



Basel Peace Office

*Advancing international peace and security through
the abolition of nuclear weapons*

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The Norwegian Nobel Committee
Henrik Ibsens Gt 51
NO-0255 Oslo

To the Nobel Peace Prize Committee,

As the Director of the Basel Peace Office, I submit a nomination for the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for the international organization Global Zero, along with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and Karipbek Kuyukov, a 2nd generation victim of nuclear test and the Honorary Ambassador of the ATOM Project.

The Basel Peace Office (BPO) is a peace research institution based in the University of Basel, Seminar für Soziologie. BPO oversees research projects on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament issues, publishes an academic journal entitled the Nuclear Abolition Forum, produces a range of policy papers and academic articles, and organizes forums for academics, policy makers and civil society leaders.

BPO is a member of the EU Nonproliferation Consortium, a European network of independent peace research institutes and non-proliferation think tanks established by the Council of the European Union.

The issues of nuclear-risk reduction, nonproliferation and disarmament are instrumental to security and peace in Europe, Middle East, South Asia, NE Asia and indeed globally. Nuclear postures can stimulate conflicts and increase the risk of a disastrous use of nuclear weapons whether by accident, miscalculation or intent.

Nuclear weapons are primarily a political weapon, not one currently used in the battlefield. As such, there is no single approach to eliminating the threat. Success in achieving nuclear abolition will require a combination of approaches, some emphasizing the inhumanity and illegality of nuclear weapons, others emphasizing the economic and political costs, and others emphasizing the possibilities to achieve security without relying on nuclear deterrence.

For this reason, I am submitting a nomination for two individuals and one organization, each of which is making a significant and complementary contribution to public awareness and political processes for nuclear disarmament.

Global Zero

Global Zero is an international organization working with high-level, former officials and with youth chapters in the nuclear armed States. Global Zero advances concepts and proposals for the phased elimination of nuclear weapons in a way to ensure national, regional and global security.

Global Zero is probably the most effective campaigning organisation for nuclear disarmament in the nuclear-armed and allied states. Global Zero also works cooperatively with other nuclear disarmament networks in order to amplify the impact and build success. To cite one example, Basel Peace Office worked with Global Zero to achieve written endorsement from 390 Members of the European Parliament for a phased plan to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2030.

Global Zero leaders include very influential legislators and former officials from the nuclear armed and allied States. They produce influential reports and hold effective consultations and meetings in the capitals of nuclear-armed states.

Global Zero youth have been instrumental in raising the issue through social media, at international conferences, in mainstream media, and most recently in the US presidential election campaign, where they managed to raise the nuclear weapons issue in town hall meetings with most of the presidential candidates.

President Nazarbayev

President Nursultan Nazarbayev stands out as a leader who has taken a number of significant nuclear disarmament initiatives during his 22 years as leader of Kazakhstan. These include:

- Closing the Soviet nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk.
- Forgoing the world's third largest nuclear arsenal to become a nuclear-weapon-free country.
- Leading the negotiations for the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Central Asia.
- Establishing the UN International Day Against Nuclear Tests.
- Hosting a number of international conferences on nuclear abolition.
- Initiating the Universal Declaration for a Nuclear-Weapons Free World which has now been adopted by the United Nations.
- Launching a Manifesto for the 21st Century which outlines a plan to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2045, the 100th anniversary of the United Nations.
- Addressing military spending and Sustainable Development Goals, including a challenge to all governments to contribute 1% of their military spending to meeting the SDGs.
- Pledging action on nuclear disarmament in the UN Security Council, where Kazakhstan has a non-permanent seat from 2017-2018.
- Launching the Nazarbayev Prize for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World and Global Security.

President Nazarbayev not only has a commitment to the achievement of a nuclear-weapons-free world, but continues to take a number of initiatives that are influential in the process to achieve such a world. A Nobel Peace Prize would enhance the influence and support these processes globally.

Karipbek Kuyukov:

Kuyukov is a hero of the nuclear age who is highlighting the tragic experience of his region in Kazakhstan – devastated by the long-term effects of Soviet nuclear tests. The ATOM Project, which he leads, informs the world of the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental impact of nuclear weapons and the imperative for nuclear abolition.

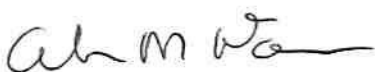
A second generation victim of nuclear tests, Karipbek was born with severe health complications, including being born with no arms. He has overcome these to become a renowned painter (using his feet and mouth) – including paintings depicting the nuclear testing in his region. Karipbek speaks at key events in the United Nations and around the world, telling story after story of the families that are still being severely impacted by birth defects, cancers and other health effects.

Karipbek makes visible and real the trans-generational impact of nuclear weapons and the necessity to honour those who have suffered by abolishing nuclear weapons.

Basel Peace Office has organised a number of key events at which Karipbek has spoken, including a packed event at the historic Kennedy Caucus Room in the U.S. Senate, and we can attest to the fact that he moves people – including those who previously supported nuclear deterrence – like no other.

I thank you for your consideration of this nomination for Global Zero, President Nazarbayev and Karipbek Kuyukov, and I wish your committee all the best in your deliberations on this and the other nominations.

Yours sincerely



Alyn Ware
Director, Basel Peace Office
2009 Right Livelihood Award Laureate