

Media Advisory; For Immediate Release: August 3, 2021

Hybrid Live/Virtual Hiroshima-Nagasaki Rally and March at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab

Fri., Aug. 6, 9:00 am PDT (live/pre-recorded); Mon., Aug. 9, 9:00 am PDT (rebroadcast)



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WHAT: “Nuclear Weapons & Climate Change: Shine a Light, Stop the Hate, Lower the Heat,” annual rally and protest at the gates of Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory. This year, the first portion of the rally will be held in person and live-streamed. The remainder of the program will be pre-recorded and broadcast online. Program highlights include up-to-the-minute reports at the gates of the Lab, music, a virtual march, and more!

WHEN: **Hiroshima Day**, Friday August 6, the live portion of the program, which will be live-streamed, will start at 9:00 am and conclude with a symbolic “Peace Wave” at approximately 9:35 am. The pre-recorded portion of the program, including footage of the 2019 march to the gates of the Lab and die-in, will immediately follow, ending at 10:45 am. **Nagasaki Day**, Monday August 9, the entire program will be rebroadcast online, from 9:00 am – 10:45 am.

WHERE: The live, in person portion of the August 6 rally will take place at the West Gate of the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory on South Vasco Road and Westgate Avenue in Livermore. The **August 6** program will be broadcast at https://youtu.be/w254eN845_s
The entire program will be rebroadcast on **August 9** at <https://youtu.be/OB57nQAcSWQ>

WHO: Our live, in person Livermore rally speakers include **Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka**, a Nagasaki A-bomb survivor, **Marylia Kelley**, with Tri-Valley CAREs, and international law expert **John Burroughs**. Our pre-recorded keynote speaker is famed Pentagon planner and whistleblower **Daniel Ellsberg**. Other speakers are **Tsukuru Fors**, **Marcina Langrine** and **Benetick Kabua Maddison**, young Marshallese activists, **Nell Myhand**, with the California Poor People’s Campaign, and **Jackie Cabasso**, with Western States Legal Foundation. *(Photos and short bios for all speakers and musicians follow the text of this release.)*

WHY: Nuclear weapons were worse than worthless in preventing and containing the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, according to a report by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, in 2020, the nine nuclear-armed states spent \$72.6 billion on nuclear weapons, with the U.S. leading the pack at \$37.4 billion, or \$70,881 per minute!

We celebrated entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on January 22, 2021. The TPNW prohibits the possession, development, testing, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons for those countries that have signed and ratified it, but the nuclear-armed states boycotted the negotiations and continue to reject the new treaty.

Just six days later, The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists announced it is keeping the hands of its Doomsday Clock at 100 seconds to midnight, the closest we've ever been to global annihilation, stating: "By our estimation, the potential for the world to stumble into nuclear war—an ever-present danger over the last 75 years—*increased* in 2020."

The Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab is central to the escalating the nuclear dangers we face. The Livermore Lab is one of two labs that has designed and continues to design and develop all U.S. nuclear warheads. More than eighty-five percent of the Lab's funding from the Dept. of Energy in the coming year is slated for nuclear weapons activities.

What we need instead is unprecedented worldwide cooperation to eradicate the Coronavirus and prepare for future pandemics, and to address a cascade of converging crises including climate change, poverty, racism, and rising authoritarian nationalisms.

Rally speakers will illuminate these connections to help the public understand why action is needed now to change the course of national policy – and history, and to demand anew the global abolition of nuclear weapons and the redirection of resources to meet human needs and protect the environment.

MORE: On July 27, 2021, the **Berkeley City Council** unanimously adopted a resolution **Calling on the U.S. to Negotiate the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**. In the resolution, "[T]he City of Berkeley calls on the President and Congress to redirect funds currently allocated to nuclear weapons and unwarranted military spending to address decades of inaction on infrastructure, poverty, the growing climate crisis, and rising inequality." The City of Berkeley also "calls on the United States government to reverse its opposition to the 2021 TPNW and to welcome the Treaty as a positive step towards negotiation of a comprehensive agreement on the achievement and permanent maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons, in conformity with requirements of international law preceding the TPNW by decades." ([City Council: 07-27-2021 - Regular Meeting Agenda - City of Berkeley, CA](#), consent calendar, item 26.)

