



# Abolition 2000

**WHAT:** A network of over 2000 organizations in more than 90 countries world wide working for a global treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons. Abolition 2000 is open to all groups that endorse the Abolition 2000 statement. Some are environmental groups, some are peace groups, some are religious groups, some are political groups, some are human rights groups...many, many groups unite around this common goal. Go to [www.abolition2000.org](http://www.abolition2000.org) to read and sign the statement.

## WHY:

- To provide groups concerned with nuclear issues with a forum for the exchange of information and the development of joint actions and initiatives.
- Because nuclear weapons affect:

**The Environment:** From the extraction of uranium to the handling of nuclear waste to the release of radiation from weapons tests, nuclear weapons contaminate the soil, air and water, destroying land and killing wildlife.

**Human rights:** Radiation from nuclear weapons tests, uranium mining, and other processes associated with nuclear weapons have caused global and regional contamination. People living near test sites and facilities have suffered from cancers, stillbirths and miscarriages.

**Peace efforts:** Nuclear weapons have the capacity to kill millions of innocent civilians, far more than conventional weapons. Their mere existence creates tension between nations and complicates peace efforts.

**Globalization:** Weapons manufacturers are some of the wealthiest corporations in the world, selling weapons to the U.S., its allies, and even its enemies. The weapons they make protect U.S. corporate interests at home and abroad.

**Democracy:** Military spending in our country far exceeds spending on social programs like health care and education. We need to hold our representatives accountable for the decisions they make that affect our daily lives. In addition, government involvement in military corporate interests corrupts our democratic process.

**Economics:** Despite alarming figures for the probability of accidents, the nuclear industry has virtually no financial liability. It is the government (the taxpayer!) that has to pay for the costs of a nuclear disaster. This means that there is insufficient or no compensation for damages to health or property caused by nuclear accidents.

**Future generations:** Nuclear waste will remain hazardous for thousands or even millions of years, leaving a poisonous legacy to future generations.

- To create a global movement so we can all work together for a better world!

## AND WE WANT YOU TO JOIN BECAUSE...

- **Because with an impending war to “disarm” Iraq, we should be working to abolish ALL weapons of mass destruction.**
- The proliferation of nuclear weapons is a threat to ALL of civilization.
- From their development to their disposal, nuclear weapons promote great social, economic and environmental injustices in ALL societies.
- Nuclear weapons issues focus on globalization, race, environment, human rights, economic and social justice, etc... **They are ALL around us.**



**BUT THERE'S A LOT WE CAN DO!**

## THE JOYS OF MEMBERSHIP...

- **What is your deal?** If you and your group deal with issues of environment, human rights, social and environmental justice, environmental health, peace activism, disarmament, international affairs and globalization, etc, etc, etc, then you can help us to strengthen a worldwide movement. You can have other groups help with what you do, and you can be part of their initiatives.
- **There is strength in numbers...**and throughout history, student activists have spearheaded peace and social change movements. We need your help more than ever so please get involved.

## GET TOGETHER! - JOIN A WORKING GROUP!

Abolition 2000 working groups bring together organizations and individuals working on related issues. Some of their exciting initiatives include...

- **Citizens' Weapons Inspections Teams-**

Groups of citizens come together to inspect weapons facilities in their own backyards and let the press know that all nations need to be held accountable for their weapons of mass destruction

- **Military Corporate-** Making the links between those who stand to profit- the corporations- and the military. This group works closely with the anti-globalization movement.

- **Depleted Uranium-** The United States has begun coating bullets with this toxic metal to allow them to penetrate tanks more easily. It pollutes land, air and water causing serious birth defects when it was used in Iraq, and is believed to be the cause of Gulf War Syndrome, a mysterious illness that causes infertility and cancer in American Gulf War Veterans.

- AND MANY MORE...

