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ICAN 2017  
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PRIZE

# World Nuclear Survivors Forum 2021

世界核被害者フォーラム 2021

December 2 - 3, 2021

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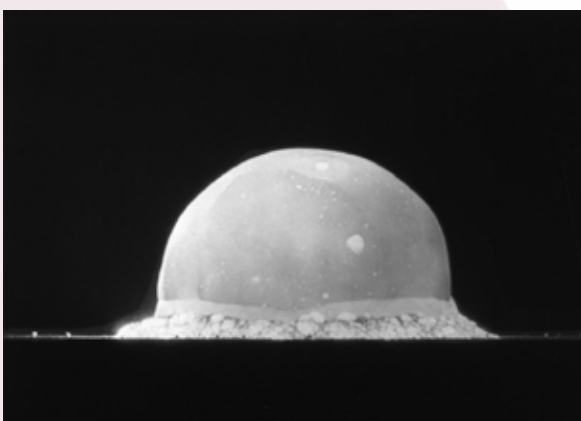
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# OVERVIEW

The World Nuclear Survivors Forum 2021 on December 2-3, 2021, organised by Peace Boat in partnership with the 2017 Nobel Peace Laureate the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), brought together nuclear survivors and impacted communities around the world to virtually meet, learn about each other's situations and needs, and share various actions and initiatives. Further, it allowed people around the world to continue to listen and learn from nuclear survivors, so as to take actions to ensure their rights and dignity and to realize a world free of nuclear weapons.

## Background



Trinity Test, Alomogordo, New Mexico, July 16, 1945  
(Berlyn Brixner, Atomic Photographers Guild)

The first nuclear weapons test in New Mexico in July 1945 followed radiation secretly released unto unsuspecting populations downwind and impacts through the mining process, marking the beginning of the nuclear age. In August 1945, the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki claimed more than 200,000 lives in just the first five months, leading to unimaginable horror and long-lasting impacts for those who survived.

The nuclear arms race that followed resulted in 2,000 nuclear tests on our land, in our oceans and underground, creating massive amounts of radioactive fallout. This, uranium mining and various activities in the process of developing, testing and producing nuclear weapons, severely impacts the health, environment and rights of those who had to work at or live nearby.

## Opportunity

Those with first hand experience of these impacts have been appealing to the world, bearing fruit in the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the United Nations in 2017. This treaty entered into force in 2021, making nuclear weapons finally illegal, and providing the obligation for assistance to victims of nuclear weapons and environmental remediation. The first Meeting of State Parties (MSP) of the TPNW is scheduled to be held in Vienna in 2022. This will be an important opportunity to draw attention from governments to the situation of nuclear survivors.

Thousands of people from around the world joined this historic forum to hear first-hand the stories of over 30 nuclear survivors from five continents. This Summary Document highlights the stories of survival, and requests and recommendations shared by the survivors themselves throughout the Forum. The testimonies and panel discussions are all available for viewing on demand via: [nuclearsurvivors.org](https://nuclearsurvivors.org)





# OPENING

The World Nuclear Survivors Forum was opened by **Watanabe Rika** and **Kawasaki Akira**, on behalf of the organisers Peace Boat and ICAN, following a moving photographic show provided by the Atomic Photographers Guild.

The opening was broadcast from Tokyo, in the Exhibition Hall of the Japanese fishing boat Daigo Fukuryu Maru (No. 5 Lucky Dragon). The crew of the boat were exposed to radiation by the US nuclear test, codename Castle Bravo, on Bikini Atoll on 1 March 1954. One of the surviving crew members, Oishi Matashichi, continued campaigning against nuclear weapons until his death in March 2021, and the Exhibition Hall commemorates the importance of the voice of nuclear survivors. Mr Kawasaki noted that people's health had been harmed and their human rights violated throughout each stage of the nuclear cycle, from the mining of uranium to the construction of nuclear reactors, development and deployment of nuclear weapons, the creation of nuclear infrastructure and disposal of nuclear waste. Referring also to the long-term impacts of nuclear power plant disasters such as Chernobyl and Fukushima, he stated that while we must face the fact that we cannot erase radiation, we can prevent further nuclear disasters.



Watanabe Rika and Kawasaki Akira open the forum



Setsuko Thurlow: "My beloved city destroyed in an instant"

Continuing, he stressed the importance of the TPNW, which entered into force in January 2021. Of particular importance for nuclear survivors around the world is Article 6 of the treaty, which creates obligations for states parties to assist nuclear survivors and contribute to environmental remediation.

Two opening messages were shared at the Forum, the first from **Setsuko Thurlow**, a nuclear survivor of the atomic attack on Hiroshima, who "witnessed my beloved city destroyed in an instant." Ms Thurlow stressed that the voices of nuclear survivors are crucial to the implementation of the TPNW, and expressed her hope that forum participants would "deepen our understanding of our shared experiences, and to embrace each other with support and sympathy." She highlighted the "racism and colonialism embodied in the history of nuclear weapons testing."

**Gilles Carbonnier**, Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which has played a key role in the campaign to develop the TPNW, then highlighted the important obligations for TPNW state parties to support nuclear survivors. He said the participation of survivors was a crucial element of the first MSP to the treaty, to be held in Austria in 2022. He encouraged nuclear survivors to help shape the implementation of the nuclear ban treaty.



# STORIES

Testimonies of nuclear survivors of broad range of impacts, including from mining, production and waste

The Forum featured two series of testimonies of nuclear survivors from around the world, the first chaired by **Dimity Hawkins** of ICAN Australia, one of the co-founders of ICAN.

Ms Hawkins noted that the hazards of exposure to radioactive isotopes extended over time and space, through all stages of the fuel cycle, from uranium mining to processing, the development of nuclear weapons and the disposal of nuclear waste. She noted that the term "nuclear survivors" includes not just survivors from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but also people affected by uranium mining and other stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, to civilian and military survivors of nuclear testing and "downwinders". She also spoke of the interconnection of health, human rights and environmental justice and the importance of solidarity and support for nuclear survivors.

Ms Hawkins then introduced the first session of "intimate and compelling testimonies" through a series of videos - "Stories 1: Testimonies of nuclear survivors of broad range of impacts, including from mining, production and waste."

## Meet the survivors, Take action!

### Speakers:

**Sue COLEMAN-HASELDINE**, Australia Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA)

**Joan MORNINGSTAR**, Mississaugi First Nation, Canada

**Almoustapha ALHACEN**, Aghirin'man (Protection of the Soul), Niger

**Jharkhandi Organisation Against Radiation (JOAR)**, India

**Mary DICKSON**, Playwright and Downwinder, United States

**LEE Gyuyeol**, Korea Atomic Bombs Victim Association

**YUASA Masae**, Hiroshima City University, Japan



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**WORLD NUCLEAR SURVIVORS FORUM 2021**



**SUE COLEMAN-HASELDINE**

**URANIUM COMPANIES**

**PUSH ASIDE the ABORIGINAL PEOPLE JUST to GET WHAT THEY WANT**

**I'M JEREMIAH I DON'T WANT NUCLEAR & I LIVE IN AUSTRALIA**

**STAY SAFE & STAY STRONG**

I WAS REALLY YOUNG WHEN the BOMBS TESTING STARTED HAPPENING in AUSTRALIA INCLUDING MONTEBELLO ISLANDS

the WINDS BROUGHT the RADIATION FALLOUTS to US

12 tests

we HAVE BEEN LIVING with GRIEF & LOSS for a LONG TIME ~ SO MANY CANCERS, BIRTH DEFECTS EVERY DAY DOES NOT GO AWAY

EVEN 60 YEARS LATER, BABIES ARE DYING ~ COMPLICATED DEFECTS ~ NO EXPLANATIONS CHILDREN are SUFFERING RADIATION POISONING

we NEED the AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT to JOIN the REST WHO IS COMING on BOARD to OUTLAW NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

if we CAN STOP MINING, WASTE BUILDING NUCLEAR DUMP SUBMARINES we CAN PROTECT our CULTURE & THE REST of the WORLD WINS TOO!

EVEN THOUGH I am GETTING OLDER, TIRED & SLOWING DOWN, my FIGHT CONTINUES ~ my CHILDREN, GRAND CHILDREN are COMING ALONGSIDE & STANDING UP

## Aunty Sue Coleman-Haseldine

Australia Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA)

Aunty Sue Coleman-Haseldine is a Kokatha woman, living in Ceduna, South Australia. In her presentation, she was accompanied by her grandchildren Jeremiah and Tanyta, symbolising the intergenerational effects of nuclear testing.

Ms Coleman-Haseldine highlighted the way that indigenous communities in South Australia - but also people across the nation - were affected by radioactive fallout from twelve British nuclear tests conducted at the Montebello Islands, Maralinga and Emu Field between 1952-57. She showed evidence of the way winds had carried fallout across vast areas after the nine tests on the Australian mainland, leaving areas polluted to this day.

