



PASI NEWS

Newsletter of Peace Action of Staten Island, www.peacesi.org 718-989-2881

Calendar:

- THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 6:30-9 PM, Peace & Planet Mobilization Meeting. Guest Speaker: Kevin Martin, National Peace Action Exec. Dir. Unitarian Parish Hall, 312 Fillmore St. (at Clinton Ave.)
- THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 5-8 PM. Parent Teacher Night Leafleting. Email pasi.contact@gmail.com to volunteer.
- FRIDAY – SUNDAY, April 24-26. Peace and the Planet Actions (www.peaceandplanet.org)
- SATURDAY, MAY 9, 5:45 - 8 PM, Peace Action Meeting.
- SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 5:45 - 8 PM, Peace Action Meeting.

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Peace and Planet Mobilization Meeting

Guest Speaker:

Kevin Martin, Executive Director

National Peace Action

Slide Presentation by Sally Jones

Thursday, March 19, 2015, 6:30 pm - 9 pm

Unitarian Parish Hall, 312 Fillmore St.

Peace Action of Staten Island is just one of many groups around the globe preparing for the **Peace and Planet mobilization taking place right here in NYC from Friday, April 24th to Sunday, April 26th**. On that weekend, NYC will be host to international activists and survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki calling on the world powers to take serious steps towards freeing the world of the dangers of nuclear weapons. These world powers will be meeting at the United Nations to review the 45-year old Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty starting on Monday, April 27th. Forty-five years ago this treaty went into effect and requires the nuclear weapons states to eliminate their nuclear weapons arsenals. With 16,500 nuclear weapons left worldwide, over 90% of them in the U.S. and Russia, they have a long way to go to meet their treaty obligations. They need a big push by civil society. (That's us!)

PASI invites all of its friends and allies to join us to learn more about the importance of stepping up now to make our voices heard. Our guest speaker is **Kevin Martin, Executive Director of national Peace Action**, based in Washington, DC. Peace Action has been working to ban the bomb since it began 58 years ago, as the Committee for a SANE Nuclear Policy. Kevin has been ED of Peace Action since 2001. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, and many other major publications. He has appeared on CNN, National Public Radio, Fox News, MSNBC, BBC-TV and radio, and many other local, national and international radio and television outlets. Kevin has traveled abroad representing Peace Action and the U.S. peace movement on delegations and at conferences in Russia, Japan, China, Mexico and Britain. He is married, with two children, and lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

We will also see a slide presentation by **Sally Jones, who is on the PASI board and the chair of the Peace Action Fund of New York State**. She was invited to Japan to represent Peace Action at the Conferences Against the A and H Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 2014.

The Peace and Planet mobilization is all about connecting the movements that are working for a nuclear-free, peaceful, just and sustainable world. This includes the movement for climate justice, moving the money from the Pentagon to fund human needs, and economic and racial justice.

Information about the Peace and Planet mobilization is online at www.peaceandplanet.org. An international conference will take place at Cooper Union April 24-25. On Sunday, a rally begins at 1 pm in Union Square which kicks off a march to the United Nations and a festival in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza on E. 47 St. between 1 Ave. and 2 Ave. **Volunteers are needed to help in all aspects of the mobilizations. Sign up at www.peaceandplanet.org or email pasi.contact@gmail.com to get involved.**



Don't Feed Student Data into the War Machine

The military merges the directory information it collects on American children in the schools with a myriad of websites, survey responses, college directories, retail sites, merchandise sites, and popular gaming sites. The military also collects information that individuals voluntarily contribute on brochures or questionnaires and buys information from the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Selective Service System, and the College Board, among other places.

To sign a White House petition calling on the Pentagon to be more transparent in the way it collects student information from American schools, go to:

<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/call-department-defense-sign-student-privacy-pledge/>

This petition calls on the Department of Defense to sign the Student Privacy Pledge. In January 2015, President Obama endorsed the Student Privacy Pledge, calling on companies to make a firm commitment to using student data only for educational purposes. Signers of the Student Privacy Pledge have committed to:

- ✓ *Not sell student information* ✓ *Not behaviorally target advertising to students*
- ✓ *Use data only for authorized education purposes* ✓ *Not change privacy policies without notice and choice*
- ✓ *Enforce strict limits on data retention* ✓ *Provide comprehensive security standards*
- ✓ *Support parental access to, and correction of errors in, their children's information*



What We Are Up Against

At the February 11, 2015 Peace & Planet mobilization meeting at All Souls Church in Manhattan, **Professor Zia Mian** of the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton University (in photo at left) briefed a group of activists on what those who seek a nuclear-free world are up against in this present, fraught moment.

