

# NUCLEAR BAN DAILY

Civil society perspectives on the  
First Meeting of States Parties to the  
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

21–23 June 2022

## VOL.3 NO.2

21 June 2022



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Reaching Critical Will



**WILPF**  
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL  
LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM

# Lighting a Path to Nuclear Abolition at 1MSP

Ray Acheson | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Tuesday, 21 June 2022 marked the first day of the First Meeting of States Parties to the first treaty that categorically outlaws nuclear weapons. It was an historic day, one that drew hundreds of government representatives, activists, academics, and survivors to Vienna, with many more following along remotely over webcast. The attention paid to this meeting, of course, is not just about its novelty, but about the contributions that more and more people are realising the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) can make to promoting peace in a world awash in war.

The TPNW's states parties, signatories, and supporters know that this instrument is a key multilateral tool for confronting the threats and risks posed by nuclear weapons. Many speakers during the opening high-level session and the general debate remarked upon the violence and despair of this moment in history. The nuclear-armed states are making threats to use nuclear weapons while expanding their arsenals and building new delivery systems, spending billions of dollars on weapons of genocide while people around the world struggle to survive fires and floods, poverty and famine, oppression and inequality. Nuclear weapons have been used to provide an existentially-threatening cover for illegal invasions and occupations of other countries—most recently by Russia in Ukraine, but also by the United States, Israel, and other nuclear-armed states. Nuclear weapons are tools of aggression and dominance, not peace or security.

The theories of “nuclear deterrence” do not preserve peace, as South Africa's Deputy Minister Alvin Botes said. Calling on all nuclear-armed and nuclear-supportive governments to “free themselves” from policies of destruction and work for nuclear abolition, he argued that the current security environment allows no room for procrastination. Jamaica's representative likewise argued that while the nuclear-armed states elevate their bombs as symbols of power

and prestige, it's imperative that these archaic approaches must be dismantled. “Seeking, possessing, or threatening to use nuclear weapons must become a badge of shame,” proclaimed Jamaica, “and a demonstration of worst disregard of humanity possible.”

## As the Fourth Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons on 20 June

showcased, the grave risks, threats, and consequences of nuclear weapons render these weapons inhumane, immoral, and illegal. But as many states raised during the opening day of 1MSP, we don't just face nuclear violence alone. The ravages of climate change compound the impacts of their testing and their use. Rising “geopolitical tensions” and “great power competition” among those possessing nuclear weapons are completely out of step with the reality of our current world. The nuclear-armed states' mutually assured violence is putting the entire planet in peril: not just through the possible use of nuclear weapons, but also in relation to wasted resources.

As Bangladesh said, “Arms races do not save lives.” The refusal to collaborate to contend with real global challenges—challenges that are not about who has more power or territory, but about how we can collectively survive, about how we can share and be in solidarity in one another.

These broader concerns are part of the driving force behind the TPNW. This is a treaty by the majority, for the majority. It is a treaty meant to serve all those who see nuclear weapons not as security, but as a death sentence. This is not a treaty that divides the world into nuclear haves and have-nots; it's a treaty that puts all states on equal footing to protect everyone. Instead of building more and more weapons with the “firepower to end life as we know it, as New Zealand's Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control Philip Twyford put it, those participating in 1MSP are keen to instead build a world free of these weapons of terror.

The “ray of hope” offered by the TPNW, as the president of 1MSP Ambassador Alexander Kmentt said in his opening remarks, is drawing more and more states towards it. Three more countries ratified the treaty on Monday, and more are on the way. More and more states affiliated with nuclear alliances are participating as observers to this meeting.

Amidst the dark skies, the TPNW lights a path forward. A path to peace, through disarmament and demilitarisation, through collaboration and

collective action. As the work of 1MSP gets underway, participants will brighten this light even further, filling out the landscape with an action plan to guide the treaty’s implementation. In a world where dialogue and cooperation are nearly nonexistent among the so-called powerful states, it is up to us to shape our shared future. As Ireland said during the general debate, “Now is the time for clarity and courage. Every state, every person, has a vital stake in nuclear disarmament.”



