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From nuclear weapons-free NZ to a nuclear weapons-free world An iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand (iCAN-ANZ) supporters' update

15 August 2011

Firstly, a warm welcome to Engineers for Social Responsibility, Visual Artists Against Nuclear Weapons, Waiwhetu Lower Hutt Peace Group, and the Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa New Zealand Te Taahi Tuuhauwiri / Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) who have become iCAN-ANZ supporting organisations since the last update.

Following the iCAN-ANZ launch in Auckland on the Global Day of Action to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, 25 June (see photo [here](#)), and the circulation of the initial action alert, there has been an enthusiastic response to the campaign and requests for iCAN-ANZ resources from a range of local and national groups around the country, as well as from interested individuals.

After the launch, Waiheke iCAN-ANZ supporters put an A5 version of the petition in the local newspaper, and signed copies of the petition generated by that initiative began arriving in the post soon thereafter, as well as signatures on the standard form. This inspired a new iCAN-ANZ initiative, which is outlined in the 'Petition publication appeal' section below.

On Sunday, 7 August, an iCAN-ANZ event to mark the 66th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was held at St Andrew's on The Terrace in Wellington. The event opened with lighting a candle of remembrance, followed by an 'introduction to iCAN-ANZ' presentation and a screening of 'Beating the Bomb' - photos are available [here](#). This was one of the Week of Peace events at St Andrew's around the Waihopai Ploughshares' vigil. Following the presentation, some of the vigil participants got together to discuss iCAN-ANZ and how they could support and promote the campaign; they subsequently formed a new informal network to do this.

Join the call for action to abolish nuclear weapons!

iCAN-ANZ invites you to add your voice to the call for a nuclear weapons-free world by collecting signatures for the petition to parliament. The text of the petition is included below, the petition form is available at <http://www.icanw.org.nz> and copies can be posted to you on request. Inspired by the Waiheke iCAN-ANZ supporters' initiative, we are currently fundraising to publish a copy of the petition in one or more national newspapers to publicise the campaign and its objective - details of how you can support the petition publication appeal are included below.

• **Petition: 'Call for action to abolish nuclear weapons'**

To the House of Representatives:

Since the detonation of the first atomic bomb in July 1945, the threat of use of nuclear weapons has cast a shadow over the future of the earth. Since then, each stage of the production of nuclear weapons has caused immeasurable harm to human health and

wellbeing, and extensive contamination of the environment - from uranium mining, processing of radioactive materials, manufacturing of nuclear warheads, through to nuclear bomb testing.

Despite ongoing widespread public opposition to nuclear weapons, and the overwhelming majority of governments around the world now supporting the abolition of these weapons of mass destruction, little progress has been made - 20,530 nuclear warheads remain in the arsenals of eight nuclear weapons states.

Yet other weapons of mass destruction - chemical and biological weapons - have been banned by international law, as have some 'indiscriminate weapons' such as anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions.

In 1987, the New Zealand government took a leading nuclear disarmament role by passing the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act to ban biological and nuclear weapons here. New Zealand was one of six governments that led the Oslo Process to ban cluster bombs which resulted in the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, hosting a key meeting in Wellington as part of the process. It is time for the government to now take a leading role in achieving a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

We therefore respectfully call on the House of Representatives to urge the government to actively engage with 'like-minded' governments committed to abolishing nuclear weapons to launch, without delay, an initiative to start the process of negotiating a Nuclear Weapons Convention - a treaty to prohibit the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat of use, and use of nuclear weapons.

• **Petition publication appeal**

iCAN-ANZ is currently fundraising to publish a copy of the petition in one or more national newspapers to publicise the campaign and its objective - a nuclear weapons-free world, and for the NZ government to take action to achieve this. The cost of publishing the petition is around \$2,000 and we are seeking contributions from organisations and individuals who would like to contribute towards the cost - a list of donor organisations and individuals (unless you would prefer to remain anonymous) will be published on the iCAN-ANZ website.

If you are interested in making a donation for this, and / or to the general campaign costs, please either:

- **by cheque:** send your cheque, payable to 'Peace Movement Aotearoa', to Peace Movement Aotearoa, PO Box 9314, Wellington 6141, with your name and address so we can send you a tax credit receipt; or
- **by internet banking or direct credit:** make your donation to account 02 0536 0323908 97 - please put your name or organisation and 'iCANZ' in the payee details / identifier section so we know who it is from and what it is for, then email icanz@xtra.co.nz with your physical address so we can send your receipt.

If you would like more information about this initiative, or to discuss how you can assist with the costs of publishing the petition and / or the general campaign costs, please phone or email us, thank you.

The petition publication appeal is available [online here](#).