She highlighted the ongoing suffering of indigenous Aboriginal communities, noting that children were still dying of complicated illnesses: "we are living with grief and loss every day - it does not go away."

Ms Coleman-Haseldine stressed that Australians should join global efforts to contribute to nuclear disarmament, by banning new uranium mines and opposing radioactive waste dumps on Aboriginal land which are "just as dangerous as any bombs." She said many indigenous people have been dislocated from their land to benefit uranium mining companies, and drew the connection between mining, waste dumping and Australia's new proposal to build nuclear submarines.

“We are living with grief and loss every day. It does not go away.”



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WORLD NUCLEAR  
SURVIVORS FORUM  
2021



JOAN MORNINGSTAR

in the EARLY 80s, CAMECO PREVIOUSLY NAMED  
EL DORADO WHO HAD BROUGHT IN STEEL WORKERS  
~ THERE WERE TRAILERS USED AS BUNK HOUSES  
I WAS HIRED TO WORK THERE - PRETTY GOOD  
UNTIL I WAS LAID OFF WITHOUT REASON  
SO WHEN THEY CALLED ME BACK, I NOTICED  
THAT SOME PEOPLE WERE DIFFERENT - NOT  
MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH ME OR TALKING TO ME.  
I WAS CLEANING THE LAST ROOM & I HEARD  
IT WAS FAINT AT FIRST BUT IT GOT  
LOUDER & I HEARD THE  
THEN I HEARD MEN, WOMEN &  
CHILDREN WAILING & CRYING  
my MOTHER-IN-LAW SAID IT SOUNDS LIKE  
THEY DUG UP & DISTURBED A BURIAL GROUND

I WENT BACK & ASKED MY FRIEND → SAID THEY HAD A  
HELICOPTERS & LIGHTS HOOKED UP 24/7 & TOOK  
EVERYTHING OUT. THEN MY MOTHER-IN-LAW TOLD ME  
TO MAKE AN OFFERING WITH FOOD & TOBACCO ~ SO I WENT  
WITH MY HUSBAND THAT WEEKEND ~ WE SNUCKED IN,  
AT THE TREE LINE WE SAW INDENTATIONS - RECLAMING &  
EVERYTHING IN THE GROUND ~ I MET SOME PEOPLE, THANKED  
THEM & AT ONCE I COULD HEAR SINGING & DRUMS. I SAT  
DOWN & STARTED CRYING

THE PEOPLE I SPOKE WITH  
WAS TRYING TO BRING  
OUR PEOPLE BACK HOME

WE HAVE NO EMERGENCY EVACUATION & THEIR  
BELLS WENT OFF WE COULDN'T HEAR THEM

I'VE GOT LUNG CANCER FROM WHAT I BELIEVE  
WAS CAUSED BY THAT REFINERY

I DON'T WANT THEM  
HANGING UP  
IN A MUSEUM  
OR NOTHING  
THEY HAVE TO BE  
BURIED AGAIN

EVEN THOUGH THE INCINERATOR  
IS 1.6 KM FROM MY RESERVE, YOU DON'T  
SEE ANY INFORMATION IN CAMECO'S REPORTS  
THEY ALWAYS SAY WE REFER TO BLIND RIVER  
BEING THE FURTHEST FROM OUR COMMUNITY  
IT'S LIKE MISSISSAUGI COMMUNITY  
& INVISIBLE TO THEM

SO DID MY EX HUSBAND, THE WOMAN &  
THE YOUNG WOMAN ~ LIVED NEAR TO ME,  
ANOTHER FRIEND DOWN THE STREET,  
DAUGHTER GOT BREAST CANCER, THE BOY  
THAT WORKED AT CAMECO DIED OF CANCER.  
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DYING  
~ EVERY 3 MONTHS WITH CANCER  
FROM HERE & BLIND RIVER

## Joan Morningstar

Mississauga First Nation, Canada

Joan Morningstar, a First Nations woman from Canada, spoke of the health hazards and cultural dislocation for the Mississauga First Nation in Ontario, from a refinery and nuclear processing plant operated by the corporation Cameco located less than 2 kilometres from an indigenous reservation.

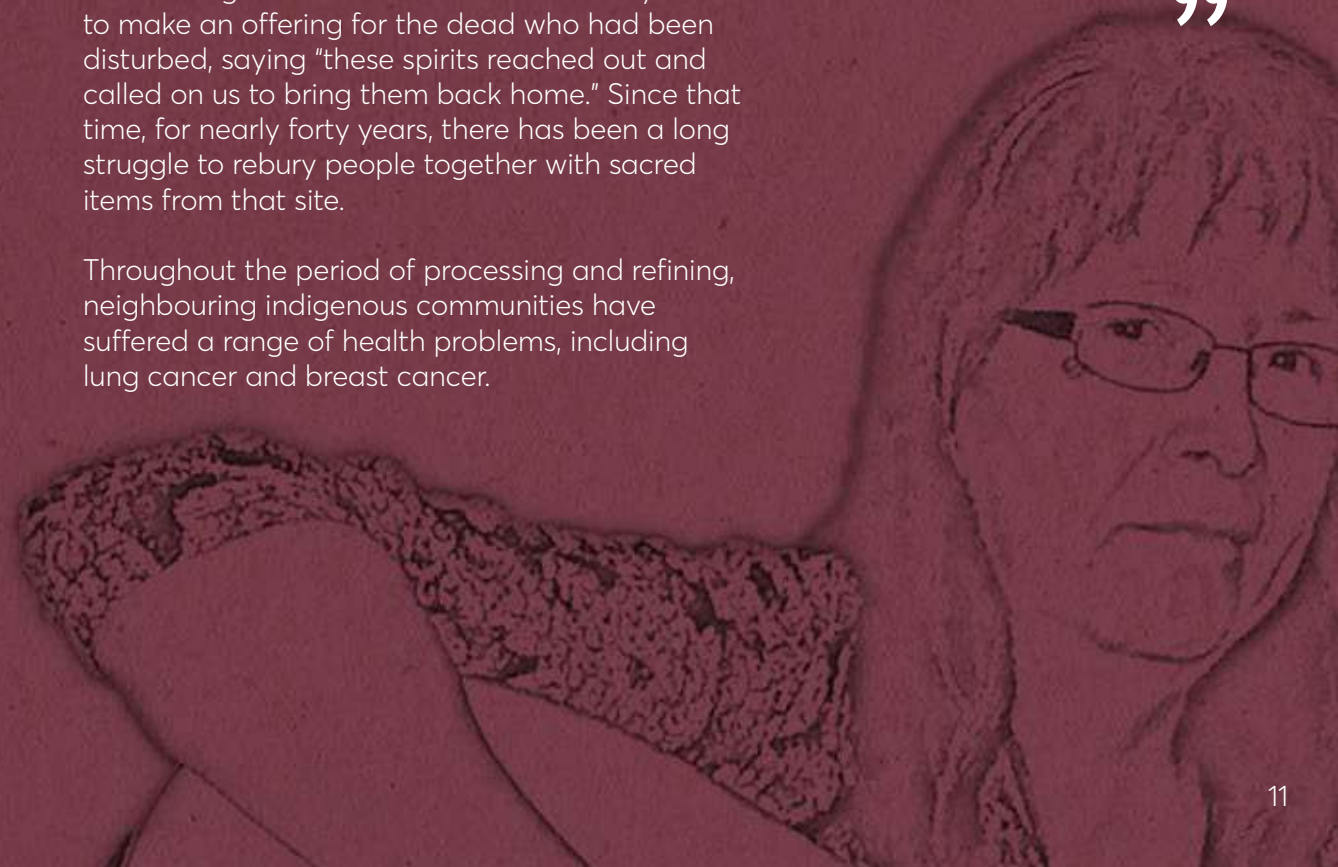
Working during reconstruction of the plant in 1982, she was laid off for a period without any reason, but later went back to work. She told how she sensed the sorrowful spirits of song, music and dance at the site, and later discovered that - during her absence - an indigenous burial ground had been dug up and carried away by helicopters.

Ms Morningstar later returned to the site by canoe to make an offering for the dead who had been disturbed, saying "these spirits reached out and called on us to bring them back home." Since that time, for nearly forty years, there has been a long struggle to rebury people together with sacred items from that site.

Throughout the period of processing and refining, neighbouring indigenous communities have suffered a range of health problems, including lung cancer and breast cancer.

