

REMEMBER THE VICTIMS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DRONE WARFARE: TAKE ACTION

“Do not think yourself better because you burn up friends and enemies with long-range missiles without ever seeing what you have done.”

- Conclusion to a poem by Thomas Merton, “Chant to Be Used in Processions Around a Site with Furnaces,” about the Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Hoess.

Each war fought throughout human history has introduced new and ever more brutal weapons to the business of killing. In the 20th and 21st centuries, the results of the carnage have become less and less visible to those who deploy these weapons and to the general public. Drones are fired by operators who target their victims on a computer screen thousands of miles away. Nuclear weapons dropped on population centers by pilots flying high above produce thermal radiation that vaporizes everything at ground zero, with short and long-term effects that quickly kill survivors at a further distance and bring cancers and deformities to succeeding generations.

The United States government initiated the nuclear age 77 years ago with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th and August 9th, 1945, immediately killing an estimated 120,000 people. By the end of 1945, the toll had reached an estimated 214,000. In subsequent years, many survivors (and their offspring) suffered (and died) from leukemia, cancer, and other horrible “side effects” of the radiation from these bombings.

The long-term results of our government’s subsequent use of Depleted Uranium in armor piercing ammunition in the 1991 Gulf War, in Serbia, in Kosovo, in the 2003 Gulf War and in its ongoing military operations are still being documented. Survivors as well as veterans of those wars and their family members have suffered those effects for generations.

The nine nuclear powers (the United States, Russia, France, China, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Israel, and North Korea) have thus far refused to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons,

which entered into force in 2021. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, the global nuclear stockpile is close to 13,000. **Together, the U.S. and Russia possess 90% of that stockpile.**

ACTION SUGGESTION: Use the White House comment line at (202) 456 1111 or go to <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/> to send an email to call on our government to do the following:

- Renounce the use of nuclear weapons and sign the UN Treaty to ban them, leading to their elimination
- Cancel the current \$1.7 trillion nuclear weapons upgrade program
- Renounce the use of Depleted Uranium
- End drone warfare
- Drastically cut the proposed \$800 billion in military spending for FY 2023, instead using the federal discretionary budget to fund the vast unmet human needs that face our own citizens and our entire planet

We suggest that you also contact your members of Congress as well as your state Senators and Representatives with the same message. In this time of so many challenges, they need to hear from constituents that we are making the connection between our government’s anemic and inadequate efforts to meet the escalating needs of human beings and its unrestrained and ever-accelerating funding of the military-industrial complex. They must be held accountable.

***Join our vigil to RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR every Sunday,
12-1pm, Broadway, Park and Elm Streets, New Haven
<https://newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com>
Sunday, August 28, 2022***

We ask you to think about the issues this vigil has been trying to address in a very modest way over the past 23 years. This war we continue to face on all fronts transcends partisan politics, and the work to resist it continues with more urgency than ever. Only deeply engaged, critical thinking, active citizens will be able to make the profound systemic changes that are so long overdue, changes upon which our very survival depends.