

Roland Nivet

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Hello

I am speaking to you as the national co-spokesperson of the French Peace Movement, but also as one of the leaders of the national collective of peace marches which brings together more than 150 very different organisations in France.

More than ever, the international call of the hibakhusas in 2016 for the elimination of nuclear weapons is topical: "Today, humanity is at a crossroads. Either we save our blue planet as it is, with all its living beings, or we are heading for self-destruction."...

We are facing immense crises: the health crisis of covid 19, the climate crisis, inequalities in development and injustices. Conflicts persist, and UNICEF and the UN are warning about the spread of famines. These different crises weaken people and can contribute to dividing populations under the influence of the media-military-industrial and financial lobby.

The time has come for unity and solidarity between peoples, demanding that the world's financial, economic, intellectual, scientific and technological resources be concentrated in favour of the well-being of peoples.

In France, based on the United Nations resolution for the culture of peace, we are acting to promote the convergence of social struggles in several areas with our struggle for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Thus, the "National Collective of Peace Marches" was born, which brings together more than 150 organisations and is currently preparing marches that will take place on September 25, 2021, as part of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, with the unifying theme of "for peace, nuclear disarmament and climate; for social justice and human rights".

We have To act locally with the population and to put continuous pressure on decision-makers and institutions at all levels, local, regional, national and international.

Thus, on 21 and 22 January 2021, when the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons came into force, public actions were organised in a hundred or so communes in France and we were also in front of the National Assembly to demand that the deputies take up the question of the ratification of the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. These mobilisations resulted in this issue being discussed in the National Assembly on 24 January during oral questions to the government.

We also raised the demand for nuclear disarmament on 8 March, International Women's Rights Day, 1 May, Workers' Day, 8 May for the celebration of the victory over fascism, 16 May for the day of living together in peace, etc.

But the difficulties and challenges are great and the victories not as numerous as we would like. We must also be clear about the fact that sometimes discouragement can overtake the democratic forces because the forces of the media-military-industrial lobby take advantage of this to divert the peoples' aspiration for security in order to increase the budgets devoted to military expenditure and nuclear weapons.

On the basis of this experience in our country, we believe that we must work to increase the population's awareness that it is the numerous and unifying popular struggles that are the most effective way to obtain results and achieve our objectives in the elimination of nuclear weapons.

In France, for example, 76% of French people are in favour of eliminating nuclear weapons (IFOP survey). But the difficulty is to make these 76% aware that it is their commitment to the struggle that will bring about the process of peace and nuclear disarmament.

The responsibility of the leaders of all organisations fighting for nuclear disarmament is extremely important.

While the diversity of our organisations is an asset, the global visibility of our unity for the elimination of nuclear weapons is not enough.

The wave for peace between 6 and 9 August has become one of those moments of international visibility. However, we believe it would be useful to work on a day of global struggle to make visible the global demand of the people for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The objective would be a worldwide unitary appeal bringing together as many movements, associations, parties, trade unions, politicians, scientists, intellectuals and artists as possible in favour of a worldwide day of action for nuclear disarmament, as the anti-war movement succeeded in doing to express its opposition to the war in Iraq.

Such a day would give high visibility to the global movement for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and make it imperative that this force be heeded. The proximity of world conferences in January within the framework of the UN makes such a mobilisation urgent, which in our opinion could take place on 25 and 26 September in the dual framework of the World Day of Peace and the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

It is the responsibility of all movements and their leaders to work to create the conditions for unity around a common call for a global day of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Why not from Hiroshima?

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