“These spirits  
reached out  
and called  
on us  
to bring  
them back  
home”

”





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**I COORDINATE the CIVIL SOCIETY of ARLIT & FOUNDED NGO AGHIRIN'MAN**  
**“NIGER RIGHTS ORGANIZATION”**

**► PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS**

**addressed a NUMBER of ? to ORANO**  
 - FORMALLY KNOW as AREVA with its SUBSIDIARIES in NIGER, SOMAIR & COMINAK

**STOPPED OPERATING in 2021**  
 to REPURPOSE the SITE

**VERY WORRYING SITUATION...**

**it's SOMETHING THEY HAVE ALREADY DONE in MOUNANA & GABON**  
**THEY ARE DOING the SAME in NIGER** **50 YEARS LATER**

**ABANDONING the LOCAL POPULATION LEAVING THEM with RADIATION**

**PRODUCING URANIUM for 50 years in POOREST COUNTRY in the WORLD!**

**we are LEFT WITH LONG-LASTING CONTAMINATION & UNIMAGINABLE DISEASES**  
 the BEST way to DEAL WITH URANIUM is to LEAVE it UNDERGROUND

**our voice needs to be STRONG**

**ALMOUSTAPHA ALHACEN**




## Almoustapha Alhacen

Aghirin'man (Protection of the Soul), Niger

Almoustapha Alhacen of Aghirin'man (Protection of the Soul), an organization which aims to protect the environment and human rights in Niger, highlighted the long campaign to maintain environmental standards for uranium mining conducted by subsidiaries of the French corporation Orano, formerly known as Areva. The organisation is calling on the state to ensure that site repurposing is done in accordance with necessary standards.

A former worker at the uranium mill near Arlit, Mr Alhacen stressed that the welfare of local communities had been abandoned and there was a need for support from other non-government organisations: “We are with you and our voice must be as strong as possible against the dangers of uranium”.

“Our voice must be as strong as possible against the dangers of uranium”





## Jharkhandi Organisation Against Radiation (JOAR)

India

Jharkhandi Organisation Against Radiation (JOAR) in India has long been campaigning against the adverse health and environmental impacts of uranium mining conducted by the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd (UCIL).

JOAR representatives Ghanshyam Birulee and Dumka Murmu highlighted the hazards from seven uranium mines and a milling station in their area, with waste dumped into tailing ponds and other pollution of air, water and soil. They highlighted the numbers of stillborn children or those born with disabilities, as well as the health hazards for workers in the industry, including kidney failure, cancer and TB. Many poor workers continue to seek employment in the mines however, because they don't understand the hazards of low-level radiation as a long term problem. Beyond this, the government and uranium mining corporations have suppressed information about the hazards to local villages.

The presentation from JOAR highlighted their calls for environmental rehabilitation, care and compensation for workers in the industry and local communities, an end to mining and better monitoring of radiation levels from tailings dams. In addition, Shri Prakash stressed the current difficulty of speaking out for justice at a time of geopolitical tension: with India/China border tensions; China expanding its nuclear arsenal; ongoing tensions over Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran; and a conservative right-wing Hindu nationalist government in India, which uses this geopolitical tension to build up its nuclear industry and arsenal.

JOAR called for more information for communities affected by uranium mining and platforms to allow cooperation between nuclear survivors across international boundaries.

“Children are being born with disabilities and children are being born dead”



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**MARY DICKSON**

**I AM a DOWNWINDER & SURVIVOR of NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**I GREW up UNDER the CLOUDS of RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT DURING the YEARS of NUCLEAR TESTING**

**BETWEEN 1951 & 1922 the US GOVERNMENT DETONATED 100 NUCLEAR BOMBS**

**WE DRINK MILK from the NEARBY DAIRY, ATE FRESH VEGETABLE from the GARDEN, MIXED SUGAR with SNOW & PLAYED in PUDDLES of RAINWATER in our TRANQUIL SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH NEIGHBOURHOOD**

**WE WERE ONLY CHILDREN - NOT KNOWING THAT a SILENT POISON was THREADING its WAY THROUGH our BODIES - NUCLEAR BOMBS DETONATED - NEARBY NEVADA**

**WINDS CARRIED RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT from DETONATIONS ALL FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN THOSE in HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI - EXPOSING COUNTLESS PEOPLE to DEATHLY LEVELS of RADIATION**

**the DETONATION that MOST HAUNTS me - 1962 I HAD JUST TURNED 7**

**EXPLODED 635 feet UNDERGROUND 104 KILOTONS, 16,000-FOOT PLUME**

**DISPLACING 12 MILLION TONS of RADIATION EARTH in that PLUME in MY SALT LAKE CITY NEIGHBORHOOD**

**in MY 20s I WAS DIAGNOSED with THYROID CANCER**

**CAUTION**

**the ARMS RACE DID NOT PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR it WAS a NUCLEAR WAR**

**~ BARBARA ROSE JOHNSON ~**

**WE are VICTIMS of the COLD WAR ONLY WE NEVER ENLISTED & NO ONE WILL EVER FOLD the FLAGS OVER our COFFINS**

**the COLD WAR HAD CASUALTIES & WE & OTHERS AROUND the WORLD are THOSE CASUALTIES**

**828 COLLECTIVE VOICES are ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL**

**UNDERGROUND**

## Mary Dickson

Playwright and Downwinder, United States

Mary Dickson of Utah, United States gave her testimony as a "downwinder" from near the Nevada nuclear test site. With more than 100 US atmospheric nuclear tests and 828 underground tests at the Nevada site between 1951 and 1992, people living downwind of the testing zone suffered significant adverse health effects.


Ms Dickson described how "many children have been affected by the silent poison" of radiation. As a seven-year-old, she and her siblings were affected by a massive underground nuclear test on 6 July 1962, codenamed Sedan, which sent a 16,000 foot plume of radioactive fallout into the sky. She highlighted her own health problems, including thyroid cancer, the death of her sister at a young age and the illness and cancers of at least 54 people from her Salt Lake City, Utah neighbourhood.

Stating that "the Cold War arms race was a nuclear war", she highlighted the spread of radioactive fallout across large parts of the United States after atmospheric nuclear tests, affecting the food chain and causing significant cases of thyroid and other cancers.


For many years, Ms Dickson has been an advocate and champion for nuclear survivors. She noted that the US Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), first passed in 1990, only provides partial restitution and will expire in July 2022. She joins other campaigners seeking to extend this compensation legislation for another 19 years and to ensure it applies to survivors in other US states and to the US Pacific territory of Guahan / Guam (affected by US nuclear testing in the Republic of Marshall Islands).

“The Cold War arms race was a nuclear war”



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**LEE GYUYEOL**

**500,000**  
► **KILLED IMMEDIATELY**  
the **OTHER 500,000**  
**SUFFERED**

**50 MEMBER STATES** of the UN  
**RATIFIED** the **TREATY** on the **PROHIBITION**  
of **NUCLEAR WEAPONS** **EFFECTIVE** JANUARY 2021

**USA, CHINA, RUSSIA,**  
**FRANCE & the UK**

**NEITHER DID**  
**SOUTH KOREA**

**OPPOSED**  
the **TREATY**

**NO!**

**& JAPAN PARTICIPATE**  
**NOR RATIFY** the **TREATY**

**out of 70,000 KOREANS**  
**LIVING** in **HIROSHIMA &**  
**30,000** in **NAGASAKI**

**100,000 BECAME VICTIMS** of the  
**NUCLEAR BOMBS CARRIED OUT**  
on **AUGUST 6 & 9th 1945**  
~ **HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI**

**& NOW A LITTLE OVER 2,100 SURVIVORS**

the **2ND & 3RD GENERATIONS** CONTINUE to **SUFFER**  
from **UNEXPLAINED ILLNESS & UNSPEAKABLE PAIN**

**I TRULY HOPE THAT A**  
**PEACEFUL NUCLEAR-FREE**  
**WORLD WILL BE A REALITY**

## Lee Gyuyeol

Korea Atomic Bombs Victim Association

Lee Gyuyeol, President of the Korea Atomic Bombs Victim Association, sent thanks and solidarity to participants in the Forum, welcomed the fact that more than 50 States have ratified the TPNW and said it is especially regrettable that the Republic of Korea and Japan, countries that have suffered from nuclear weapons, did not participate in this movement nor ratify this treaty.

Mr Lee explained that Korea was under forced occupation by the Japanese Empire in 1945 and highlighted the plight of the nearly 100,000 Koreans who were in camps and workplaces at Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the time of the nuclear attacks. Less than 2,100 survivors are still living today. He noted that there were impacts on second and third generations, with unexplained illnesses, and said "nuclear survivors must take the lead to be at the forefront of the abolition movement, to eliminate nuclear weapons from the world."

