

Report of International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA)

Annual Meeting of Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons, 23 July 2021

Submitted by John Burroughs, IALANA Vice-President

Since the last Abolition 2000 annual meeting in June 2021, IALANA and its national affiliates have engaged in a range of activities – webinars, papers, submissions – relating to several topics, among them the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the first meeting of TPNW states parties, and the human rights critique of nuclear weapons. Below many of these activities are listed, including some by national affiliates (however, no attempt is made to capture all affiliate activities).

Russian invasion of Ukraine

On 25 February 2022, IALANA released a statement: [Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: An Illegal War of Aggression](#). The statement addressed both the illegality of the invasion and the illegality of nuclear threats made in support of the invasion.

Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, a US affiliate of IALANA and its UN Office, released a similar [statement](#) on 25 February and a longer paper addressing multiple aspects of the invasion, [End the War, Stop the War Crimes](#), on 21 April.

First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

IALANA submissions to 1MSP:

[Threats to Use Nuclear Weapons: Unacceptable and Illegal](#)

The submission begins: “Not for the first time in recent years, in 2022 threats to use nuclear weapons have loomed large in global affairs. Such threats are utterly unacceptable, above all because they greatly increase the risks of a humanitarian and environmental catastrophe resulting from use of nuclear weapons, whether ‘limited’ or extensive. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons recognizes this reality by explicitly prohibiting both threatening to use and using nuclear weapons. Threats to use nuclear weapons are illegal too under universally applicable international law reflected in and reinforced by the TPNW.”

[Article 6 TPNW: Who is a “victim” of nuclear weapons’ testing and use and what could “adequate assistance” look like?](#)

Submission to 1MSP by JALANA, Japanese affiliate of IALANA:

[Adopt a Resolution Protesting Russia's Threat to Use Nuclear Weapons and Urging the Non-use and Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by Nuclear Powers](#)

[Webinar: LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD: Give Justice to Nuclear Victims! 14 March 2022](#), with speakers from Japan, South Korea, and Europe

Publication: [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons A Commentary Article by Article, Updated version – May 2022](#), by Daniel Rietiker, Manfred Mohr, and Toshinori Yamada; [Webinar on the publication with authors](#), 10 June 2022

Other

Looking Back and Looking Ahead: the 25th anniversary of the 1996 ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Legality of Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons! IALANA, 8 July 2021 | [video](#) | [program](#).

IALANA co-president Phon van den Biesen spoke at a side-event to a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 1 July 2022, [Nuclear weapons, climate change and human rights](#), organized by the Basel Peace Office.

IALANA joined in 30 March 2022 [submissions on human rights and nuclear weapons](#) made by the Basel Peace Office and other groups to Human Rights Council reviews of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Over the past few years a considerable number of such submissions have been made by IALANA, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, and Basel Peace Office and other groups, including regarding nuclear-armed states Russia, France, United States, United Kingdom, and North Korea. Submissions are made when countries come up for review before human rights bodies. So far the submissions have not led to such issues being actively pursued in review of countries' records. However, efforts are now being made to increase the profile of the submissions; in the case of the most recent submission, as mentioned a [side event](#) was organized at a session of the Human Rights Council and separately conversations were held with delegates. Moreover, the submissions serve an educational purpose in the wider world.