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OPEN LETTER to the President of the French Republic

- Homepage - Correspondance - French Presidency -

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One may find below:

► **THE TEXT OF THE LETTER TO BE SIGNED**

► **AN INTERNATIONAL APPEAL by**

- **Colin ARCHER, General Secretary of the International Peace Bureau (Nobel Peace Prize)**
- **Jean-Marie MATAGNE, Ph.D, President of ACDN (*Action des Citoyens pour le Désarmement Nucléaire*), Member of the Abolition 2000 Global Council**
- **Philippe MEIRIEU, Professor at the Université de Lyon II, Vice-president of the Région Rhône-Alpes, President of the Federal Council of the EELV party (Europe Ecologie-Les Verts)**
- **Patrick MOQUAY, Mayor of Saint-Pierre d'Oléron (a town belonging to "Mayors for Peace" and to the "Abolition 2000" network), President of the Community of Communes of Oléron, Doctorate in Political Science**

► **THE LIST OF SIGNATORIES YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN.**

From the undersigned to

- **François Hollande**
- **President of the French Republic,**
- **Palais de l'Elysée**
- **75008 Paris**
- **FRANCE**

Monsieur le Président,

You have been elected as head of the French Republic to carry out, with your government, changes in the direction of liberty, equality and fraternity. Allow us therefore to draw your attention to one change which is sorely needed - one which was not debated during the presidential election campaign, but on which the opinion of all French people needs to be sought, in our view.

For over fifty years France has possessed nuclear weapons. Today there are 300 bombs, each of which is 7 to 22 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb, which caused over 200 000 deaths. This destructive power, of itself and on the decision of one person, could annihilate millions of human beings. And a nuclear war could make the Earth uninhabitable.

This situation seems to us intolerable inasmuch as it flouts human life and Human Rights, International Law, the French Constitution, good sense, and democracy.

It flouts human life and Human Rights, because a single atomic bomb would cause "hundreds of thousands of deaths, women, children, old people burned up in a split second, hundreds of thousands more dying in the following years after atrocious suffering. Isn't that what is called a crime against humanity?" (as Alain Peyrefitte said to

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President de Gaulle on 4 May 1962).

It flouts International Law, which obliges those nuclear-armed states that have signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, including France, to "pursue in good faith and the bring to conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects, under strict and effective international control," as the International Court of Justice at the Hague confirmed in its Advisory Opinion of 8 July 1996.

It flouts the French Constitution, which gives top priority to Human Rights and imposes a duty of respecting them, and also respecting treaties.

It defies good sense, because it is illogical to defend the values of the French Republic (including fraternity) while threatening to commit crimes against humanity; it is illogical to link France's "vital interests" with the use of fatally suicidal weapons against any country that also possesses them; it is illogical to claim to guarantee any nation's security with these weapons while forbidding others to obtain them; it is illogical thus to encourage proliferation while claiming to be combatting it; and it is illogical to want to save money while wasting billions on unusable instruments of death.

It is undemocratic, because the French people have never been consulted about the creation, maintenance and permanent modernisation of this strike force, which has already cost 300 billion euros. And yet we know now from convergent opinion-polls that at least 80% of French citizens favour the abolition of nuclear weapons, including those of France.

For the above reasons we politely request you to consult the French people without delay, by means of a referendum that would put the following question, the one required by the international agenda of 2012 and 2013: "Do you want France to participate with the other states concerned in the total elimination of nuclear weapons, under strict, effective, mutual and international control?"

Please, Monsieur le Président, offer to France and thereby to all other peoples and states the historic opportunity to abolish nuclear weapons. When we do, we will all emerge greater, in a world that is more free, more just, more fraternal, more peaceful and more secure - a livable world.

Respectfully yours.

- ▶ First name and SURNAME:
- ▶ Profession and/or position:
- ▶ NGO (eventually):
- ▶ Email address:
- ▶ Postal address:
- ▶ Code, City, Country:
- ▶ Phone:

Signature:

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-

INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

This Open Letter is addressed to the President of the French Republic. Unfortunately, François Hollande holds the opinion that his predecessors held, that the nuclear strike force is "the Nation's life-insurance". He has affirmed several times (notably on 4 July 2012 on board the nuclear-strike submarine Le Terrible) that he intends to retain this strike force in its totality and to continue to "modernize" it.