“Nuclear survivors must take the lead, to eliminate nuclear weapons from the world”





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**YUASA MASAE**  
the **HIROSHIMA BLACK RAIN SURVIVORS**



in **21st JULY 2021**, 84 BLACK RAIN SURVIVORS ~ **GROUND BREAKING VICTORY** in HIROSHIMA HIGH COURT - GOVERNMENT to DESIGNATE OFFICIAL REDUCTION & PROVIDE STATE HEALTHCARE

the GOVERNMENT HAD **IGNORED** their SUFFERING for 76 years

in 2015 ~ COURT APPEAL & TOOK 6 YEARS to WIN TOO LONG ~ 19 PASSED AWAY but THIS VICTORY WILL SAVE ESTIMATED 13,000 SURVIVORS

**1951** ATOMIC BOMB MEDICAL TREATMENT LAW

WITHOUT ANY STEADY HELP for MORE THAN a DECADE, MANY SURVIVORS are TRAPPED in the VICIOUS CYCLE of DETERIORATING HEALTH & SERIOUS POVERTY

**GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS & IMPACTS**

**CONSTANT ANXIETY & the SHADOW of DEATH**

**DIRECT EXPOSURE HIBAKUSHA**

**CITY ARRIVALS BLACK RAIN SURVIVORS** (INTENTIONALLY AMBIGUOUS)

**CHILDREN in the WOMB ~ IN UTERO**

the GOVERNMENT'S **REJECTED** INITIAL RADIATION IMPACT of DIRECT EXPOSURE

**INDUCED RADIATION ~ MAIN IMPACT - THOSE WHO ENTERED - CARED for VICTIMS/SURVIVORS ONLY CONSIDER EXTERNAL EXPOSURE**

- ▶ **PROTECT** the DIGNITY & RIGHTS of SURVIVORS
- ▶ **PREVENT** ANYONE ELSE BECOMING a NUCLEAR VICTIM
- ▶ **CREATING** a MORE SCIENTIFIC & RATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION SYSTEM for the WORLD that TAKES into ACCOUNT LOW-DOSE INTERNAL RADIATION EXPOSURE

## Yuasa Masae

Hiroshima City University, Japan

The final presentation came from Yuasa Masae of Hiroshima City University, Japan, who reported on a significant legal victory in a long-running court case in Hiroshima for "black rain survivors."

On 21 July 2021, a court ruling in Hiroshima extended medical support for 13,000 survivors of "black rain" after the 1945 atomic bombing. The passage of the 1957 Atomic Bomb Medical Treatment Act provided free medical check-ups for Hibakusha who faced: a) direct exposure; b) those entered the city of Hiroshima after the bombing; c) those not listed in categories a and b; and d) children in the womb. Until now, the Japanese government had not recognised the rights of those people affected by radioactive fallout and black rain; the latest call ruling accepted the plaintiffs' claim and ruled that such Hibakusha should be included in the third category. The government's stand was rejected, and the Japanese Prime Minister announced that the government would follow the ruling.

Dr Yuasa said this ruling has significant applications for other nuclear survivors, because of the way that the Life Span Study of Hibakusha underestimates the hazards of low-dose radiation, and the extension of this legislation may impact global safety standards in future.

“The global impact of the Black Rain judgment could be huge”



# PANEL I

## Tackling common challenges – for the rights and dignity of survivors

This panel shared their expertise and work of confronting the impact of different nuclear activities and contamination across the world, from uranium mining to nuclear weapons testing. It also heard an overview of what we currently know about the impacts of radiation on human health.

### Panelists:

**Lorraine REKMANS**, Serpent River First Nation, Canada  
**Kirsten BLAIR**, Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, Australia  
**Joey TAU**, Youngsolwara Pacific  
**Natalia MIRONOVA**, Movement for Nuclear Safety, Chelyabinsk  
**Lena NORMAND**, Association 193, Maohi Nui  
**Tilman RUFF**, IPPNW / ICAN Australia  
**Moderator: Pam KINGFISHER**, Nuclear Truth Project



*Panelists discussed the rights and dignity of survivors*

All of the panel referenced the **long-term nature of their activism**, with harmful nuclear activities stretching back decades and impacts stretching into the future, and the work passing down the generations in an active process of involving, sharing with and mentoring the next generation. Their activism variously included seeking safety for communities, information, assistance, acknowledgement, compensation, restitution and other forms of justice.

The **intergenerational impacts** of nuclear activities – whether these relate to health or genetics, displacement, cultural impacts or otherwise – was a common point of importance for the panel, as was the need to highlight and recognise these. Joey Tau and Natalia Mironova noted that genetic damage to further generations is not recognised in assistance laws in their contexts, and the need to protect future generations from radiological dangers that will last millions of years was also highlighted by Dr Mironova.

The majority of the panel drew attention to the enduring and ongoing **health impacts** and deaths caused in their communities, including from cancers caused by radiation. Lorraine Rekmans spoke about uranium miners, including her father, who had died from radiation related diseases and whose names are inscribed on a monument at Elliot Lake, Ontario. The uranium tailings are continuing to impact on the Serpent River First Nation land that is subject to the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850.



The struggle for information and investigation of these and for access to compensation were raised by speakers from Russia, Maohi Nui and Canada alike. The restrictions and unjust exclusions of victims from **compensation programmes**, created through requirements such as exposure thresholds, time limits on when diseases emerged and evidentiary requirements were also highlighted.

Many also mentioned **environmental problems or threats** including the risks posed by waste such as on Serpent River First Nation land where waste is stored in former lakes in a highly water-consumptive way, and it is only a matter of time before the dams fail.

The majority of the speakers also raised the need to be proactive and vigilant in the face of the challenges of **secrecy and misinformation**. For example, the panel observed that activists have had to keep researching and pushing for more information about what their communities have been exposed to and what the implications are, as this information has not been freely shared. Furthermore, the nuclear legacy is always developing, with waste being moved and communities continuing to be dumped upon. Communities from the United States to Maohi Nui had been told that past tests would have no consequences now and that there are safe thresholds for radiation exposure. We know that this is not the case, as was highlighted

Monument to Uranium Miners at Elliot Lake, Ontario as shown by Lorraine Rekmans



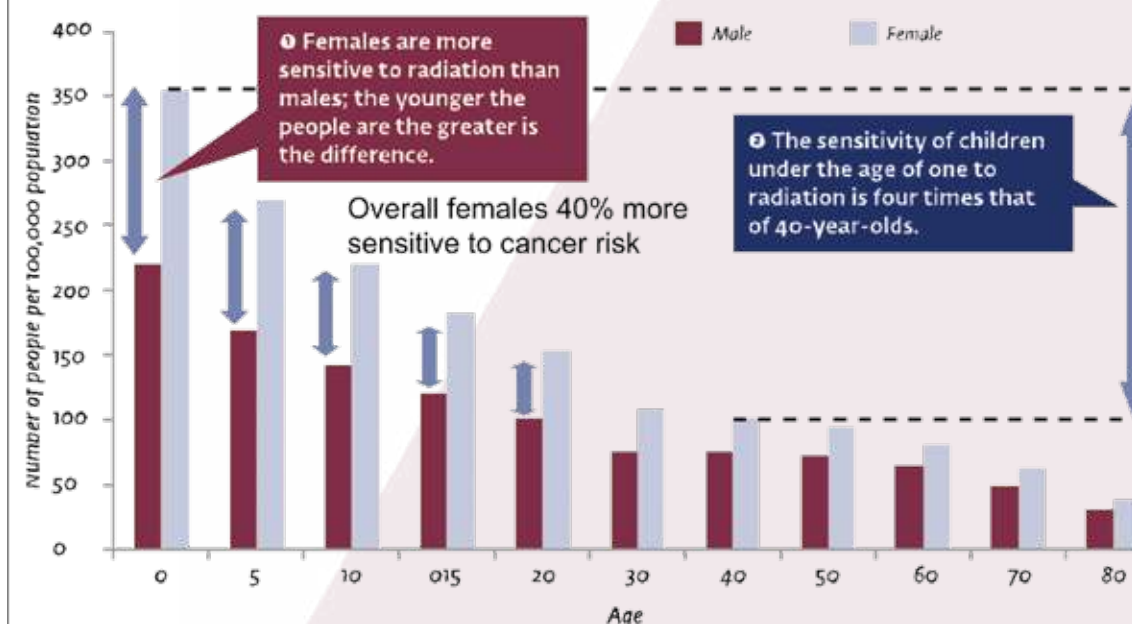
©Lorraine Rekmans

by the presentation of physician Tilman Ruff of IPPNW, who gave an overview of what we understand today about the impacts of radiation on health including the variations in cancer risk by age and gender as shown in the graph.

Another major theme for panellists was the **colonial nature** of nuclear activities, which were imposed with a lack of consent or little meaningful choice on already marginalised communities from North America to the Pacific and beyond. The panel noted that it had learned many similar lessons in different contexts from years of having such activities imposed, their rights (including treaty rights) ignored, and being left with the nuclear mess, without information or compensation.

