



**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Debra Roets, 805-965-3443**  
[droets@napf.org](mailto:droets@napf.org)

### **Santa Barbara Declaration Urges Rejection of Nuclear Deterrence**

**Santa Barbara, February 23** – On February 16 and 17, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation hosted a conference in Santa Barbara to address the dangers of nuclear deterrence. Participants came from across the United States and as far away as New Zealand to discuss the urgent need to reject the doctrine of nuclear deterrence.

David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, said, “Most Americans and citizens of other nuclear weapon states have been misled to believe that nuclear deterrence protects them. But nuclear deterrence is only a theory and it has many flaws. In fact, it is an illegal and highly immoral doctrine, threatening indiscriminate mass murder, which leaves people everywhere vulnerable to nuclear catastrophe. To assure our common future, we need to recognize that nuclear deterrence is a myth and demand that nuclear-armed countries negotiate the abolition of all nuclear weapons.”

On the final day of the conference, participants drafted the “Santa Barbara Declaration,” an urgent call to action to the public to reject nuclear deterrence. The declaration, available online at <http://tinyurl.com/sb-declaration>, highlights the major problems with nuclear deterrence, including:

- Its power to protect is a dangerous fabrication;
- It assumes all leaders will be rational at all times;
- Threatening or using nuclear weapons is illegal and criminal;
- It is deeply immoral to threaten indiscriminate death and destruction;
- It diverts resources desperately needed to meet human needs;
- It has no effect against non-state extremists;
- It is vulnerable to sabotage, cyber attack and human or technical error;
- It encourages nuclear proliferation in other countries.

The declaration ends by calling upon people everywhere “to join us in demanding that the nuclear weapon states and their allies reject nuclear deterrence and negotiate without delay a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the phased, verifiable, irreversible and transparent elimination of all nuclear weapons.”

Commander Robert Green (Royal Navy, ret.), author of *Security Without Nuclear Deterrence*, said, “I was enormously encouraged by the powerful consensus rejecting nuclear deterrence that emerged from this most successful conference. The declaration reinforces my suspicion that nuclear deterrence is a confidence trick devised by the US military-industrial complex to sustain its vested interest in these appalling terror devices.”

For additional information on The Dangers of Nuclear Deterrence conference and the Santa Barbara declaration, contact Debra Roets at (805) 965-3443 or [droets@napf.org](mailto:droets@napf.org).

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## **SANTA BARBARA DECLARATION**

### **REJECT NUCLEAR DETERRENCE: AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION**

Nuclear deterrence is a doctrine that is used as a justification by nuclear weapon states and their allies for the continued possession and threatened use of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear deterrence is the threat of a nuclear strike in response to a hostile action. However, the nature of the hostile action is often not clearly defined, making possible the use of nuclear weapons in a wide range of circumstances.

Nuclear deterrence threatens the murder of many millions of innocent people, along with severe economic, climate, environmental, agricultural and health consequences beyond the area of attack.

Nuclear deterrence requires massive commitments of resources to the industrial infrastructures and organizations that make up the world's nuclear weapons establishments, its only beneficiaries.

Despite its catastrophic potential, nuclear deterrence is widely, though wrongly, perceived to provide protection to nuclear weapon states, their allies and their citizens.

Nuclear deterrence has numerous major problems:

1. Its power to protect is a dangerous fabrication. The threat or use of nuclear weapons provides no protection against an attack.
2. It assumes rational leaders, but there can be irrational or paranoid leaders on any side of a conflict.
3. Threatening or committing mass murder with nuclear weapons is illegal and criminal. It violates fundamental legal precepts of domestic and international law, threatening the indiscriminate slaughter of innocent people.
4. It is deeply immoral for the same reasons it is illegal: it threatens indiscriminate and grossly disproportionate death and destruction.
5. It diverts human and economic resources desperately needed to meet basic human needs around the world. Globally, approximately \$100 billion is spent annually on nuclear forces.
6. It has no effect against non-state extremists, who govern no territory or population.
7. It is vulnerable to cyber attack, sabotage, and human or technical error, which could result in a nuclear strike.
8. It sets an example for additional countries to pursue nuclear weapons for their own nuclear deterrent force.

Its benefits are illusory. Any use of nuclear weapons would be catastrophic.

Nuclear deterrence is discriminatory, anti-democratic and unsustainable. This doctrine must be discredited and replaced with an urgent commitment to achieve global nuclear disarmament. We must change the discourse by speaking truth to power and speaking truth to each other.

Before another nuclear weapon is used, nuclear deterrence must be replaced by humane, legal and moral security strategies. We call upon people everywhere to join us in demanding that the

nuclear weapon states and their allies reject nuclear deterrence and negotiate without delay a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the phased, verifiable, irreversible and transparent elimination of all nuclear weapons.

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**Initial Signers: Participants in The Dangers of Nuclear Deterrence Conference, hosted by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Santa Barbara, February 16-17, 2011.**

**Blase Bonpane, Ph.D.**, Director, Office of the Americas

**Theresa Bonpane**, Founding Director, Office of the Americas

**John Burroughs, Ph.D.**, Executive Director, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy

**Jacqueline Cabasso**, Executive Director, Western States Legal Foundation

**Kate Dewes, Ph.D.**, Co-Director, Disarmament and Security Centre, New Zealand

**Bob Dodge, M.D.**, Coordinator, Beyond War Nuclear Weapons Abolition Team

**Dick Duda, Ph.D.**, founding member, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation – Silicon Valley

**Denise Duffield**, Associate Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles

**Richard Falk, J.S.D.**, Chair, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

**Commander Robert Green (Royal Navy, ret.)**, Co-Director, Disarmament and Security Centre, New Zealand

**David Krieger, Ph.D.**, President, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

**Robert Laney, J.D.**, Secretary, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

**Steven Starr**, Senior Scientist, Physicians for Social Responsibility

**Rick Wayman**, Director of Programs, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

**Bill Wickersham, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Peace Studies, University of Missouri