

MEDIA ADVISORY

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NUCLEAR BAN TREATY CELEBRATION EVENTS ACROSS THE U.S. TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

January 21, 2021 will be a historic day for nuclear weapons. On that day, at midnight, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will enter into force, establishing in international law a categorical ban on nuclear weapons, seventy-five years after their development and first use.

The momentous occasion will be marked by actions, events, and celebrations around the globe and across the United States.

Neither the United States nor the other nuclear armed nations have joined the Treaty. “But just because they aren’t signed on to the Treaty doesn’t mean it won’t affect them,” said Ralph Hutchison, coordinator of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, “Every nation will feel the moral force of the Treaty. All nuclear weapons, including the 3,900 in the US stockpile, have been declared unlawful by the international community.”

Banners declaring “NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE ILLEGAL” will be displayed at plant entrances of US nuclear weapons production sites in Tennessee, New Mexico and California; at the Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska; at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California; at the Department of Energy office in Las Vegas, Nevada; at Raytheon Missile Systems in Arizona; at Lockheed Martin in Pennsylvania and California, and elsewhere. Across the nation, letters will be delivered to members of Congress. Universities that are engaged in support activities for weapons production will be asked to reconsider that role. Churches will ring their bells.

“The entry into force of the Treaty is a turning point,” said Kelly Lundeen, co-director of Nukewatch. “On the one hand, it is the end of a long process to outlaw nuclear weapons. On the other hand, it is just the beginning of a new movement to confront nuclear weapons states and demand they lift the dark shadow of nuclear annihilation that has loomed over the world for the last seventy-five years.”

For more information on other activities, see the facebook page Nuclear Ban Treaty EIF and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) events page at www.icanw.org/events.

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