Panellists also shared their **successes**, for example in achieving information disclosures, political engagement and an assistance law in Russia, supporting families to get compensation in Maohi Nui, and a process to start repairing Mirrar land in Australia. A video from the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation showed Traditional Owners of the land

## Cancer risk varies by age and gender



Shared in Tilman Ruff's presentation

National Diet of Japan, Fukushima Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission Report





Yvonne Margarula, Mirar Senior Traditional Owner

including activist Yvonne Margarula overseeing tree planting and the transformation of a former mining town according to the priorities of the community. The panel noted the resilience of communities and inspirational nature of the work being done.

Past survivor-led efforts such as the Draft Elements of a Charter of World Nuclear Victims' Rights agreed at the 2015 World Nuclear Victims Forum in Hiroshima were also recalled. Dr Ruff observed that the principles of the Charter resonate with the themes raised today, in its calls for: recognition, apology, long term care, compensation, remediation to the extent possible, long term environmental monitoring, identification of risks with proper information, involvement of affected people, accountability, and protection from further harm. As it contains the first **legally binding obligations** for victim assistance and environmental cleanup, Dr Ruff noted that while the TPNW may have a limited mandate it provides a crucial opportunity to carry these principles and messages, voices and advocacy forward as states implement the treaty.

Looking forward, panellists emphasised their respective calls for relevant government bodies and the international community to ensure the rights and dignity of nuclear survivors.

Addressing impacts on **health**, Ms Normand highlighted the need for the French compensation programme (Morin Law) to be changed to include all victims. Dr Mironova also highlighted the limits of the existing social assistance law as it excludes future generations.

Mr Tau emphasised the need for **acknowledgement, apology and recognition**, while Ms Normand called for the recognition of nuclear testing as a crime against humanity and for the teaching of

information about its impacts to be allowed. Panellists from Russia and the Pacific underlined the need for protection from future contamination and exposure and remediation of land, while Ms Rekmans called for compensation for the violation of treaty rights and loss of land.

Speakers also recommended steps for civil society, particularly in finding out information and demanding change. Concretely, they suggested to:

- Get **politically involved**: the panel discussed using different tactics from getting elected to campaigning for referendums to advocacy with ministries and public appeals and campaigns building a wide base of support.
- Work with the **next generation**: mentor, raise awareness amongst and build the expertise of youth so that they can carry on the activism, and share and learn from decades of experience and persistence.
- Work on **generating and sharing information**: work with scientists to help understand what is happening, what the dangers are, and how we can protect ourselves; keep passing on information about what has happened, what the dangers are, and inform the next generation including both in and outside of schools. The panel emphasised the need to keep vigilant as colonialism can also entail the loss of history, and mystification.

Finally, the importance of work in **international solidarity** and assistance was underscored.



Association 193 is fighting for Morin law to be changed to include all victims



# STORIES

## Testimonies on the impacts of the testing and use of nuclear weapons

The second series of testimonies from survivors focused on voices from communities around the world impacted by the over 2000 nuclear tests which took place including repeatedly in Kazakhstan, the Marshall Islands, Maohi Nui and China, as well as from fishermen from Japan who were exposed in the Pacific and from veterans who were involved in conducting the tests.

**Karen Hallows** from Peace Boat, who introduced the section, reminded viewers that "We are listening to these testimonies in the context of the TPNW, which entered into force earlier this year." and "When we are talking about this victim assistance and environmental remediation, it is vital for us to first hear directly about the real impacts of these weapons from those who have been affected."

What actually happened in the over 2000 nuclear tests? This session provided an opportunity to listen to the voices of impacted communities and people from around the world.



## Meet the survivors, Take action!

### Speakers:

**Karipbek KUYUKOV**, Atom Project, Kazakhstan

**MISA4thePacific**, Republic of the Marshall Islands

**Pacific Nuclear Disaster Assistance Centre**, Kochi, Japan

**Association 193**, Maohi Nui

**Enver TOHTI**, Lop Nor Project

**Gordon COGGON**, LABRATS International, UK



**PEACE BOAT** **ICAN**

**WORLD NUCLEAR SURVIVORS FORUM 2021**

**RADIATION CAUSED SEVERE GENETIC FAILURES**

**ECHOES of NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS** → **AFFECT MORE THAN 1 GENERATION**

**in the 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY the WORLD WAS**

**ONE STEP away from APOCALYPSE. JUDGEMENT DAY. the END of the WORLD.**

**KARIPBEK KUYUKOV**

**the MAIN WEAPON in the COLD WAR WAS the ATOM BUT the ONLY VICTIMS WERE its OWN PEOPLE**

**HUNDREDS of CRIPPLED LIVES**

**THOUSANDS of CHILDREN CONDEMNED to TORMENT**

**► NECESSARY to CREATE NUCLEAR FREE ZONES**

**my MISSION: FIGHT to BECOME the LAST VICTIM in the HISTORY of NUCLEAR TESTING ENSURE NUCLEAR MADNESS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN!**

**SOMETIMES I SAY THAT I CLING to LIFE WITH MY TEETH. THAT'S TRUE**

**GIVE UP the 4<sup>TH</sup> LARGEST NUCLEAR ARSENAL**

**BAN TESTING ALTOGETHER SET an EXAMPLE TO THE WHOLE WORLD**

**the RIGHT DECISION**

## Karipbek Kuyukov

Atom Project, Kazakhstan

In Kazakhstan in Central Asia, the former Soviet Union conducted 456 nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk (Semey) between 1949 and 1989. "Each nuclear explosion means hundreds of crippled lives. Thousands of children who, from birth, were condemned to torment," said Karipbek Kuyukov, who was born without arms in a village near the test site.

Karipbek Kuyukov spoke of local people seeing strange things such as dead chickens and dogs at the time of the nuclear tests, but that no one knew what was going on, or dared to speak out. Based on his own experience, he stated that "radiation caused severe genetic failures. According to scientists, echoes of nuclear explosions will affect more than one generation. Sometimes I say that I cling to life with my teeth."

Mr Kuyukov stated that "I think my mission on earth is to fight to become one of the last victims in the history of nuclear testing." With his paintbrush in his mouth, he continues to depict in his art the people impacted by nuclear testing.

“Each nuclear explosion means hundreds of crippled lives”





## MISA4thePacific

Republic of the Marshall Islands

In the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the central Pacific, 67 US nuclear tests were carried out at Bikini and Enewetak atolls between 1946 and 1958. The residents speak of radiation as 'poison'. A video compiled by MISA4thePacific, an organisation of Marshallese students at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, was presented at the Forum.

As survivor Betty Edmond testified, "We saw our water had turned yellow. We didn't know anything but we drank it anyways. Our food turned yellow. We saw powder substances, but we really didn't know anything because we were young. We didn't know anything about poison."

She went on to say: "throughout my life, I've had thyroid surgeries three times, I've had a stroke. Every day I take nine pills... I believe it's from the poison," showing how residents are still having to live with the consequences of the tests.

After the nuclear tests, the Bikini Atoll was declared "safe" and some of the residents returned to the area, but they were later forced to once again leave, told to do so by the authorities as testified by Alson Kelen: "whoops sorry, it's actually a little bit more radiated than we thought." Survivors also spoke of the loss of land and the drastic changes in their lives.

"The flakes of the fallout did not only fall into our skins, but on to our destiny, but now is the time to voice the voiceless. To wipe the tears shed over the years and to shift the narrative as people of great navigation, who have been forcibly displaced who must continue to look ahead and set sail." With these words, the video introduced the movement of Marshallese youth leaders throughout the world now working to pass on the experience of the nuclear tests and calls for justice.

