



Sofia Lundeen Morales, seven years old, joined the Treaty delivery action at Honeywell Aerospace in Minnesota.

Ban Treaty Demonstrations Mark Entry Into Force

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“Polls have shown that people in the countries that support nuclear weapons, including 65% of Americans, want their government to end that support...”

“There is a new reality in international disarmament, and that is a world without nuclear weapons. That is the world we want our children to inherit.”

After the Vets for Peace rang bells to commemorate the end of “the war to end all wars,” five-year-old Yasha Lundeen Morales and seven-year-old Sofia Lundeen Morales presented copies of the Treaty to the Honeywell representative.

Ralph Hutchison of Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance said of the January 22 events, “It was a moment, and now it is our job to make it a movement.” Undoubtedly, Vets for Peace, WAMM and many more around the country are already doing that.

Email nukewatch1@lakeland.ws to join our March 25 Zoom call or visit the Nuclear Ban Treaty EIF Facebook page to work on next steps to promote the Treaty!

A video of the Minnesota Honeywell action is available at <https://nukewatchinfo.org/videos>.

See a compilation of January 22 actions across the US made by the editors of the Nuclear Resister and OREPA, at <https://vimeo.com/515883787>.

This article was originally produced for Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27.

Nuclear Weapons Treaty the Right Way Forward, Has Already Strengthened Peace and Safety in 50 Countries

Editor’s note: A model of public engagement, Nukewatch volunteer Joel Bransky had this excellent letter published in his local paper...

Fifty nations just outlawed nuclear weapons forever. The international Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, or TPNW, came into force on January 22 after the 50th country, Honduras, ratified it. The people of these countries will never have to worry about cancer-causing weapons tests or pay for the secretive governmental nonsense required to manufacture and store nuclear warheads.

The treaty’s entry into force comes at a critical time. Just three years ago, while living in South Korea, I watched our president joke about the size of his launch button and challenge a volatile dictator to a game of nuclear chicken. Congress held hearings on how a nuclear strike would be carried out. The world was one miscalculation away from nuclear war, it seemed — yet many people have already

Fukushima: Aftershocks, Lies, Failed Decontamination

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At a February 15 meeting, Tokyo Electric Power Co. (Tepco) and federal regulators discussed effects of the quake. They suspect it broke open new cracks or existing earthquake damage in reactors 1 and 3 where cooling water levels fell sharply, the Associated Press reported.

The Feb. 13 quake was felt in Tokyo 150 miles away. Japan’s meteorological agency said it was believed to be an aftershock of the record 2011 quake.

“Because (the 2011 quake) was an enormous one with a magnitude of 9.0, it’s not surprising to have an aftershock of this scale 10 years later,” said Kenji Satake, a professor at the University of Tokyo’s Earthquake Research Institute.

There have been six major aftershocks in the Fukushima area since March 2011: April 7, 2011 (magnitude 7.1); April 11, 2011 (6.6); July 10, 2011 (7.0); Oct. 26, 2013 (7.1); Nov. 26, 2016 (6.9); and Feb. 13, 2021 (7.3).

Earthquake shocks are not the only recurring nightmare to haunt the survivors of the record quake that killed 19,630. Typhoon Hagibis slammed into Tamura City in October 2019, and swept away an unknown number of bags of radioactive debris that had been stacked near a river.

Since March 2011, over 22 million cubic meters of contaminated soil, brush and other matter from areas hard hit by fallout have been collected in large black plastic bags and piled in temporary storage mounds in thousands of places. (“Fukushima residents fight state plan to build roads with radiation-tainted soil,” *Japan Times*, Apr. 29, 2018) Yet the volume is the tip of the iceberg: according to R. Ramachandran, in *The Hindu*, Jan. 31, 2020, “no decontamination activities are planned for the majority of forested areas which cover about 75 percent of the main contaminated area of 9,000 square km.”

Cover-ups and Disinformation

Reporting Feb. 14 about the latest quake, the AP noted that Tepco “has repeatedly been criticized for cover-ups and delayed disclosures of problems.”

On June 22, 2016, Tepco’s President Naomi Hirose publicly admitted that the company’s lengthy refusal to speak of the “meltdowns” it knew of at its three reactors was tantamount to a cover-up and apologized for it.

The *Washington Post* reported Mar. 6, 2021 that, “For years, Tepco claimed that the treated water

stored at the plant contained only tritium, but data deep on its website showed that the treatment process had failed.” The tanks now hold almost 1.25 million tons of highly contaminated waste water.

“In 2018, [Tepco] was forced to acknowledge that 70 percent of the water is still contaminated with dangerous radioactive elements — including strontium-90, a bone-seeking radionuclide that can cause cancer — and will have to be treated again before release,” the *Post* reported.

Harvey Wasserman reported for Columbus Institute for Contemporary Journalism’s *The Free Press* on a July 2007 earthquake that shook Japan and forced dangerous emergency shutdowns at four reactors at Kashiwazaki. “For three consecutive days [Tepco] was forced to issue public apologies for erroneous statements about the severity of the damage done to the reactors, the size and lethality of radioactive spills into the air and water, the ongoing danger to the public, and much more. Once again, the only thing reactor owners can be trusted to do is to lie.”

At least 20 radioactive waste water tanks near these were “slid” by the February 13 earthquake off Fukushima Prefecture, according to Tepco. Photo by Lars Nicolaysen-DPA



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Radioactive Particles Newly Identified

Work just published in the journal *Science of the Total Environment* documents new, highly radioactive particles that were released from the destroyed Fukushima reactors. The study was led by Dr. Satoshi Utsunomiya and Kazuya Morooka of Kyushu University. “Two of these particles have the highest cesium radioactivity ever measured for particles from Fukushima,” the research found. The study

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German Lawmaker Says “Nuclear Sharing Suspension” Must Become Phase-out

Kathrin Vogler, peace policy spokeswoman for Germany’s Left party confirmed March 3 that Tornado fighter jet operations at Büchel Air Base will be largely discontinued from June 2022 to February 2026, due to extensive construction work, and transferred to the Nörvenich airfield. Vogler said, “As far as we know, the approximately 20 US nuclear bombs stored at Büchel will remain at the air base during the construction phase. This means that German ‘nuclear sharing’ will de facto not take place for four years from 2022.”

Ms. Vogler said the pause invalidates the government’s “repeated claims that ‘nuclear sharing’ is an important part of NATO’s deterrence strategy. In fact, maintaining the nuclear weapons site at Büchel is pure symbolic politics — with high risks for the population.”

Urging other lawmakers to address real crises facing Germany, Vogler said, “We do not need nuclear weapons and we do not need a ‘modernization’ of the nuclear weapons site in Büchel. We need every cent in the coming years to secure the social future of the people in our country. ... Therefore, the suspension of ‘nuclear sharing’ must become a phase-out. Now would be a good opportunity to do that. Germany must end nuclear sharing, and join the nuclear weapons ban treaty — and do it now.”

— *Rhein-Zeitung* daily, March 4, 2021