Annual Fishman-Perrin Presentation
The Intersection Between Race & Nuclear Weapons

Expert on race, nukes and justice
Vincent J. Intondi will present
Via Zoom, June 10 at 7pm

Vincent J. Intondi is a Professor of History and the Director of the Institute for Race, Justice and Civic Engagement at Montgomery College in Maryland. He is the former Director of Research for American University's Nuclear Studies Institute in Washington, D.C.

Prof. Intondi is the author of *African Americans Against the Bomb—Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and The Black Freedom Movement*. His book chronicles the resistance of African Americans against nuclear weapons beginning with the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. It includes the actions of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King, who declared in 1982: “All of our hopes for equality, justice, economic security, and a healthy environment depend on nuclear disarmament.”

Stop the Omnicider

Peace Action President Kevin Martin calls the new “Ground Based Strategic Deterrent” nuclear-armed missile the “Omnicider.” It is as long as a bowling lane and will travel some 6,000 miles to deliver a nuclear warhead 20 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Wouldn’t that be a nuclear nightmare leading to a nuclear winter? The U.S. Air Force plans to order 600.

The Physicians for Social Responsibility calls it the “Money Pit Missile” because it will cost more than $260 billion over its lifetime. That could build a massive wall to protect New York City from sea level rise, or cover 8.58 million hospital stays for Covid-19 patients.

According to recent polling, Americans say the number one thing that would make them feel safer is “a sense that Covid-19 is under control.” Overwhelmingly, they do not derive their sense of safety from putting their tax dollars into nuclear weapons, according to the Physicians for Social Responsibility.

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Biden Affirms Nuclear Arms Control

President Joe Biden has controversies with Russia but he says that nuclear arms control can still be a source of cooperation. Please note — this is arms control, but not the nuclear disarmament that is the necessary goal.

The 'Skinny' Budget

The "skinny" or condensed proposal for the Defense Budget from President Biden is an increase over President Trump's final budget. Peace Action is recommending a cut of at least 10%. The Biden Administration is awaiting a programmatic review of the nuclear enterprise on topics such as building a new Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), which is sure to be a deep "money pit." Peace Action also fears high costs for the unreliable F-35 fighter jet and the Navy's plans for more ships. We say: "Move the Money to Pandemic-19 Relief Worldwide!"

With Iran — Who Goes First?

The stand-off between the U.S. and Iran on complying with the 2015 nuclear weapons deal is probably solidified by the Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear facility. The diplomatic stalemate is over who will go first in compliance — the U.S. in reducing sanctions or Iran in rolling back some enrichment. There is no time to waste with Iranian elections coming in June. We must continue to encourage Senators Peters and Stabenow to tell President Biden to take the initiative in reducing sanctions since we are the party who first broke the deal.

Closing Overseas Military Bases

The Council for a Livable World’s Executive Director John Tierney is a member of The Overseas Base Realignment and Closure Coalition. The Coalition sent an open letter to the Biden administration urging them to conduct a thorough posture review of U.S. forces and ultimately close many of the United States’ more than 800 bases in 80 foreign countries.

Push Back Against New Missiles

The U.S. nuclear deterrent is sufficient and does not need "modernization." The new Ground Based Nuclear Deterrent (ICBM) and the new nuclear-armed, sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM) are unnecessary. There are several studies proposing we actually reduce the number of readily available nuclear warheads to 1,000 or less. But the current number is about 1,500.

— Adapted from "The Council Front & Center: An update on arms control, national security and politics from the Council for a Livable World."

Stop the Omnicider

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Former Secretary of Defense William Perry has said these ICBMs are "some of the most dangerous weapons in the world." That's because ICBMs are targets for Russia as much as they are meant to be weapons. Even worse, they are "sitting ducks." Therefore, they force the U.S. President to "use them or lose them." That shortens the decision time on whether to use nuclear weapons to less than 10 minutes.

Areas of the USA where our ICBMs are currently in silos are targeted so heavily that these states (MT, CO, ND, WY, NE) are sometimes referred to as "the nuclear sponge."

The "modernization" of ICBMs is redundant, costly, and dangerous.
You Need the Security of a World without Nuclear Weapons

1. Nuclear weapons do not make you safer. Nukes did not deter the attacks on 9/11. Despite the U.S. possessing overwhelming numbers of nukes and their huge destructive capacity, “the Bomb” has not deterred countries like North Korea, Israel, Pakistan, and North Korea from building nuclear missiles and warheads. Furthermore, nukes do nothing to stop domestic terrorists or white supremacists.

