



PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL CALL TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Nuclear arms are the most inhumane of all weapons. They are rightly called weapons of mass destruction and weapons of terror. Nuclear weapons are indiscriminate in their effects. They result in widespread and massive devastation, and cause long-lasting radioactive damage.

Designed to terrify as well as destroy, these weapons can, in the hands of either states or terrorists, cause destruction on a vastly greater scale than any conventional weapons. They have the potential to kill thousands of people in a single attack, and their effects may persist in the environment and within human bodies, in some cases indefinitely.

As long as any state possesses such weapons others will persist in acquiring them. As long as such weapons remain in a state's arsenal, there is a risk that these weapons will be used one day, either by design or accident. Such use of these weapons would be catastrophic.

The principle of the non-proliferation of nuclear arms, together with measures of nuclear disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear tests, are intimately interconnected objectives that must be met as soon as possible by means of effective controls at the international level.

The prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as the prevention of nuclear terrorism, is a high priority of Pax Christi International. Nuclear weapons should be outlawed and the threat and the numbers of existing nuclear weapons should be reduced to zero.

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