However, even though it has been traditional since de Gaulle's time for defense policy, and nuclear policy in particular, to lie within the President's "private domain", there remains some hope of changing nuclear policy without waiting five years and the next presidential election: that is if the French people, the "sovereign people" is consulted by referendum and approves France's participation in the abolition of nuclear weapons. Actually, according to several surveys (Global Zero/WorldPublicOpinion 2008; Mouvement de la Paix/Ifop 2012), more than 80% of French people are in favour or strongly in favour of eliminating all nuclear weapons, including those of France.

The President and the new majority would still have to agree to hold a referendum on the subject. One of the majority parties, EELV (Europe Ecologie - Les Verts), has already taken a position on this question: on 24 June 2012 its Federal Council resolved nearly unanimously (with just one abstention) to ask "all its representatives in parliament and government to do all they can within a short time to instigate a governmental bill or a parliamentary bill that would initiate a wide debate and a referendum on the following question: *Do you agree that France should participate with the other states concerned in the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, under mutual and international control that is strict and effective?*"

But only a strong mobilization of French opinion can ensure that such a referendum takes place. This requires that the press and other media should begin to mention it. We will therefore make approaches to the main French dailies to get at least one of them to publish the letter above to the President of the Republic.

This request will have a much better chance of succeeding if it is supported by a considerable number of known personalities, elected representatives, and leading figures in NGOs, in religion, or in politics - not only within France but also abroad, because although the referendum we want firstly concerns the French, the abolition of nuclear weapons is a matter that concerns the whole world. For the same reason, we wish this letter to have an international impact, and we invite non-French signatories, if they can, to disseminate it in their networks and to send it to the media in their countries, in order to increase the number of signatories.

In conclusion, we invite you to sign the letter immediately, either as yourself or if possible in the name of the organisation you represent, and return it by email, preferably with your scanned signature to contact@acdn.net, or else by post to the address given.

We hope you will be kind enough to reply positively to this request, and we thank you in advance for doing it rapidly.

With cordial greetings,

Colin Archer, Jean-Marie Matagne, Philippe Meirieu, Patrick Moquay

SIGNATORIES

(2013.03.10)

INTERNATIONAL

Personalities / Personnalit?s

Premiers signataires / First signatories

Personnalit?s / Personalities, France & International

Mairead MAGUIRE, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Noam CHOMSKY, Institute Professor (retired), MIT, USA

St?phane HESSEL, Ambassadeur de France

Dominique VOYNET, Ancienne ministre, Maire de Montreuil

Yves COCHET, Ancien ministre, D?put? europ?en

Daniel MOURANCHE, Contr?leur g?n?ral des Arm?es (2e Section)

Patrick VIVERET, Philosophe

Marco MARTINEZ, Professor, University of Mexico

Sally LIGHT, Classical singer, USA

Vladimir TCHERTKOFF, R?alisateur de t?l?vision (Suisse)

Rob GREEN, Commander, UK Royal Navy (retired) (New Zealand)

Philippe MEIRIEU, Professeur ? l?Universit? Lyon2, Vice-pr?sident de la R?gion Rh?ne-Alpes, Pr?sident du Conseil f?d?ral EELV

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Gerson T. LESSER, M.D. and Prof., NYU School of Medicine

Monique SEN?, Pr?sidente du Groupement des Scientifiques pour l?Information sur l??nergie Nucl?aire (GSIEN), membre du HCTISN, COR de l?IRSN

