

# A MORAL APPEAL FOR A SAFER WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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**WE** THE UNDERSIGNED believe that nuclear weapons, whether possessed by states or terrorist organizations, are inherently immoral. Therefore, they should be totally and irrevocably eliminated.

**Immorality.** As instruments of mass destruction, nuclear weapons cannot be morally justified. If used, nuclear weapons would inevitably kill thousands, possibly millions, of innocent people. They would cause devastating harm to the environment near and far. Multiple use would endanger the existence of life on Earth. Even so-called "mini-nukes" and "bunker-busters" would have disastrous effects. Threatened use of nuclear weapons in the name of deterrence is morally wrong because it holds innocent people hostage for political and military purposes.

**Dangers of Proliferation.** Continued possession of nuclear weapons by a few privileged nations gives them legitimacy and encourages other nations and terrorist organizations to acquire them. Emerging policies to develop new kinds of nuclear weapons, resume testing, and envision new roles for nuclear weapons, even pre-emptive use, seriously increase this danger. Opposition to terrorism requires a strong, integrated program of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

## CALL FOR ACTION

Nuclear weapons cannot be used in any manner consistent with moral principles, civilized values, and humanitarian law. Therefore, as a matter of conscience and a concern for the future of humankind:

- 1) We call upon all States possessing these horrific devices
  - a) to pledge not to use them, and also
  - b) to promptly embark upon an unequivocal undertaking for the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals promised pursuant to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and consistent with the International Court of Justice.
- 2) We call upon all who have ambitions to develop or acquire nuclear weapons to cease this quest.
- 3) We call upon all members of the international community to carry out an enhanced nuclear non-proliferation program to prevent any nation or organization from developing or acquiring nuclear weapons.

## OUR COMMITMENT

We pledge to reflect, study, and actively work in our own communities and institutions to advance the cause of the moral imperative of the elimination of nuclear weapons.

November 2003