# Fulfilling the Humanitarian Goals of the TPNW: Toward Vigorous Implementation of Positive Obligations

Matthew Breay Bolton, Elizabeth Minor, and Bonnie Docherty

The use and testing of nuclear weapons caused transnational and catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences. Legacies of more than 2,000 nuclear detonations in the territories of 15 states **persist today**, with serious implications for human rights and sustainable development.

There has been an inadequate global policy architecture for addressing the humanitarian and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons. However, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) established groundbreaking provisions to assist victims of nuclear weapons and testing and remediate contaminated environments (Articles 6 and 7). These provisions are based on similar frameworks in the landmine and cluster munition ban treaties. They aim to build global solidarity and share the burdens of addressing the ongoing humanitarian and environmental impact of nuclear weapons use and testing.

The framework of responsibility established by these articles places the primary responsibility for implementation with affected states because it protects their sovereignty, and because they are best placed to coordinate the delivery of assistance to their populations and remediate the environment in their territory. It also follows disarmament and international human rights law precedent.

However, affected states are not expected to face this task alone: Article 7 requires other states parties to provide international cooperation and assistance. Others not party to the treaty can also contribute. Rather than placing an undue burden on affected states, the framework provides an opportunity to mobilise resources, and increase the international community's focus, to better address the rights and needs of affected communities, and address environmental contamination, through collective efforts. The TPNW also does not affect agreements that



## NEXT STEPS BEYOND THE MSP

### Implementing the positive obligations and addressing nuclear weapons' legacies

As states parties agree actions to commence the implementation of the TPNW's obligations on victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation and assistance, this side event will focus on the next steps in this work, how it should be approached, and goals for the years ahead. With experts from affected communities as well as those offering legal and policy perspectives, the event will discuss issues including how the equitable inclusion of affected communities should be approached, and new work on principles for victim assistance and environmental remediation in addressing nuclear harm.

#### PANELISTS

- Alicia Sanders-Zakre, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
- Gillian Hannahs, International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School
- Janene Yazzie, Nuclear Truth Project
- Dmitriy Vesselov, third generation survivor from Kazakhstan
- Joey Tau, PANG (Pacific Network on Globalisation)

Side event

Wednesday, 22 June 2022

13:15-14:45

Room 2.32-33

affected states may already have with others (including user states) on these matters—nor does it prevent the seeking of redress through other channels.

Implementation of Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty will be discussed further in Agenda item 11(e) of the 1MSP. This will offer states an opportunity to express support for taking the first steps to establish a framework for the implementation of the positive obligations and share relevant experience and outline their policy views.

Kiribati and Kazakhstan, both states parties that experienced nuclear weapons tests on their territories, have submitted a **Working Paper** (WP.5) which lays out recommendations that would, if adopted, constitute a strong start of initial actions and commitments to a positive and collaborative culture of work on these articles.

ICAN has distributed a background paper to delegations (printed in this publication yesterday). However, in brief, ICAN urges states to:

- Express concern at the ongoing humanitarian and environmental impacts of nuclear weapons;
- Agree to meet the commitments in the Draft Vienna Action Plan
- Commit to a collective and inclusive process that centers affected communities; and
- Welcome further work in the intersessional period along the lines recommended in the draft action plan.

States affected by nuclear weapons use, testing and related activities might also want to consider sharing their experiences with the conference. For instance, while the 1MSP's action plan will likely include a commitment to engage in initial and in-depth assessments, they might

consider highlighting information they already have available about the specific ways that populations and territories under their jurisdiction continue to be impacted by humanitarian and environmental legacies. This could for example include the number, locations and magnitude of nuclear detonations; knowledge on the deposition of fallout; and any available information on the demographics, ongoing needs and concerns of affected communities—as well as information on the responses that states have taken so far.