Nan AUROUSSEAU, Ecrivain

Claude PRIMAULT, dit BINUCHE, Chanteur et musicien

Alain LIPIETZ, Economiste, Ancien d?put? au Parlement Europ?en

Denys PININGRE, Cin?aste documentariste

Jean-Louis GONFALONE, Metteur en sc?ne

Susan GEORGE, Ecrivain

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Steve LEEPER, Chairperson, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation (Japan)
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Luis GUTIERREZ-ESPARZA, President, Latin American Circle of International Studies (LACIS), Mexico
Jacqueline CABASSO, Executive Director of the Western States Legal Foundation (USA), Recipient of the 2008 Sean MacBride Peace Prize, Member of the Abolition 2000 Global Council
Agneta NORBERG, Vice-Chair, Swedish Peace Council (Sweden)
John HALLAM, People for Nuclear Disarmament, Human Survival Project, Sydney, (Australia)
Tony ROBINSON, International Spokesperson, World Without Wars or Violence
Bruce KENT, Vice President of CND UK, of Pax Christi UK, of the Movement for the Abolition of War UK and Past President of the International Peace Bureau
Natalia MIRONOVA, Ph.D., President of the Movement for Nuclear Safety (Russia)
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Steven STARR, Senior Scientist, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Clinical Laboratory Science Program Director, University of Missouri (USA)
Dave WEBB, Chair, UK Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Aaron TOVISH, International Director 2020 Vision Campaign, Mayors for Peace, Vienna, (Austria)
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Alfred L. MARDER, President, International Association of Peace Messenger Cities
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Wayne HALL, Translator, Enouranois network, Greece
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Michael CHRIST, Executive Director, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), 1985 Nobel Peace Prize
Peter LOW, Ph.D., Quaker Peace & Service, New Zealand

FRANCE

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Catherine QUERE, D?put?e de la Charente Maritime, Vice-pr?sidente de la commission du d?veloppement durable et de l'am?nagement du territoire
Philippe PLISSON, D?put? de la Gironde, Membre de la commission du d?veloppement durable et de l'am?nagement du territoire
Marie-Line REYNAUD, D?put?e de la Charente, Membre de la commission du d?veloppement durable et de l'am?nagement du territoire

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Dominique CLUZEAU, Administrateur, Trésorier, Ligue de l'Enseignement 17
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André BOUNY, Président, Comité International de Soutien aux Victimes Vietnamiennes de l'Agent Orange
Dadou KEHL, Secrétaire régionale Poitou-Charentes, Ligue de l'Enseignement
Yves LENOIR, Président des Enfants de Tchernobyl Belarus
Thomas PLOQUIN, Président, Amis de la Terre Poitou

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Jean-François HEROUARD, Maire adjoint de COGNAC (16)
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Jean-Michel DUCLOS, Élu municipal, CLERMONT-FERRAND (63)

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Albina MOREIRA, Elue municipale, FOUGERES (35)

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Premiers signataires par ordre alphab?tique / First signatories in alphabetical order

