

Wiener Friedensbewegung – Hiroshima-Gruppe Wien

c/o Friedensbüro Wien, 1050 Wien, Reinprechtsdorferstr. 6/2

Dear Friends,

100 seconds before noon! This is the picture of the Doomsday-clock. A worldwide project installed by widely renowned scientists warns us: We are closer to midnight and the end of the world than ever before. The reasons of this situation, which threatens humanity on the whole, are nuclear weapons and the global warming.

Three decades after the end of the Cold War, there exist still 13,000 nuclear weapons. Amid increasing political tensions worldwide, all the nuclear powers are developing new generations of nuclear weapon systems. The INF Treaty on the ban of short and medium-range missiles has been suspended, the New Start Treaty on limitation of long-range missiles is at risk to expire next year. These important covenants are also a success of global activities for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Great hope is laid into the UN Nuclear Weapons Treaty signed in 2017, which shall enter into force nine months after the 50th instrument of ratification has been deposited. Therefore nuclear weapons will be illegal under international law. Currently 38 states have ratified the treaty. Civil society must exert pressure on non-signatories to make the treaty effective.

The United Nations is calling for a global ceasefire in the light of the corona crisis - it is high time for that! Also for disarmament in all fields, because we lack the enormously high funds wasted on armament in social benefits, education, culture, environmental protection and many other important sectors.

The Hiroshima Group Vienna, the Vienna Peace Movement and Pax Christi Vienna as well as other peace and environmental groups are organizing the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing on Hiroshima, Thursday. August 6, 2020, 5:00 p.m. at Vienna's Stephansplatz. A memorial event for the victims of the atomic bombing in 1945 and other victims of military and civilian use of nuclear technology. On the forefront, there is the demand for the total abolition of all nuclear weapons.

As part of this commemorative event, we will collect messages from peace-loving people, which will be available electronically on the homepage www.hiroshima.at. We also plan to publish them in other peace-related publications. By sending your messages you agree to be released.

We ask you to raise your voice supporting our common commitment for ostracism and elimination of these weapons of mass destruction. Our engagement for the commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki stands for a world without nuclear weapons, without nuclear power plants and without war! Actually, we have to fight against the two greatest threats to humanity: nuclear war and the climate change. Together we can ensure the survival of humanity!

We kindly ask you to send your message of support to the Friedensbüro Vienna, Reinprechtsdorfer Straße 6/2, 1050 Vienna or to pax.vienna@chello.at latest by July 31, 2020.

We wholeheartedly welcome your support and remain in peace and solidarity
Mag.a Gabriela Kaszay, Andreas Pecha, Alois Reisenbichler and Helga Ungar