Other states may wish to express support for the provision of international cooperation and assistance, and highlight ways they intend to support affected states parties' implementation of Article 6, including: contributing expertise to intersessional discussions; providing assistance to affected States and communities, including support to their representative organisations in their work; support for research on ongoing impacts; or making available official documentation on nuclear weapons use, testing and related activities, as well as fallout monitoring that could assist future research.

Finally, Articles 6 and 7 of the TPNW put addressing nuclear legacies on the agenda of the international community. All those who share the humanitarian, development and environmental goals that would be served by the implementation of Articles 6 and 7 should engage with and contribute to work in this area. States not yet party to the TPNW should consider how they might contribute expertise, knowledge or other support to efforts to support affected states in addressing nuclear harm. Many states not party already contribute assistance under similar frameworks in the Antipersonnel Landmine Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions. Several also have affected populations of nuclear veterans.

# Report on the High-Level Opening Session

Ray Acheson | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

As Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, gavelled open the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), applause broke out across the conference room. Opening this historic meeting, Ambassador Alexander Kmentt of Austria, the elected president of 1MSP, thanked all states, international organisations, civil society groups, academics, but especially the *hibakusha* for attending and for driving forward this treaty that seeks once and for all an end to nuclear weapons. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)'s president, Peter Maurer, similarly acknowledged what we owe the TPNW to the survivors and affected communities who have driven the process forward.

## Countering nuclear threats and nuclear narratives

### **UN Secretary-General António Guterres**

provided a video message noting that nuclear weapons offer false promises of security and deterrence, while guaranteeing only destruction, death, and endless brinksmanship. "We cannot allow the nuclear weapons wielded by a handful of States to jeopardize all life on our planet," he warned. "Disarmament is everybody's business, because life itself is everybody's business," he said, noting that the TPNW is part of the critical disarmament architecture.

Amb. Kmentt described the TPNW as a "ray of hope" in these dark times when nuclear risks are as high as ever and threats of use are being made. Similarly, the **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)** noted that Russia's threats of use of nuclear weapons have increased the already unacceptable risks of use. "The TPNW community must act decisively against such threats," said ICAN, and do everything possible to prevent the use of nuclear weapons" by working for their stigmatisation and elimination and by fully implementing the TPNW.

New Zealand's Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Philip Twyford, agreed that Putin's nuclear threats and unjustified invasion of Ukraine have brought us again to the brink of nuclear catastrophe. But he also highlighted the risks posed by other nuclear-armed states, noting that nine countries possess the destructive firepower to end life as we know it. "This tyranny must end," he said, affirming that nuclear weapons are never the answer, but the TPNW can be.

Likewise, Austria's Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg said that Russia's nuclear blackmail is a clear violation of the UN Charter and puts a truth into focus: as long as these weapons exist, they are a threat to us all. The idea that this situation is a validation of nuclear deterrence is only a call for further proliferation, he argued. The idea that nuclear weapons bring security is terror. Ghana's Deputy Minister Thomas Mbomba agreed that the possession of nuclear weapons is a threat to collective humanity and risks proliferation, while South Africa's Deputy Minister Alvin Botes argued that while most nuclear-armed states justify their possession of nuclear weapons on the basis that it purportedly guarantees security, non-nuclear-armed states hold the conviction that the existence of nuclear weapons threatens their security, and humanity as a whole.

To counter these narratives of deterrence, said Austria's Foreign Minister, we must convince states to instead sign and ratify the TPNW. Timor-Leste, which just ratified the TPNW on 20 June, warned that the threats to use nuclear weapons risk setting a precedent for other states to justify their arsenals. Foreign Minister Adaljiza Magno called instead on all states to sign, ratify, and accede to the TPNW.