“We saw our water had turned yellow. We didn't know anything but we drank it anyways”







## Pacific Nuclear Disaster Assistance Centre

Kochi, Japan

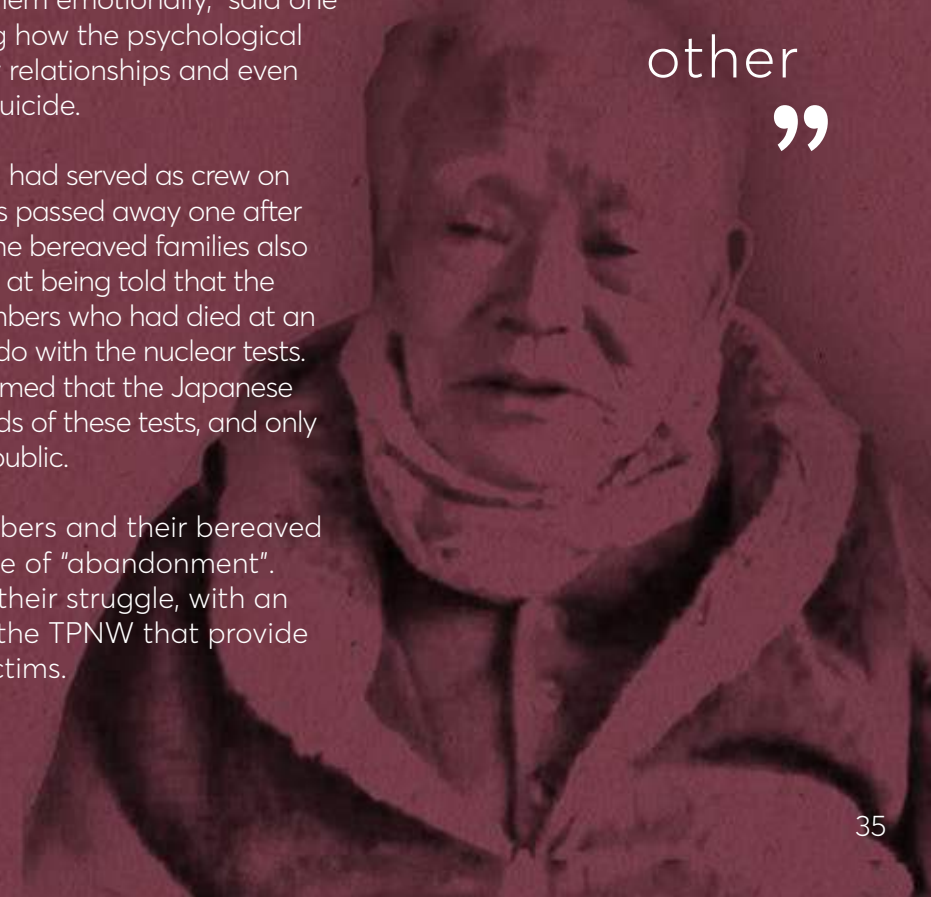
During the US nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands, the crews of fishing boats in the Pacific Ocean were also exposed to radiation. While the Daigo Fukuryu Maru is relatively well known, more than 10,000 other fishermen were also exposed to radiation, but this was politically settled with an ex gratia payment between the US and Japan. A video provided by the Pacific Nuclear Disaster Assistance Centre in Kochi Prefecture in southern Japan shed light on this buried history.

Since the 1980s, local high school students in Kochi Prefecture have been participating in a project to visit the people impacted and uncover the testimonies of the victims and their families. "It was very damaging for them emotionally," said one bereaved relative, sharing how the psychological impacts destroyed family relationships and even drove some survivors to suicide.

Yokemoto Komatsu said "I had served as crew on a ship in Misaki. My friends passed away one after the other from cancer." The bereaved families also expressed their frustration at being told that the deaths of other crew members who had died at an early age had nothing to do with the nuclear tests. For many years it was claimed that the Japanese government had no records of these tests, and only in 2014 did they become public.

The surviving crew members and their bereaved families are still in a state of "abandonment". However, they continue their struggle, with an eye to the provisions of the TPNW that provide assistance to nuclear victims.

“The crew from the ship in Misaki passed away one after the other”







## Association 193

Maohi Nui

In Maohi Nui (Tahiti, French Polynesia) in the southern Pacific Ocean, 193 French nuclear tests were carried out on the atolls of Moruroa and Fangataufa between 1966 and 1996, the equivalent of a detonation every 2 months. Association 193 was established in 2014 as a residents' organisation to campaign for recognition of the nuclear issue and its consequences. The organisation states that "all atolls and islands" in the region have been contaminated.

At the request of the survivors, the Law on the Recognition and Compensation of Victims of French Nuclear Tests (Morin Law) was passed in 2010. Association 193 has also been working to help people to obtain compensation and reparation for the tests in accordance with this law.

"When the tests were carried out, no one told us that there was a danger," said resident Puputauki Jeanne. "When my doctor called to tell me I was suffering from breast cancer, I cried. The Committee on Reparations to Victims of the Nuclear Tests recognized my cancer as a nuclear-induced cancer. Now I'm afraid that this cancer will spread to the rest of my body. I'm afraid for my children and grandchildren as well." Showing the scars from her cancer surgery, survivor Tama Vanida testified that "this cancer is not our fault. We have to stand up and fight, and not be ashamed."

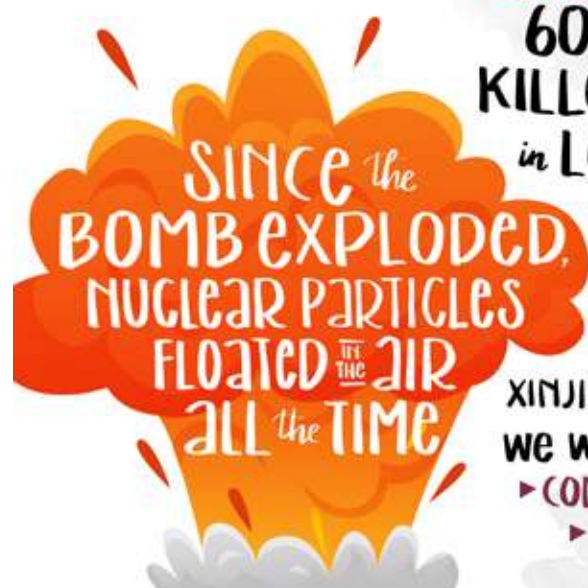
“This cancer is not our fault. We have to stand up and fight, and not be ashamed”







ENVER TOHTI  
BUGHDA



## my FIRST ENCOUNTER with a NUCLEAR BOMB ▶ 1973 FINE DUST FELL from the SKY

**LOPNOR** ~ CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST SITE  
~ VERY CLOSE to WHERE PEOPLE LIVED  
~ the ARMY NEEDED WATER from OUR LAKE

the CHINESE GOVERNMENT was UNDER  
US SANCTIONS for their PARTICIPATION  
in the KOREAN WAR but COULD AFFORD  
to BUILD NUCLEAR BOMBS

THERE WERE 3 years of  
**STARVATION** ~ 1956 to 1968  
60-70 MILLION PEOPLE  
KILLED & STARVED to DEATH

in LOPNOR it HASN'T RAINED  
for MILLIONS of years

▶ ENTER the LUNGS,  
**CANCER**-CAUSING

XINJIANG'S NUMBER of PATIENTS is OUT of CONTROL

WE WANT an INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION

▶ COMPENSATION for the LOCAL PEOPLE

▶ FREE MEDICARE for LOCALS  
WHO HAVE **CANCER**

▶ END to DUMPING of NUCLEAR WASTE

▶ a **CLEAN** HOMELAND to LIVE

## Enver Tohti Bughda

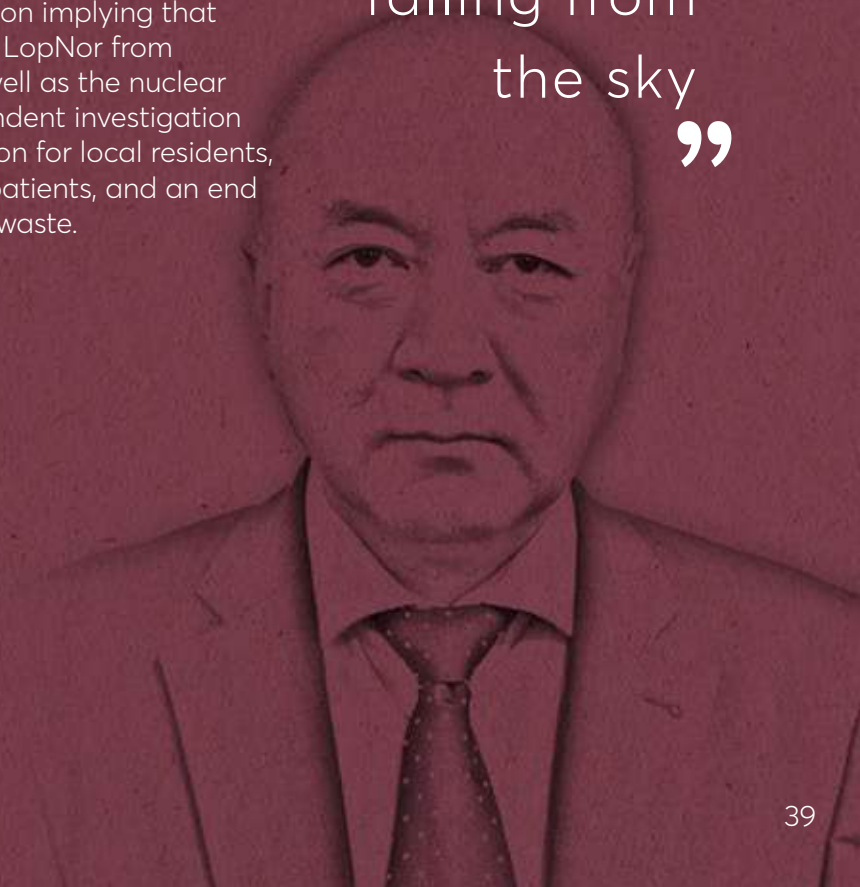
Lop Nor Project

China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region was the site of 45 Chinese nuclear tests between 1964 and 1996. Enver Tohti Bughda, a surgeon who worked at a hospital in the autonomous region, pointed out that the test site was 200 km north of LopNor, very close to where people lived.

