
THE INF TREATY**
See page 2 for further information

International Meeting

NUCLEAR SECURITY IN EUROPE

AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE INF TREATY

September 14th, 2019 Brussels
11am to 5pm, venue tba

Tensions are growing among states possessing nuclear weapons and the collapse of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty brings Europe closer to the brink of another dangerous Cold War. Meanwhile, the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) gains traction and opens new avenues for urgently needed common campaigns and actions.

- Peace groups
- International peace networks
- Social and environmental movements
- Churches
- Trade unions
- Everyone who wants to make the planet safer

All are welcome to discuss this challenging situation and the way forward to a nuclear-weapons-free Europe.

Signed in 1987 by the United States and the Soviet Union, the INF Treaty bans a complete class of nuclear weapons – land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500km. The Treaty signalled a victory on the part of millions of Europeans who, during the 1980s, demonstrated against the “Euromissiles”. As the United States and Russia again spend enormous sums on modernizing their nuclear arsenals, tensions between both countries are widely recognized as being at their worst since the end of the Cold War.

How do we stop this nuclear arms race? How best to promote and implement the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons? What alternatives are there for peace and common/human security in Europe? How can we achieve European Nuclear Disarmament?

A detailed agenda will be published in July. Please save the date and if you are interested in attending, please send a note to office@ipb-office.berlin. Feel free to share this invitation!

Organized by

**Abolition 2000 – Europe Nuclear Weapons Working Group – International TUC – INES –
International Peace Bureau – IPPNW Europa – Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation**
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International Labour cont...

morning's speeches: the state of the global arms race, the retreat from multilateralism and the increasing role of corporate interests and big money in the armaments industry.

Our member unions are particularly concerned about the growth of racism, nationalism and xenophobia promoted by and fuelling the tough guys – the right wing populists – who are driving the current phase of escalating confrontation.

Peace, along with democracy and rights, is one of the four pillars for action that we have set for ourselves ... *continued on page 5 ...*

coming out of the Copenhagen Congress we held in December. We want to see the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons enter into force, as well as defending the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, although we understand the drawbacks of both. And even the Arms Trade Treaty, given Donald Trump's recent statements, needs our backing. His threat to that Treaty emphasises that our concerns are not just about nuclear weapons. Weapons of mass destruction also include cyber, biological and chemical weapons, and so-called small arms can still wreak havoc in communities and war zones.

Above all we are concerned at the waste of trillions of dollars on weapons and war when our planet and its people face challenges like climate change, poverty, ill-health and growing inequality.

That money should be invested in rebuilding our social infrastructure, and tackling low pay. It should be funding what we call a 'just transition' to a carbon free economy and a fourth industrial revolution that puts people first. And just transition also applies to those members of ours who are employed in the weapons industry. We want to see the conversion of the industry so that people's livelihoods are protected and their skills utilised. It's slightly more complicated than beating swords into ploughshares, but the objective is the same.

So, what can the labor movement bring to the peace movement, alongside the perspective I've outlined?

First, there's our global reach. Over 200 million members in almost every country and territory in the world.

A presence in all sorts of workplaces and communities - including those people who don't yet buy the arguments for peace, but with whom we have an automatic connection.

Second, we have an influence with politicians – not just on the left, especially in parts of Europe and Africa – and with employers, including putting our investment arm - workers' pension funds - into play.

In 2017, we negotiated an International Labour Organisation Recommendation (205) on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience. We do, after all, promote negotiation over war as a way to resolve disputes. Next month, to show that our concerns go far further than nuclear weapons, we hope the ILO will adopt a convention against gender-based violence.

And third, we can campaign - preferably in alliance with other parts of the peace movement, like those gathered here today. Our time2act petition in support of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty gathered 6 million signatures, for instance.

The peace movement has always been strongest when it mobilises ... *continued on page 3 ...*

Nuclear war risk highest since WWII

Renata Dwan, head of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research has warned of heightened nuclear risks in the wake of the crisis in the INF Treaty and the US withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal.