Similarly, a video message from a representative of Pope Francis highlighted the value of the TPNW for offering a form of strength and responsibility that increase trust. In system of collective security, he said, there is no place

for nuclear weapons. They are a costly and dangerous liability, a risk multiplier that provides only an illusion of peace.

### Humanitarian imperatives

The ICRC highlighted the urgency of refocusing the debate on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons (HINW) in the midst of active nuclear threats. These impacts are the realities against which we can judge, from a moral and ethical perspective, theories of nuclear deterrence. A survivor of the Soviet Union's nuclear testing in Kazakhstan, Karipbek Kuyukov, described in detail the humanitarian and environmental nightmare wrought by nuclear weapons in his community. These realities make clear the immorality and inhumanity of these weapons, as many speakers confirmed.

Pointing out that 1MSP is happening amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, a global food crisis, and the climate crisis, Frank Bainimarama, the Prime Minister of Fiji, noted that nuclear weapons "will never defeat these enemies." They do not feed us, clothe us, or keep up the rising seas at bay, he said. Instead, nuclear weapons epitomize the same short-sightedness that created the climate crisis, exacerbated the pandemic, and that keep people hungry. Every dollar spent on missiles instead of seawalls or renewables is a moral aberration.

Cuba's Foreign Minister, Bruno Eduardo Rodriguez Parilla, likewise critiqued the absurdity of squandering billions on nuclear weapons while refusing to comply with commitments to help with development, which has only polarised the inequal distribution of wealth and hunger. South Africa's deputy minister also criticised the international resources being diverted to destructive capabilities while more and more people suffer from hunger, while Ghana's Deputy Minister highlighted the relationship between global famine, climate destruction, and the HINW.

### Importance of 1MSP

Amb. Kmentt urged states to take the opportunity of 1MSP to strengthen the treaty and ensure its effective implementation, sending a strong

message about the seriousness with which they are approaching this treaty and our collective commitment to achieving a nuclear weapon free world. The ICRC noted that 1MSP will help establish the framework for progressive implementation of the TPNW, noting that states currently outside the treaty can contribute to its implementation.

The Prime Minister of Fiji welcomed the TPNW's consideration of plight of those affected by use and testing, and urged states parties to create a policy framework that also considers the existential threat to the world's oceans created by nuclear testing and nuclear waste, which is now being exacerbated by the climate crisis. Deputy Prime Minister Mukhtar Tleuberdi of Kazakhstan noted that implementing the TPNW's positive obligations would offer a promising route for advancing the treaty's agenda at a time of strong impediments for nuclear disarmament.

New Zealand's Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control called on 1MSP to take forward the implementation of articles 6 and 7, noting that these provisions best capture the humanitarian drivers at heart of the TPNW's mission. He also said the decisions on deadlines for disarmament, and establishing an intersessional process on verification, will be important for ensuring the treaty continues.

Ghana's Deputy Minister noted that the entry into force of the TPNW has provided a legal pathway to the elimination of nuclear weapons and is an essential component of general disarmament discourse. Multilateralism is critical to achieving safer and more secure world. South Africa's Deputy Minister, noting that the TPNW is the democratic wish of the overwhelming majority of states and people, said he looks forward to future MSPs being held at UN Headquarters in New York where all states have representation.

### Observer states

Amb. Kmentt acknowledged the observer states attending 1MSP, remarking that he sees their presence as marking their recognition of the importance of the TPNW and their readiness to engage constructively. The Austrian Foreign

Minister likewise welcomed the presence of observers, and urged these governments to take the next step to sign and ratify the TPNW.

The Prime Minister of Fiji welcomed the NATO members that are observing 1MSP, noting that their influence and action are needed. New Zealand's Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control said he was encouraged by the observers, some of whom haven't yet signed the TPNW but share the goal of a nuclear weapon free world. "Your engagement at a time when communication, trust, and confidence-building

measures are so essential is welcome and appreciated," he remarked. The Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan welcomed observer states, saying it believes more will join in the near future and called for all to work jointly toward universalisation of the TPNW.