Dr Tohti himself testified that "my first encounter with a nuclear bomb was in 1973. That day I was going to school and then very fine dust was falling from the sky. The day was deadly silenced, and we didn't know what was happening." He later learned that this was a nuclear test.

He also spoke of documentation implying that nuclear waste was brought to LopNor from Taiwan and other places, as well as the nuclear tests. He called for an independent investigation to be carried out, compensation for local residents, free medical care for cancer patients, and an end to the acceptance of nuclear waste.

“That day  
I was going  
to school  
and then  
very fine  
dust was  
falling from  
the sky”







GORDON COGGON

WE WERE ONLY 18 or 20  
WHEN the TESTS CAME on  
NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> 1957  
WE WERE SEATED  
NEAR the CAMP with OUR  
BACKS to the EXPLOSION



it WAS GOING  
to BE EXPLODED  
in the ATMOSPHERE



I WAS ABSOLUTELY TERRIFIED  
BECAUSE I COULD SEE **BONES**  
in MY ARMS! WE WERE GOING to be  
BURNT ALIVE ~ HEAT TRAVELING  
THROUGH ME, I LIFTED OUT MY  
GLASSES but I COULDN'T SEE  
NOTHING ~ EVERYTHING WAS WHITE



I WAS BLINDED for 3 WEEKS

I PROBABLY BREATH IN  
**GAMMA RADIATION ISOTOPES**  
WHICH GIVES OFF ALPHA PARTICLES  
▶ LAST 24,000 years THAT'S HALF LIFE  
& CAN'T GET OUT of YOUR BODY  
~ THEY AFFECT your GENES & COULD GIVE YOU  
**CANCER** I HAVE PROSTATE CANCER.  
I AM DAMAGED & SO ARE OUR CHILDREN ~  
THEIR GENES are AFFECTED

I LOST my TEETH NOT LONG AFTER  
I HAD CATARACTS REMOVED,  
I've got TYPE 2 DIABETES,  
LOST my HEARING

in 1957 I WAS in  
CHRISTMAS ISLAND  
(KIRITIMATI) it's NOW  
67 years or MORE SINCE

I WAS at the **H-BOMB**  
**TRAUMA** TESTS

I'M 83 NOW & ONLY a  
FEW of US LEFT

~ MANY VETERAN FRIENDS  
HAVE DIED EARLY or SUFFERING  
FROM an EARLY AGE from  
**RADIATION** CAUSED DISEASES

## Gordon Coggon

LABRATS International, UK

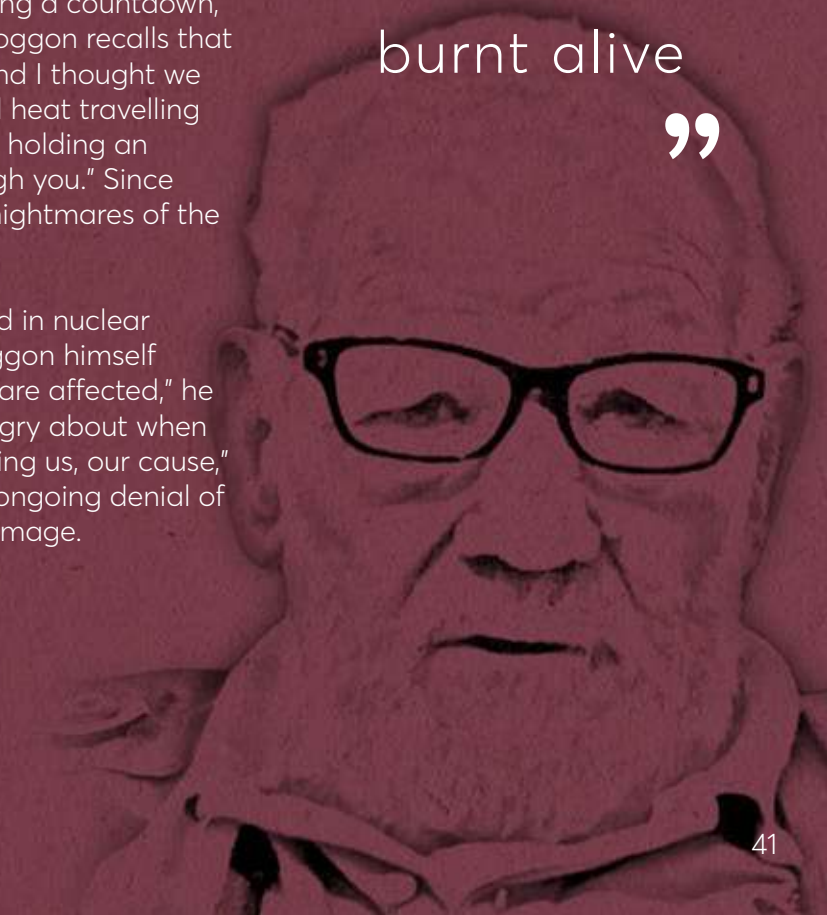
The consequences of nuclear testing were also felt by the soldiers who were involved. Gordon Coggon, a British veteran, was involved in British nuclear testing at Kiritimati or Christmas Island in the central Pacific in 1957-58. He says: "We weren't told when we went to Christmas Island that was what we was going for; everything was secret. You couldn't even write home about it... because of a threat of breaking this Official Secrets Act and going to prison."

He testified that he was sitting on the sand with his back to the bomb, instructed not to move until told to do so, and spoke of hearing a countdown, being "absolutely terrified." Mr Coggon recalls that "I could see bones in my arms, and I thought we had been burnt alive. I could feel heat travelling through me, as if somebody was holding an electric fire and pushing it through you." Since then he is troubled by frequent nightmares of the bomb.

Fellow soldiers who were involved in nuclear testing "died young," and Mr Coggon himself developed cancer. "Our children are affected," he said, and that is why "I am so angry about when our government [is] not recognising us, our cause," expressing his frustration at the ongoing denial of the British government of the damage.

“I could see bones in my arms, and I thought we had been burnt alive”

”





# PANEL II

## Towards the first Meeting of States Parties of the TPNW

Panel II of the World Nuclear Survivors Forum focused on input from survivors' experiences to the first MSP to the TPNW, to take place in 2022.

### Panelists:

**Karipbek KUYUKOV**, Atom Project

**Alan OWEN**, LABRATS International

**KIDO Sueichi**, Nihon Hidankyo

**Karina LESTER**, ICAN Australia

**Desmond NARAIN DOULATRAM**, REACH-MI and the College of the Marshall Islands

**Alicia SANDERS-ZAKRE**, ICAN

**Moderator: Karen HALLOWS**, Peace Boat (replacing Reverend James Bhagwan of the Pacific Conference of Churches, who was not able to join for technical reasons)



Panelists discussed steps towards the first Meeting of States Parties of the TPNW

In these rich presentations, a number of common themes emerged regarding the impacts of nuclear weapons use and testing, steps for governments to take, and the advocacy and awareness raising that is needed, which are all relevant and important for the first MSP to the TPNW to be held in 2022.

### Common themes

Each presenter spoke about the **ongoing and intergenerational humanitarian impacts** of nuclear weapons use and testing. Karina Lester, continuing the work of her late father Yankunytjatjara Elder Yami Lester, who is depicted in a mural in the City of Darebin, Melbourne called it an "ongoing generational struggle." Alan Owen described working with Yael Daneli of the International Center for MultiGenerational Legacies of Trauma on a new study in this regard and described how stillbirths and deformities are still occurring in fourth generation test survivors. Desmond Narain Doulatram said that the ongoing and intergenerational impacts of testing in the Marshall Islands were not recognised. These include secondary illnesses like diabetes, which arise because denied access to their traditional and now contaminated lands, communities in the Marshall Islands are forced to subsist on unhealthy foods like white bread, white flour and white sugar. These lasting intergenerational impacts underscore the need for assistance for survivors today even decades after the last test.





Runit Dome is a repository for atomic waste from US nuclear weapons testing in the Marshall Islands.

Survivors also spoke about the **psychological impacts** of nuclear weapons use and testing. Kido Sueichi described the torment of not being able to help suffering children or parents in the wake of the atomic bombing, to not be able to give the dying the water they needed, and the constant worry throughout survivors' lifetimes, "a ticking time bomb" that a fatal illness may develop.