2. You should not have to live under mushroom clouds of bombs that are ecocidal and suicidal. Mutually Assured Destruction is indeed “MAD.” Even a small exchange will kill millions and cause widespread “nuclear famine.” A “nuclear winter” in Detroit would be much worse than Hiroshima — an unimaginable, poisonous wasteland unlivable for a century or two.

3. You do not need to compromise your conscience. Nuclear bombs are ethically wrong. They are monstrous weapons of mass destruction indiscriminately slaughtering human beings, plants, and animals. Pope Francis and other religious leaders have called the possession of nuclear weapons “immoral.”

4. As long as nuclear weapons exist, there remains the possibility of an accident or unintended nuclear war. On more than one occasion, there have been false alarms about an enemy nuclear attack that have nearly led to the other side launching nuclear weapons. On January 25, 1995, Russia mistook a weather rocket for a nuclear missile. Thank goodness President Boris Yeltsin did not launch a retaliatory response.

5. As long as nuclear weapons exist, there will be temptations to use them.

6. As long as nuclear weapons exist, there will be the danger that terrorists could obtain and use them.

7. The manufacturing of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems requires unnecessary taxation on you. The nuclear war making industry produces fewer jobs than investments in education, healthcare, or repairing our roads and water lines.

8. The nuclear weapons’ military-media-industrial-congressional complex deprives humanity of the minds and talents of too many bright men and women.

It will take actions by you and me to create a world without nuclear weapons and the fear of being obliterated. The public’s fear of nuclear war limited President Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis. President Nixon complained bitterly that, had he used nuclear weapons in Vietnam, the resulting domestic uproar would have damaged U.S. foreign policy on all fronts.

Now is the time for you to press for a world without nuclear weapons. You will sleep better at night.

— Rev. Rich Peacock

Action Alert

Peace Action (national) emails Action Alerts so you can contact the President and Congress to advocate for legislation that makes for peace and justice.

Go to www.peace-action.org and use the drop down menu, “To Get Involved.” Peace Action Calls for Advocacy!

Why Commemorate Hiroshima?

Mark your calendar for Friday, August 6, 7:00 pm for Peace Action of Michigan’s annual remembrance of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Albert Einstein said that nuclear weapons had changed everything except our thinking. This is our attempt at prudentia, which is “darn good thinking.”

Julie Beutel (above) will provide inspirational music. Well known in southeast Michigan as a guitarist, singer, and songwriter, Julie is a longtime friend of Peace Action.

Rev. Rich Peacock will present: “Reckoning with Hiroshima, Nuclear Nightmare and Climate Emergency.”

Membership for 2021

Make a financial contribution of any amount, and you will be a member of Peace Action of Michigan (PAMI) for 2021. You will receive the FLASH! Newsletter and emails inviting you to events and asking you to advocate for peace. Gifts to PAMI are not tax-deductible. Gifts to PAMI Education Fund are tax-deductible. There are two ways to contribute.

1. Go to our website: www.peaceactionmich.org
2. Find your Response Envelope in this FLASH!, make a check payable to PAMI or PAMI Education Fund, and mail it to PAMI, P.O. Box 555, Washington Twp., MI 48094.
Match Quote to President

Who said it? John Kennedy, Barack Obama, George H. W. Bush or Ronald Reagan?

“The existence of thousands of nuclear weapons is the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War.”

“We seek the total elimination one day of nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth.”

“The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us.”

“Our mutual security need no longer depend on a nuclear balance of terror.”

What can I say that matters?

Here are messages that you can use effectively to promote nuclear disarmament:

- Spending our taxes on nuclear weapons takes money away from much more pressing 21st century security priorities like the threat of cyberattacks or the pandemic.
- The U.S. and Russia each have about 1,500 nuclear weapons, but many experts say the U.S. needs only a few hundred for deterrence.
- We have been lucky to avoid a nuclear catastrophe for 76 years. There have been dozens of mishaps, accidents, and near launches. It is unrealistic that nine countries can continue to threaten each other with nuclear weapons without an eventual mistake costing millions of lives.

One Minute Activist

Contact your elected representatives and insist they scrap plans for a $1.7 trillion upgrade and expansion of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Use those taxpayer funds to relieve COVID-19 pandemic and economic crises caused by the

Covid pandemic.

- Call the Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121
- Email your Senators: www.senate.gov
- Email your Representative: www.house.gov