The ICRC said states outside the TPNW can contribute to the treaty's implementation and highlighted the importance of synergies with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, including in relation to fulfilling the TPNW's victim assistance and environmental remediation provisions.

## Report on the General Exchange of Views

Allison Pytlak | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Nearly 40 delegations delivered statements during the general exchange of views at the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Around 20 more will deliver their general statements on Wednesday, as the meeting ran out of time for this agenda item on its opening day.

Virtually all delegations highlighted the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental impacts of nuclear weapons use and testing, with many referring to the testimonies heard as part of the Fourth Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held on Monday, or during the high-level segment. Some, like Cook Islands and Mayors for Peace, spoke to their own horrific experience with nuclear weapons. The TPNW's entry-into-force was widely welcomed by all and most delegations referenced the treaty as an important component of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture.

### Context

Most delegations expressed significant concern about the current geopolitical context and the implications—and need—for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Ecuador, Mexico, Mayors for Peace, Ireland, Philippines,

Guatemala, Indonesia, and Parliamentarians for the TPNW, among others, explicitly referenced Russian aggression in Ukraine and threats to use nuclear weapons. Trinidad and Tobago and Palestine noted that the threat of use contravenes international law.

The Philippines mentioned recent tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and challenges in relation to verification in Iran and in the context of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Malaysia, Guyana, Venezuela, Namibia, Cote d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, and Panama, among others, regret the current state of arms racing, nuclear weapon modernisation, and/or high levels of military or nuclear weapons spending. Guyana noted that it is especially unconscionable that scarce resources are being diverted in this way, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, a point echoed by Bolivia.

There was a strong rejection of "deterrence theory" from delegations such as Costa Rica, Jamaica, Cote d'Ivoire, and Comoros, and calls for a new international order and system of security that is not based on nuclear weapons. Eliminating nuclear weapons was stressed by most participants as the only way to guarantee they will never be used, and to build peace.

## Expectations for the 1MSP

Some delegations used the opportunity of the general exchange to outline their expectations for the 1MSP, which many described as an historic meeting.

Thailand said the draft Action Plan reflects the importance of not working alone, and of continuing to promote humanitarian consequences and the positive obligations of the Treaty. Philippines echoed this point. Chile and Samoa urged states parties to make concrete commitments at this MSP. Guyana observed the need to create a blueprint for implementation.

Samoa flagged that the MSP is an opportunity to discuss technical details, like setting a deadline for eliminating the arsenals of nuclear-armed states that will join the Treaty. Malta stated that article 4 will require work in the intersessional period to translate it into a mandate for establishing a competent international authority.

Panama said the MSP must adopt an action plan for universalisation, implementation, and international cooperation on positive obligations.

Kiribati has been serving as a co-facilitator on articles 6 and 7 with Kazakhstan. Following consultations with states and civil society, especially youth, it has come up with a series of recommendations for the MSP to consider. One of them is the establishment of a trust fund, and also to establish a Scientific Advisory Committee, which El Salvador supports. Malta believes that further knowledge on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons will be needed to take future decisions based on updated scientific information.

## Universalisation

Several delegations welcomed the three newest states parties to the TPNW. Peru and El Salvador noted that with Guatemala's recent ratification, Central America is now the first sub-region to be fully subscribed to the TPNW, a point which Guatemala also highlighted. Guyana described a 2019 universalisation workshop it organised with ICAN.

Mexico encouraged finding channels of dialogue with those who have reservations about the TPNW. Ireland urged states with doubts about the TPNW to reconsider. It asked these states what alternative vision they are offering to global community and to young people in particular.

Many delegations welcomed the participation of observer states and called on states that have not yet signed or ratified the treaty to do so. Parliamentarians for the TPNW said it will redouble its efforts to universalise the treaty, by working with parliamentarians and emphasising complementarity with the NPT. It invited all parliamentarians to join the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge.