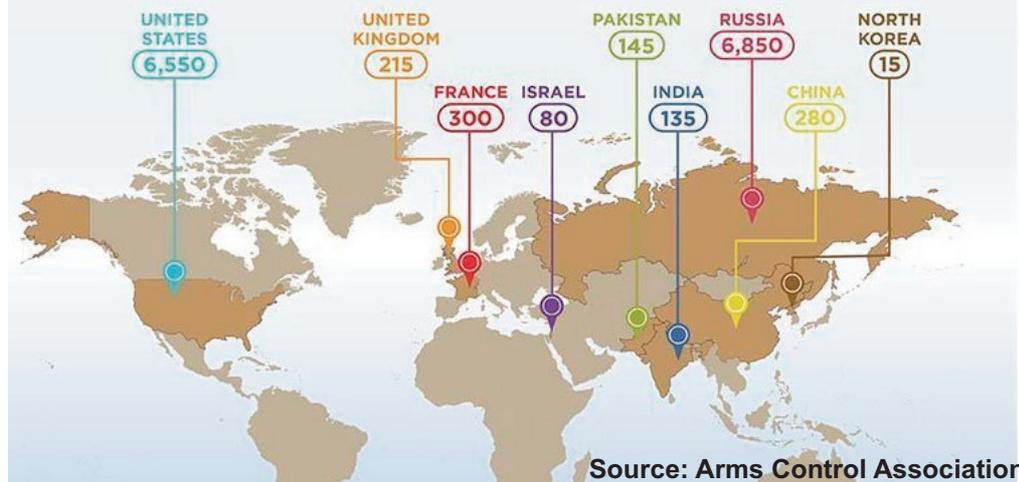
Dwan told reporters: "I think that it's genuinely a call to recognise – and this has been somewhat missing in the media coverage of the issues – that the risks of nuclear war are particularly high now, and the risks of the use of nuclear weapons, for some of the factors I pointed out, are higher now than at any time since World War Two"

Dwan pointed to the fact that all nuclear armed states are currently involved in updating their weapons. She warned that existing arms control treaties are being undermined or scrapped and that those still in effect do not cover the development of new technology applications to warfare.

The lack of progress in multilateral nuclear treaties over the last period and the provocative unwinding of some essential deals and agreements within the last year stands in contrast to developments with the TPNW, which has been supported by an increasing number of non-nuclear states.

2018 ESTIMATED GLOBAL NUCLEAR WARHEAD INVENTORIES

The world's nuclear-armed states possess a combined total of roughly 15,000 nuclear warheads; more than 90 percent belong to Russia and the United States. Approximately 9,600 warheads are in military service, with the rest awaiting dismantlement.



International Labour cont...

and unites with movements for – and this is not an exclusive list – social justice, equality and democracy. Those elements are critical to overcoming the temptations affecting members of the working classes.

This year, global unions will be stepping up our negotiating, our lobbying and our campaigning. Because the threat is real, present and growing. And we can't live with it.

Let's get on with it.

Owen Tudor
Deputy General Secretary
International Trade Union
Confederation
New York, May 2019

European election results

The dust has not quite settled on the European elections but the picture looks reasonably mixed for supporters of European Nuclear Disarmament.

The surge in support for the Greens in the UK, Germany, France and elsewhere provides a larger bloc of MEPs committed to the idea of a European Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zone. Elsewhere, parties of the left – natural allies in our campaigns for peace – and the traditional centre-left did not perform as well.

Whatever the outcome of the elections and whatever the priorities of the European Parliament turn out to be, we look forward to working with our supporters.

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NPT PrepCom: China reiterates No First Use

The Chinese delegation to the NPT PrepCom, held in New York this May, reiterated its 'No First Use' nuclear policy and warned that "the international security environment is undergoing a complex array of profound changes, with existing international arms control and non-proliferation system brought under severe strain."

China was the first nuclear state to adopt 'No First Use' and did so when it attained nuclear weapon capabilities in 1964. The only other state to adopt the policy was India in 1998.

Such a reiteration – despite falling short of our overall aim of nuclear disarmament – is to be welcomed, especially in the context of what appears to be the deliberate destabilisation of existing nuclear treaty regimes.

Further, China's focus on asserting the importance of the NPT in the context of the breakdown of US-Russia relations and the scrapping of the INF Treaty demonstrates that at least one nuclear power continues to take multilateral disarmament measures seriously: "Over the years, US-Russia ... agreements have contributed to international peace and security. Joint efforts by nuclear weapon states to preserve the authority of NPT and the rule-based international order ... will make great contributions to continued improvement of the international security environment."

We should all hope that the other nuclear powers take note.

Security Without Nuclear Deterrence

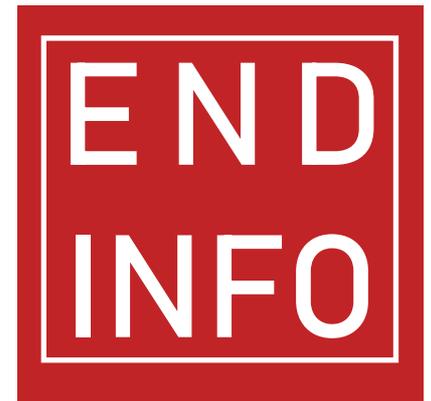
German Translation

Spokesman Books, publishing imprint of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, is pleased to announce that a German translation of *Security Without Nuclear Deterrence* is being prepared. The work, written by Commander Robert Green, is an important analysis of the follies of 'nuclear deterrence' and is essential reading for the whole nuclear disarmament movement.

European Nuclear Disarmament: A New Statement

Endorse here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/aOKYwzL4kw1q6LMb2>



For more information on END INFO or European Nuclear Disarmament email

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