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? Yves COCHET (Ancien ministre, d?put? europ?en),
? Didier COUPEAU (Secr?ttaire r?gional EELV Poitou-Charentes),
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? Susan GEORGE (Ecrivain),
? Jean-Louis GONFALONE (Metteur en sc?ne),
? Rob GREEN (Commander, UK Royal Navy ; retired New Zealand),
? Jean-louis GUEYDON DE DIVES, Pr?sident de la Fondation pour une Terre Humaine,
? Luis GUTIERREZ-ESPARZA (President, Latin American Circle of International Studies (LACIS), Mexico),
? Wayne HALL (Translator, Enouranois Network, Greece),
? John HALLAM (People for Nuclear Disarmament, Human Survival Project, Sydney, Australia),
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? Bernard LAPONCHE (Docteur ?s sciences, polytechnicien, expert en politiques de l??nergie),
? Steve LEEPER (Chairperson, Hiroshima Pace Culture Foundation (Japan)),
? Yves LENOIR (Pr?sident des Enfants de Tchernobyl Belarus),
? T. LESSER (M.d. and Prof., NYU School of Medicine),
? Sally LIGHT (Classical singer, USA), Gerson
? Robert LION (Conseiller r?gional Ile-de-France),
? Alain LIPIETZ (Economiste, Ancien d?put? au Parlement europ?en),
? Henri LOURDOU (Conseiller municipal, Tarbes (65)),
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- ? Jean-Luc MANCEAU (Co-secr?taire d?partemental EELV des Yvelines),
- ? David MARAIS (Responsable Commission Handicap, ?cologie et citoyennet? EELV)
- ? Alfred L. MARDER (President, International Association of Peace Messenger Cities),
- ? Marco MARTINEZ (Professor, University of Mexico),
- ? V?ronique MASSONNEAU (D?put?e de la Vienne, membre de la Commission des affaires sociales),
- ? Jean-Marie MATAGNE (Pr?sident de l?Action des Citoyens pour le D?arrangement Nucl?aire, membre du Conseil mondial d?Abolition 2000, Docteur en Philosophie),
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- ? Greg MELLO (Executive director, Los Alamos Study Group, USA),
- ? Natalia MIRONOVA (Ph.d., President of the Movement for Nuclear Safety, Russia),
- ? Brigitte MONNET (Conseill?re r?gionale de Franche-Comt?, maire de Vincelles (39)),
- ? Michel MONOD (Pasteur, Le Lignon, Suisse),
- ? Patrick MOQUAY (Pr?sident de la communaut? de communes d?Ol?ron, maire de Saint-Pierre d?Ol?ron (17)),
- ? Albina MOREIRA (Elue municipale, Fougeres (35)),
- ? Sophie MOREL, administratrice du r?seau ? Sortir du nucl?aire ?
- ? Claude MOSKALENKO (Conseill?re municipale, Pantin (93)),
- ? Daniel MOURANCHE (Contr?leur g?n?ral des Arm?es (2e section)),
- ? Jacques MULLER (Ancien s?nateur du Haut-Rhin, maire de Wattwiller (68)),
- ? Agneta NORBERG (Vice-chair, Swedish Peace Council),
- ? Genevi?ve PAILLAUD (Conseill?re r?gionale Poitou-Charentes),
- ? H?l?ne PELLETIER (Conseill?re f?d?rale EELV),
- ? Denys PININGRE (Cin?aste documentariste),
- ? Philippe PLISSON (D?put? de la Gironde, membre de la Commission du d?veloppement durable et de l?am?nagement du territoire),
- ? Thomas PLOQUIN (Pr?sident, Amis de la Terre Poitou),
- ? Philippe PONGE (Responsable local EELV, Montrouge (92)),
- ? Claude PRIMAULT, dit BINUCHE (Chanteur et musicien),
- ? Catherine QUERE (D?put?e de la Charente Maritime, vice-pr?sidente de la Commission du d?veloppement durable et de l?am?nagement du territoire),
- ? Marie-Line REYNAUD (D?put?e de la Charente, membre de la Commission du d?veloppement durable et de l?am?nagement du territoire),
- ? Tony ROBINSON (International spokesperson, World Without Wars or Violence),
- ? Cl?ment ROSSIGNOL (Vice-pr?sident de la Communaut? urbaine de Bordeaux, Conseiller municipal de B?gles, Charg? de recherche CNRS, Physicien),
- ? Laetitia SANCHEZ (Secr?taire r?gionale EELV de Haute-Normandie),
- ? Wolfgang SCHLUUPP-HAUCK (Presseh?tte Mutlangen Friedens- und Begegnungsst?tte, Germany),
- ? Monique SEN? (Pr?sidente du Groupement des Scientifiques pour l?Information sur l?nergie Nucl?aire (GSIEN), membre du HCTISN, cor. de l?IRSN),
- ? H?l?ne SHEMWELL (Conseill?re r?gionale Poitou-Charentes),
- ? Djamila SONZOGNI (Conseill?re r?gionale Alsace),
- ? Gideon SPIRO (Israeli Committee for a Middle East Free of NBC Weapons, Israel),
- ? Steven STARR (Senior scientist, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Clinical Laboratory Science program director, University of Missouri, USA),
- ? Kathleen SULLIVAN (Phd, program director, Hibakusha Stories, New York, USA),
- ? Takao TAKAHARA (Professor of international politics and peace research director, Institute for International Studies (Peace Depot, Yokohama, Japan)),
- ? Wladimir TCHERTKOFF (R?alisateur de t?l?vision (Suisse)),
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- ? Aaron TOVISH (International director 2020 vision campaign, Mayors for Peace, Vienna, Austria),
- ? St?phane TRIFILETTI (Porte-parole EELV Poitou-Charentes),
- ? Anne VALIN (Maire-adjointe, La Roche sur Yon, 85),

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- ? Patrick VIVERET (Philosophe),
- ? Dominique VOYNET (Ancienne ministre, maire de Montreuil),
- ? Kristina WAGNER (Maire adjoint, Barre des C?vennes),
- ? Klaus WALDECK (Secr?taire APNE 79),
- ? Alyn WARE (Consultant, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms),
- ? Dave WEBB (Chair, UK Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament)
- ? Tim WRIGHT (ICAN Campaign director, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons)

Please, join us! Write to: contact@acdn.net