Nambia warned that there is a negative narrative against the TPNW and the perceived limited influence of its states parties. It said that these factors make it even more important to popularise the treaty, and work toward implementation and achieve the ultimate goal of universalisation.

Multiple delegations stressed the complementarity between the TPNW and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the instruments establishing nuclear weapon free zones (NWFZs). Philippines, Malaysia, and Uruguay referenced the TPNW as aligning with and helping to fulfill NPT article VI.

## Gender

Chile and Ecuador observed that the TPNW is the only nuclear weapons treaty with a gender perspective.

Ireland said that the TPNW represents an innovative approach to the Women, Peace, and Security agenda by committing to strengthen the participation of women in nuclear disarmament, as well as its other gender provisions. Ireland is pleased to have co-authored a working paper on this topic and asks for this aspect to be given priority at the MSP. Costa Rica said that women's participation in disarmament processes is important and that gender perspectives are needed in all policies and projects.

Parliamentarians for the TPNW supports a renewed focus on gendered and racialised impacts of nuclear weapons.

### Other

Many delegations spoke positively about the role played by civil society, academia, hibakusha, and affected communities, with many thanking the latter for their tireless work and dedication to the cause of nuclear disarmament. ICAN was specifically named by Cambodia, Ecuador, and Mongolia. Mexico said that the alliance of these actors, together with states, should always be a guiding light for the future of the Treaty. Kiribati shared that in the lead up to 1MSP it encouraged youth to rise up and share their personal stories. It is proud that many of those youth are at 1MSP.

Cambodia and Nigeria shared that they have submitted article 2 declarations.

Etica Funds and ICAN encouraged states parties to interpret assistance as also including financial assistance, noting that the Chemical Weapons Convention, which has the same prohibitions

language as the TPNW, has been interpreted in this way. It referenced the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the UN Principles for Responsible Investment.

Kiribati announced the establishment of a TPNW Centre on Christmas Island.

Malaysia noted that the TPNW's purpose goes beyond stigmatising nuclear weapons and that its states parties fully intend the treaty to be of great consequence in practical terms, based on sound scientific and technical considerations.

Cambodia spoke to its experience in dealing with landmine contamination. It noted that the Mine Ban Treaty has shown how crucial positive obligations can be in remediating contaminated environments, assisting victims, and providing risk education including in a gender and age sensitive way.

Mayors for Peace highlighted that next year, the G7 will meet in Hiroshima and it is hoped that the leaders of nuclear-armed countries will adhere to the spirit of Hiroshima.

## From Principle to Practice: the TPNW and Gender-Responsive Disarmament

**22 June 2022**  
**13:15-14:30 CEST**

*Opening Remarks*



**Izumi Nakamitsu**  
UN High Representative  
for Disarmament Affairs



**Eoin O'Leary**  
Permanent Representative  
of Ireland to UN in Vienna

*Panel Discussion*



**Beatrice Fihn**  
Executive Director  
ICAN



**Matthew Breay Bolton**  
Professor, Pace University



**Bedi Racule**  
President  
MISA4thePacific

*Moderator*



**Renata H. Dalaqua**  
Head of Gender and  
Disarmament, UNIDIR



UNIDIR Gender & Disarmament Programme



# NUCLEAR BAN DAILY

Reaching Critical Will (RCW) is the disarmament programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the oldest feminist peace organisation in the world.

RCW works for disarmament and the prohibition of many different weapon systems; confronting militarism and military spending; and exposing gendered aspects of the impact of weapons and disarmament processes with a feminist lens.

RCW also monitors and analyses international disarmament processes, providing primary resources, reporting, and civil society coordination at various UN-related forums.

The *Nuclear Ban Daily* is produced by the Reaching Critical Will programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). WILPF is a steering group member of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of WILPF or ICAN.

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Vol. 3, No. 2

21 June 2022

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**WILPF**

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL  
LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM



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