

PAID PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

# An Appeal to Navy Personnel



USS Jackson 2015

## Brothers and Sisters in the Navy: "Refuse to engage in nuclear annihilation!"

Peace activists in the Puget Sound region have worked to stop the threat of nuclear weapons since the 1970s. We have learned that we share a common concern with members of the armed forces—that the use of nuclear weapons would lead to unimaginable destruction to innocent populations and to our planet.

While the danger of nuclear war is as great as ever, little is being done to curb this threat. One person in our country, our President acting as Commander in Chief, may alone order the launch of nuclear weapons. No single person should have the power to end life on the planet.

We, the undersigned, are convinced that nuclear weapons are the greatest evil on Earth. We believe that humankind created these weapons, and that only humankind can prevent their use.

We bring our plea to you, sisters and brothers, in the armed forces:

- ✓ Resist illegal orders.
- ✓ Refuse to kill innocent civilians.
- ✓ Refuse the order to use nuclear weapons.

We know your resistance will be difficult and require great courage. But please reflect on what it means to violate your conscience and to destroy all hope for future generations.

International decisions have ruled that the use of nuclear weapons is illegal, including decisions at the International Court of Justice in 1996; the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the 1949 Geneva Convention; and the 1977 Geneva Convention protocol. The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into legal force on January 22, 2021.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) makes it clear that military personnel have an obligation and a duty to only obey lawful orders and indeed have an obligation to disobey unlawful orders, including orders by the president that do not comply with the UCMJ. The moral and legal obligation is to the U.S. Constitution and not to those who might issue unlawful orders, especially if those orders are in direct violation of the Constitution and the UCMJ.

Knowing that submarines from Bangor are ready to immediately launch as many as 270 nuclear warheads, an order to launch nuclear weapons would signify the final failure of nuclear deterrence and bring about unprecedented destruction. Do not obey an illegal order. Instead, choose to protect all of creation.

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If you choose to oppose nuclear war please know that our hearts and homes are open to you. We will do what we can to support your decision.

PLEASE CONTACT  
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