Only 25% of Americans see nuclear weapons as one of the top 5 dangerous threats in the world. When asked, Americans respond that their country has about 400 weapons and probably only needs around 100. The fact is that the world still has 16,500 of these weapons, 90% of them owned by the U.S. and Russia with 1800 of them ready to launch in 15 minutes. Meanwhile, the crisis in Ukraine is bringing back the Cold War language of the past. Last August, President Vladimir Putin signaled to the U.S. that, given its nuclear arsenal, his country was prepared for aggression, and that "It's best not to mess with us." Although not often discussed, the U.S. is the *only* nuclear weapons state that keeps part of its arsenal in other countries, and, now, there is talk of moving more of them to places like Poland.

With the election of President Barack Obama in 2009 and his speech endorsing nuclear abolition in Prague in 2009, there was hope in the air. But the past 6 years has seen little progress. In the works now is a \$350 billion 10-year plan to build new missiles, new bombers, and new warheads. Over the next 30 years, \$1 trillion dollars is slated to modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal. If the average bomb has a shelf life of 40 to 50 years, this means that the U.S. policy is to continue down the nuclear path for the NEXT 100 YEARS. And Hillary Clinton's election does not shift course. In a speech to the State Department, Secretary Clinton referred to the possibility of abolition happening, maybe, in some future century!

In UN conferences in Norway, Mexico and Austria over the last two years, a new generation of diplomats have been presented with new, robust research on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. A small exchange of nuclear weapons (e.g., between Pakistan and India) would result in nuclear winter and famine. A 7 degree drop in the earth's temperature means the collapse of the world's food supply.

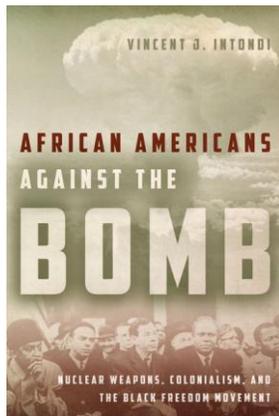
The Non-Proliferation Treaty has a "sordid" history according to Professor Mian. When the treaty was drafted in 1968 it was meant to preserve the balance of power. Nothing more. Article 6, the promise to negotiate in good faith for complete disarmament, was the "sweetener" to civil society hoping for abolition. It is with that small "sweetener" that we must dissolve the nuclear states' intransigence. (Notes: PASI News)

RECOMMENDED READING

African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement

Author: Vincent J. Intondi,

Associate Professor of African American History at Montgomery College and Director of Research at the Nuclear Studies Institute of the American University in Washington D.C.



When you go to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, you will hear Japanese anti-nuclear activists singing “We Shall Overcome,” with the same fervor as if you found yourself in the middle of the American civil rights movement of the 1960’s. They have made the connection between the black freedom movement and the civil right to live in a nuclear-free world.

Author Vincent Intondi explores the connection between the black freedom struggle and the need for nuclear disarmament. In the introduction, he quotes Martin Luther King, Jr.:

“These two issues are tied together in many, many ways. It is a wonderful thing to work to integrate lunch counters, public accommodations, and schools. But it would be rather absurd to work to get schools and lunch counters integrated and not be concerned with the survival of a world in which to integrate. And I am convinced that these two issues are tied inextricably together and I feel that the people who are working for civil rights are working for peace; I feel that the people working for peace are working for civil rights and justice.” (Martin Luther King, February 6, 1968)

The Nuclear Nine

They are The Nuclear Nine--the ones with the Bomb.

They can trigger The End
at any time.

A mad leader, a mistake, miscalculation
buttons are pushed, and well,
there it isn't. Gone.

Fast death for some,
slow for others.

Those with money might go underground
or maybe New Zealand if the wind
hasn't shifted. Hoping against hope.

Those in the cities have a few minutes to panic
and melt.

In the hinterlands long struggles
with a slower demise.

Poisoned milk, crops that glow
Oh what a deed these mushrooms will do.

Kids under desks won't be saved
in their schools,
nor will they be saved by
fast running moms.

The Nuclear Nine find comfort from silos
loaded with missiles, not maize.
Great security for them
until, of course, the missiles strike them too.

Our species is headed there,
fools and madmen we are.
As the Nuclear Nine cling to their bombs
the spark to ignite them will come,
sooner or later- unless we wiseup, riseup
And save ourselves.

Richard Greve (c) February, 2015

The Nine Nations with Nuclear Bombs, in alphabetical order are: Britain, China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, United States.

Peace Action of Staten Island

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Peace & Planet Mobilization

Speaker:

Kevin Martin,
National Peace Action
ED

Thursday

Mar. 19, 2015 6:30-9 PM

PASI Meeting
Unitarian Parish Hall
312 Fillmore St. (at
Clinton Ave.)
Staten Island, NY



PEACE & PLANET

Peace & Planet

To Mobilize for a Nuclear-Free, Just and Sustainable World

www.peaceandplanet.org

Friday, April 24 – Saturday, April 25
International Disarmament, Peace, Justice and
Environmental Conference

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015, 1 pm
Rally @ Union Square at 1 pm
March to the UN & Join the Festival