## AS A NETWORK MEMBER, YOU CAN ACCESS...

- **Speakers:** Sponsor a speaker for your school or group on how nuclear weapons affect issues YOU care about. Topics include abolition of nuclear weapons, "star wars" missile defense, peace and security, international law, human rights, globalization, environmental health and more. Tell us what you care about and we'll connect you with a speaker.
- **Internship opportunities:** Intern with an Abolition 2000 organization, or with the network coordinator. Help connect the global movement to abolish nuclear weapons! Activities include research, writing, and networking with groups from around the world. Email [admin@abolition2000.org](mailto:admin@abolition2000.org) for more info!
- **Materials:** Tell us what you want to know more about and we can send you educational materials on many topics related to nuclear weapons. Need models of flyers, posters, petitions, letters, etc? Just ask and we'll do our best to hook you up.
  - **Don't be shy.** Call us with your needs, hopes, dreams, wants and aspirations and we'll see what we can do...well, as long as they relate to nuclear issues...

"If only, if only, nuclear war was just another kind of war. If only it was about the usual things— nations and territories, gods and histories. If only those of us who dread it are just worthless moral cowards who are not prepared to die in defense of our beliefs. If only nuclear war was the kind of war in which countries battle countries and men battle men. But it isn't. If there is a nuclear war, our foe will not be China or America or even each other. Our foe will be the Earth herself. The very elements— the sky, the air, the land, the wind and water— will turn against us."

— Arundhati Roy "The End of Imagination"

"Every gun that is fired, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."

- Dwight D. Eisenhower



## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- **Want to join the network?** Sign and circulate the Abolition 2000 statement in your college or university campus. If you endorse our statement, you can be a part of this global network. Visit the website for details.
- **Organize activities at your campus:** a teach-in or a sit-in, a speak-out or a camp-out.
- **Want to know what everyone is talking about?** Join the Abolition 2000 Global Caucus listserv by sending an email message to [subscribe-abolition-caucus@yahoo.com](mailto:subscribe-abolition-caucus@yahoo.com).
- **Join or start a working group.** You always wanted to be in the middle of things anyway.
- **Translate documents into other languages** either in your spare time (as if college students have any) or as part of an internship with the network.

## THINGS YOU CAN DO ONLINE

(you can find most of these links at [www.abolition2000.org](http://www.abolition2000.org))

- **Sign the International Appeal for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons.**
- **Sign the Missile Ban Petition.** Build an elaborate missile defense system that costs billions of dollars in taxpayer money and doesn't work to protect the world from the threats of nuclear weapons? NO! Just get rid of the nuclear weapons! It's that simple!
- **Sign the International Sustainable Energy Petition.** Sustainable energy can revitalize the economies of third world countries, get us away from dangerous nuclear power and dirty fossil fuels, and provide clean and reliable energy for centuries to come! Let's do it!
- **Show us the money** (i.e. make a donation to our cause). We have become the third largest NGO network in the world and need your contributions to ensure that we can continue to develop and realize our vision for a nuclear-free world through mailings, conferences and meetings.
- **Contact us immediately** if we can help your group.

### HELPFUL LINKS:

- [www.gracelinks.org/nuke](http://www.gracelinks.org/nuke)
- [www.abolition2000.org](http://www.abolition2000.org)
- [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)
- [www.campusactivism.org](http://www.campusactivism.org)
- [www.motherearth.org/nuke](http://www.motherearth.org/nuke)
- [www.viequeslibre.com](http://www.viequeslibre.com)
- [www.globalresponse.org](http://www.globalresponse.org)
- [www.corporatewatch.org.uk](http://www.corporatewatch.org.uk)
- [www.votenowar.org](http://www.votenowar.org)
- [www.ananuclear.org](http://www.ananuclear.org)

### From a single explosion of a one-megaton warhead detonated on the ground -- the equivalent of 1,000,000 tons of TNT:

**Ground Zero:** The explosion creates a crater 300 feet deep and 1300 feet in diameter. All life and structures are obliterated in seconds

**1 – 3 miles:** The flash and heat from the explosion cause instantaneous severe burns. Most factories and commercial buildings collapse and small frame and brick residences are destroyed. At least 50% of people die immediately, prior to any injuries.

**6 – 12 miles:** People directly exposed to the radiation generated by the explosion suffer second-degree burns. Total early casualties (killed and injured) may range from 5 – 50%.

**0 – 1 mile:** Within one second, the atmosphere ignites into a fireball more than 0.6 miles in diameter. The fireball rises to a height of six miles or more. All life below is extinguished in seconds.

