

A national urgency; an international fast

Every year, an International Fast is held in several countries worldwide between Hiroshima and Nagasaki days (6th-9th August). Initiated over thirty years ago in France and Germany, the fast takes place in sorrow and in commemoration of the 300,000 deaths at the atomic bombings of Japan.

This year, the international fast takes on particular significance as the United Nations debate a proposal for a universal comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons.

The fast is supported by many leading organisations around the world, and in the UK by Trident Ploughshares, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Christian CND, and by several Quaker groups.

It is supported internationally by ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

Why are we fasting?

As well as an act of remembrance, the fast is an *Action-fast*, to protest against the ongoing possession of nuclear weapons by 9 states. These include the United Kingdom, whose government and establishment voted last year to push through the replacement of Trident, after minimal public consultation. Such a replacement, if it goes through, risks perpetuating the UK's status as both a target and a threat to the world, whereas the UK could, by renouncing Trident, make an extraordinary and decisive contribution to world peace.

Worldwide, numerous distinguished public figures have called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. 123 UN member states have voted in favour of a Treaty to abolish nuclear weapons, opposed only by most nuclear-armed states and their cronies and allies.

We will be fasting to convey a double message:

To the UK government and people:

No Trident replacement!

To all nations and their peoples:

Abolish all nuclear weapons: a treaty to ban nuclear weapons now!

Come and join us!



We will be based in Victoria Embankment Gardens, Whitehall Extension throughout the four days. Accommodation will be provided nearby.

We will hold vigils on Hiroshima and Nagasaki days, and will stage various forms of peaceful protest near Parliament, Downing Street, and the Ministry of Defence.

Whether to fast with us or simply to join us in these actions, you will be welcome.



Tottenham Quaker Meeting



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About the International Fast

The yearly fast has been held since 1984 in both France and Germany, and in recent years has spread to several other countries as well. Last year over 150 people fasted, in France, Germany, the UK, the US, Nigeria and Togo.

The fast brings together the different nationalities around a common absolute rejection of nuclear weapons, at the same time as involving targeted actions reflecting the specific situation in each country.



Participants in this year's fast are launching the following Appeal:

Call of the international groups of fasters

We are groups of fasters who have decided to forego nourishment for at least 4 days, from August 6th, the anniversary of Hiroshima, till August 9th, the anniversary of Nagasaki, to express our total opposition to nuclear weapons, and to call for their complete abolition.

Today in 2017 what we observe is that the nuclear-armed countries refuse to engage in nuclear disarmament and are financing nuclear modernization programs. In the UK, the parliamentary majority has voted for the renewal of Trident. In NATO countries hosting nuclear bases, the United States wants to modernize bombs and missiles, and to use them to equip new aircraft bombers. In France plans are being drawn up for a new nuclear submarine program. Russia is modernizing its arsenal...

The non-nuclear countries have obtained a major breakthrough in December 2016, with a vote at the General Assembly of the United Nations calling for a treaty banning all nuclear weapons to be signed in 2017. This resolution has been voted by a majority comprising $\frac{3}{4}$ of member states. Some nuclear countries (China, India, Pakistan, North Korea) are not opposed to the momentum this gives to nuclear disarmament, but some (USA, France, United Kingdom, Russia, Israel) are resolutely hostile to it.

The clock of the Apocalypse has again been moved forward, to 2 minutes 30 seconds before midnight, in other words the risk of nuclear attack is considered comparable to the most dramatic moments of the Cold War. 16,000 nuclear weapons are currently in active service, including 2,000 on alert.

A surge in public opinion is essential. The possession, production and threatened use of nuclear weapons must be prohibited. We, the undersigned group of fasters, call on each and every person to join us in expressing this urgent call:

Nuclear disarmament must happen now! Join the Fast!

Groups of Fasters, August 6-9, 2017:

FRANCE : Paris, Dijon-Valduc, Bordeaux-Mégajoule, La Hague, Brest-Ile Longue, Montpellier, Tours

UK : London

GERMANY : Berlin, Büchel

USA : Los Alamos New Mexico, Kansas City Missouri, Livermore Lab California

TOGO : Lomé

NIGERIA : Lagos

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