Bios and Photos for Livermore Rally speakers and musicians



Daniel Ellsberg speaks on U.S. nuclear policy and war planning. He is perhaps best known as the whistleblower who released “The Pentagon Papers” to hasten an end to the war in Vietnam. Ellsberg was an analyst at RAND Corp. and a consultant to the Defense Dept. Ellsberg recently released papers detailing the 1958 risk of nuclear war over Taiwan.



Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka

Nobuaki Hanaoka is a Hibakusha and the rally’s special guest speaker. Hanaoka was an infant when the bomb fell on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. His mother and sister died from illnesses linked to radiation poisoning and his brother died at age 39 from premature aging associated with fallout from the bomb. Rev. Hanaoka is a retired minister in the United Methodist Church who came to the U.S. following seminary training in Japan.



Marylia Kelley addresses Livermore Lab’s role in promoting a new nuclear arms race. She is Executive Director at the Livermore-based Tri-Valley CAREs and brings 38 years of research, writing and facilitating public participation in nuclear policy decisions. Kelley has testified before the U.S. Congress, the California Legislature and the National Academy of Sciences.



Dr. John Burroughs addresses the illegality of nuclear weapons under international law. Burroughs is with the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, and has represented them in Non-Proliferation Treaty review proceedings and in negotiations on the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. He was a member of the legal team for the Marshall Islands in its nuclear disarmament cases in the International Court of Justice.



Benetick Kabua Maddison is the Project Specialist for Youth, Climate, and Nuclear Issues at Marshallese Educational Initiative (MEI), a nonprofit in Arkansas, where the highest concentration of Marshallese reside. Born in Majuro Atoll, Maddison moved to AR at the age of six. Maddison has spoken at numerous conferences and webinars on the ongoing consequences of the nuclear legacy and climate change.

Marcina Langrine is a Program Coordinator at MEI and oversees its Homelessness Prevention Program. She also has developed trainings and workshops to raise awareness of violence against women. Langrine was born in Honolulu, HI. Her family is from Likiep & Maloelap atolls.



Tsukuru Fors is a founding member of Pacific Asian Nuclear-Free Peace Alliance and a trans peace/anti-nuclear/human rights activist in Los Angeles, Calif. As a graduate of a high school in Hiroshima where 350 young lives were brutally taken on August 6, 1945, Fors (he/them) pursues a life mission to move the world closer to a nuclear-free future.



Nell Myhand is an organizer and member of the Bay Area Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival Steering Committee and serves as a Quad Chair of the California PPC working locally and nationally to amplify the voices of low/no wealth people and the demands for resources to meet basic needs for housing, education, healthcare, and a livable climate.



Jacqueline Cabasso delivers the “Call to Action,” kicking off the (now virtual) risk arrest the gates of the Livermore Lab. Cabasso is Executive Director of the Western States Legal Foundation since 1984. Cabasso serves as the North American coordinator of Mayor for Peace and plays key roles in United for Peace and Justice and Abolition 2000. She speaks regularly at conferences in the Americas, Europe, and Asia.



Benjamin Mertz is a composer, performer, and song leader who specializes in music of the Black Spiritual tradition. He leads music at benefit concerts, vigils, protests, sacred services, and workshops. When not performing, he writes and speaks on issues of racial and economic justice and Black History. Mertz’s most recent album of Black Spiritual music is called "Climbing Up the Mountain."



Betsy Rose is a singer, songwriter and community song leader and activist, active in women’s and social change movements for more than four decades. She helped organize and lead **Choral Majority**, a 400 strong pop-up community chorus. She has sung at vigils outside Livermore Lab for many years, and brings a musical blend of spiritual grounding and justice-making inspiration.



Patricia St. Onge, a Six Nations/Haudenosaune and Quebecois, offers the opening blessing and serves as the rally co-emcee. She is a Partner in Seven Generations Consulting, specializing in all aspects of community organizing for social change.

Wilson Riles, Jr. is the co-emcee. Riles is a politician and community activist who served as a member on the Oakland City Council from 1979 to 1992. He was a leader in the Oakland anti-apartheid movement as well as in the Oakland nuclear free zone ordinance.



Chizu Hamada explains the meaning of the Japanese Bon Dance and its role in our commemoration. Hamada is a retired business owner and serves as a spokesperson for the No Nukes Action Committee, a group of Japanese citizens, Japanese-Americans and others who came together after the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and meltdowns at Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

-- Interviews can be arranged via the contacts at the top of this media advisory --