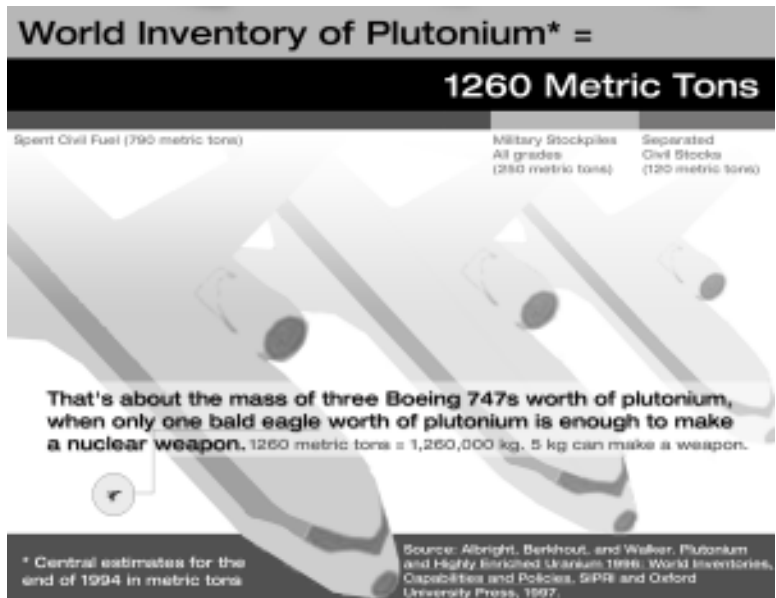
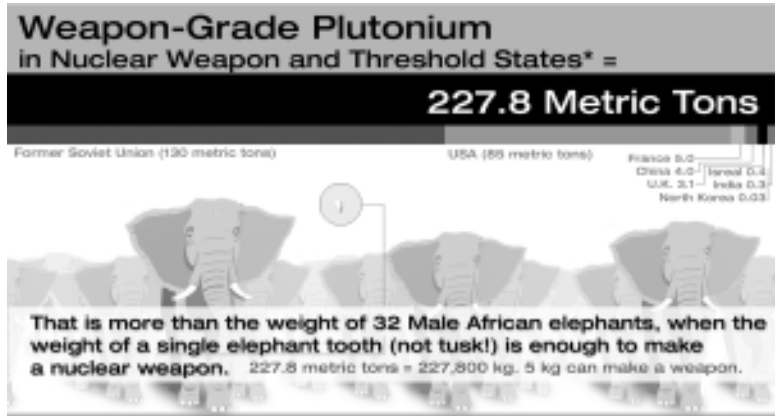
**3 – 6 miles:** The heat causes immediate third-degree burns to exposed skin. The expanding blast wave destroys many small buildings. A firestorm develops and consumes all nearby oxygen--sucking it out of underground stations and asphyxiating the occupants. Shelters become ovens and fatalities are likely to approach 100%.

## BITS AND PEACES

- The total known land area occupied by U.S. nuclear weapons bases and facilities is **15,654 square miles** (U.S. Nuclear Weapons Cost Study Project). That is more than the total land area of the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, and New Jersey (**15,357 square miles**).
- The United Nations estimates there to be over **300,000 child soldiers** around the world, now serving as combatants in over 30 current conflicts ([www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org)).
- In 2001 world military expenditures topped \$839 billion, while at the same time an estimated **1.3 billion people survive on less than the equivalent of U.S. \$1 a day** (Arias Foundation).
- **Eleven** U.S. nuclear bombs have been lost in accidents and never recovered (U.S. Department of Defense; Center for Defense Information; Greenpeace; "Lost Bombs," Atwood-Keeney Productions, Inc., 1997).
- Half of the world's governments spend more on defense than health care (Arias Foundation).
- The US supplied arms or military technology to more than 92% of the conflicts under way in 1999 ([www.worldpolicy.org](http://www.worldpolicy.org)).
- Inhalation of a single microgram of plutonium, smaller than a spec of dust, can cause fatal lung cancer ([www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)).



"A nation that continues year and year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."  
-Martin Luther King, Jr.



Abolition 2000

c/o Pax Christi USA - 532 West 8th Street - Erie, PA 16502 USA  
Tel (814) 453-4955 - Fax (814) 452-4784 [admin@abolition2000.org](mailto:admin@abolition2000.org)  
[www.abolition2000.org](http://www.abolition2000.org)