The **impacts of testing on the environment** were also highlighted by several presenters. Mr Doulatram explained that for indigenous peoples, health and environment are intricately linked; the spiritual connection to the land means separation from it is like cutting off a limb, which Karina Lester seconded. Either the contaminated land is still used for food leading to undocumented health risks as described by Ms Lester, or no access to ancestral lands because of contamination has led to poor diets and poor health as in the Marshall Islands.

Panelists noted that **nuclear colonialism and racial discrimination** were embedded in the histories of nuclear testing. Mr Doulatram spoke of repeated petitions to the UN since the 1950s and the Marshallese people fighting for their voices to be heard in a system that has denied them legal agency to be recognised. Indigenous populations were not consulted, or had land forcibly taken from them with no consideration for local traditions, practice or needs and their



Above and Below: "Study of Response of Human Beings exposed to Significant Beta and Gamma Radiation due to Fall-out from High-Yield Weapons", Project No. 41, Biomedical Studies



voices ignored. In addition to the impacts of nuclear weapons use and testing, Mr Doulatram drew attention to the radiation experiments conducted on local population that were not only inhumane but culturally unacceptable and are too often censored and omitted but must not be forgotten.

### Recommendations for civil society:

Presenters stressed the importance of **education and awareness raising** about the history and legacy of nuclear weapons testing. Ms Lester, who spoke from the region where British nuclear tests were conducted in Australia, stated that she saw it as her role, as a second generation survivor to keep the stories of previous generations alive and she stressed that the tests and their impacts should be in the Australian school curriculum. Mr Owen spoke of LABRATS' work to include British testing in schools in the UK. Mr Doulatram spoke of advocacy

in the Marshall Islands and across the Pacific, in particular by youth to raise awareness of the issue. Mr Kido spoke of delegations of Hibakusha to the United Nations and nuclear weapon states, hoping to save the human race through re-telling their experiences.

Several presenters, including Mr Kuyukov and Ms Lester, spoke of the power of **working in solidarity with other impacted communities** around the world. Mr Kuyukov highlighted the



importance of working together and described the impactful experience of meeting with Setsuko Thurlow, who accepted the Nobel Peace Prize for all nuclear weapons survivors.

## Steps for government bodies and international community:

Presenters called on all governments, particularly those that tested nuclear weapons, **to join the TPNW**. Mr Kido said that he was furious at the Japanese government's refusal to sign and ratify the TPNW. Ms Lester described her advocacy to pressure the Australian government to sign and ratify the TPNW and to provide better support and services for survivors and Mr Owen stated that it was "morally the right thing to do" for the UK to join.

Presenters also called for **recognition and assistance for survivors**. Mr Owen described LABRATS'

'Look Me in the Eye' campaign, in response to the UK government's failure to recognize surviving testing veterans or provide any form of compensation. Existing national assistance programs are not sufficient. Mr Doulatram described how the United States only recognizes the impact of testing and nuclear fallout on a few atolls in the Marshall Islands, discounting the rest. Mr Owen stated that the U.S. Radiation Exposure Compensation Act doesn't include all survivors. Mr Kido reminded us that the movement in Japan did succeed in securing a law to assist Hibakusha, and although it is not sufficient, it could be useful to examine at the first MSP.

Given the history of deceit and cover-up from governments about the impacts of nuclear weapons testing, there is a need for **more research and data** that the international community can help to uncover. Mr Doulatram spoke of 'censorship and silencing' which was a part of nuclear colonialism. Survivors

Karina Lester (bottom right) seated with her mother Waniwa Lester, and brother Leroy Lester (top right), Dave Sweeney and Dimity Hawkins in front of the mural of her late father, Yami Lester.



March 1946, Bikinians relocating to Rongerik Atoll

need more information and data about the impacts of testing on the environment on aboriginal communities' traditional lands where many still hunt and gather, and use for food and shelter, without knowing the full impacts, Ms Lester explained. Government communication was a major issue in Australia, as the patrol officer managing the lands didn't speak local languages and mostly

communicated with non-Aboriginal people. Mr Kido stressed that civil society can pressure governments to disclose facts and the truth about the impacts of testing.

The entire panel provided useful **inputs for the first MSP to the TPNW and the implementation of Articles 6 and 7**.

Introductory remarks from Alicia Sanders-Zakre of ICAN focused on how Articles 6 and 7 could be implemented, with the primary responsibility on implementation resting with affected states, but in a framework of solidarity with all states parties to the TPNW, and even those outside the treaty.

From this panel it is clear that **it will be important for TPNW states parties to include multigenerational impacts of nuclear testing and a broad understanding of nuclear harm, including psychological harm**, in considering the provision of assistance to survivors. The **testimony of survivors at the first meeting itself will be of paramount importance** to underscore what these articles address and to explain the insufficiency of some countries' current legislation to address the needs of survivors.

**Proper communication**, including translation of information into languages spoken by members of impacted communities, as well as awareness raising about assistance will be critical. And finally, the importance of **environmental remediation** in Article 6 cannot be understated. Through the implementation of Articles 6 and 7, states parties can start to conduct needed research on the impacts of nuclear weapons on affected environments and work to address the displacement that has harmed communities impacted by testing around the world.



# CLOSING

The Closing session highlighted key points shared by nuclear survivors throughout the Forum, setting the space and frame for discussion and action continuing into the future.

Facilitated by ICAN's **Alicia Sanders-Zakre**, the closing summarised the powerful testimonies and rich discussions taking place throughout the Forum. Moderators of the Stories recalled the words of the experts with lived experience, highlighting common challenges and needs.

**Dimity Hawkins** underscored the commonalities in survivors' presentations, who shared "stories of harm that stretch beyond lines on a map or false borders and through generations." Compounding these harms are "the silences imposed, the lies told, the limitations of access to information." And yet, importantly, we also "see something brilliant – the determination to continue to take a stand, to speak out, despite threats, deep grief and the almost overwhelming odds. And most incredibly, we see young people, new generations, taking up the stories, pushing back against the silences imposed, reaching out to educate and to learn from the elders."

**Karen Hallows** continued, highlighting that survivors tell stories of suffering of not just individuals, but continued impacts on whole families and communities, due to both the scale and the unique nature of radiation. The struggle of survivors is also one for information, and for what happened to them to be recognised. And once again, she remarked that the determination of survivors to fight for this recognition, to share painful experiences, and to educate their own communities and the wider public also shone through.

Poet **Luisa Tuilau** of Youngsolwara Pacific, based in the Fiji Islands, shared her poem "I walk BRAVO," a moving example of how young people are leading the way in using cultural approaches to raise awareness and express the ongoing nuclear legacy.

The Forum was then closed on behalf of the organisers by ICAN Executive Director **Beatrice Fihn**, including words of appreciation to all nuclear survivors and supporters involved in the Forum and related consultations. Ms Fihn reminded us of how nuclear survivors led the way in the realisation of the TPNW, and how their voices and needs were enshrined in international law. As the first treaty which obliges states to provide support for survivors and remediate environments, it is vital that survivors' voices are the centre of conversations at the upcoming first MSP to the TPNW and beyond.



*Beatrice Fihn closes the Forum*

Ms Fihn concluded: "the harms that nuclear weapons have done are irreversible, and efforts to help survivors and to clean up contaminated environments will require consistent, long-term work. But already this forum is a start to hear from survivors on what states should do. The MSP will be an important step to take forward those recommendations. We as ICAN will do everything we can to ensure that everyone hears about the impact of nuclear weapons, and hears these stories, and understands the expertise that exists around the world on the impact. That governments, humanitarians, civil society organisations, cities, activists and financial institutions all take action based on the kind of knowledge that has been shared here today."

The World Nuclear Survivors Forum reaffirmed the need to continue to meet and learn together, to provide platforms to connect across borders and generations, and to continue to break silences to ensure the needs and dignity of survivors. Let us continue to listen to their voices, and take action together.



## Acknowledgements

The World Nuclear Survivors Forum was organised by Peace Boat, in partnership with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

We would also like to express our appreciation to the following sponsors who made the Forum possible:

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This Summary Document was prepared by Nic Maclellan (journalist and researcher), Elizabeth Minor (Article 36), Alicia Sanders-Zakre (ICAN), Takemine Seiichiro (Meisei University), edited by Karen Hallows (Peace Boat) and coordinated by Meri Joyce (Peace Boat).

Most importantly, the organizers express our deep appreciation to all nuclear survivors who shared their stories at the Forum, and continue to take steps to realise a nuclear free world to ensure that no others suffer as they have.

Graphic recording of survivor testimonies: Chan Wai (INKA)

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