



## **Media Advisory**

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Contact:

**Marylia Kelley**, Tri-Valley CAREs, Livermore  
925-443-7148; 925-255-3589, cell 8/9

**Jackie Cabasso**, Western States Legal Foundation,  
510-839-5877; 510-306-0119, cell

**Stephen McNeil**, American Friends Service Committee,  
415-350-9305

### **MAJOR RALLY & NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION ON AUG. 9 AT LIVERMORE LAB**

***“Disarm Now: We Stand with Nuclear Survivors for Global Justice”*** will feature Nagasaki A-bomb survivor **Nobuaki Hanaoka** on the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan

**Program update:** International lawyer **John Burroughs** will speak on the Nuclear Zero lawsuits brought by the Republic of the Marshall Islands against the world’s nuclear-armed states. Dr. Burroughs is part of the legal team arguing the cases before the International Court of Justice. Marshall Islands’ Ambassador **Tony de Brum** had to cancel his flight due to illness.

**WHAT:** A coalition of Northern California peace and justice organizations will mark the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan at the location where the U.S. is presently spending billions of tax-dollars to develop new and modified nuclear weapons including the new Long-Range Stand Off warhead, part of an ambitious trillion-dollar, 30-year plan to “modernize” the U.S. stockpile by enhancing it with novel designs and capabilities. “Disarm Now” will highlight the landmark litigation filed in the International Court of Justice by the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) against the nine nuclear-armed states for their failure to disarm as required by international law. The RMI has also brought suit against the U.S. domestically, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco is slated to hear the case. The RMI cites the illegality of Livermore Lab’s nuclear weapons activities in its filings.

**WHEN: Tuesday, August 9, 2016.** Rally program will begin at **8 AM sharp**. Following the rally, there will be a procession to the Lab’s West Gate with drummers, art and banners. A traditional Japanese Bon dance will be performed at the gate and participants will “die-in” on the pavement and have their bodies outlined in chalk in memory of the vaporized shadows left by people who perished in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Some participants will peaceably risk arrest.

**WHERE: Livermore Lab, corner of Vasco Road & Patterson Pass Road.** Ample parking.

#### **FEATURED SPEAKERS:**

- **Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka**, special guest speaker, was an infant when the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan on August 9, 1945. His mother and sister died from illnesses linked to radiation poisoning and his brother died at age 39 from premature aging associated with fallout from the bomb. He will share his experience and insights. Rev. Hanaoka is a retired minister in the United Methodist church, who came to the U.S. following seminary training in Japan. He has settled in the Bay Area where he speaks, writes and teaches on topics of peace and human rights.

- **John Burroughs**, J.D., Ph.D., is Executive Director of the New York City-based Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, the UN office of the International Association of Lawyers Against

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Nuclear Arms. He is a member of the Marshall Islands' international legal team in its Nuclear Zero cases in the International Court of Justice, where he presented oral arguments this spring. Dr. Burroughs has taught international law as an adjunct professor at Rutgers Law School. He is the author or editor of several books and numerous book chapters and articles, including a recent article in *Arms Control Today* on the illegality of nuclear weapons under international law. Dr. Burroughs and the RMI legal team have been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize alongside Marshallese Ambassador Tony de Brum.

- **Jackie Cabasso** will address resurgent U.S. militarism from the Asia-Pacific pivot to NATO expansion and the growing dangers of wars among nuclear-armed nations. Cabasso is the Executive Director since 1984 of the Western States Legal Foundation in Oakland, National Co-convenor of United for Peace & Justice and co-founder of the international Abolition 2000 movement (in 1995). She is an internationally recognized leading voice for nuclear weapons abolition, and is the recipient of the 2008 Sean McBride Peace Prize among other awards.
- **Tara Dorabji** will describe the nuclear weapons programs at Livermore Lab, where the portion of the facility's budget devoted solely to nuclear weapons activities totals more than a billion dollars annually and comprises 86% of its overall funding from the Dept. of Energy. Dorabji has been active with Tri-Valley CAREs since becoming the group's Outreach Director more than a decade ago. She has testified in hearings and other venues locally and has traveled extensively to brief members of Congress and administration officials on nuclear weapons policy, Livermore Lab, nuclear workers made ill by on the job exposures and related topics.
- **Chizu Hamada** will speak to the present day nuclear situation in Japan. Hamada is a co-founder of the Japanese-American No Nukes Action, formed after the Fukushima Daiichi meltdown disaster to protest dangerous Japanese and U.S. nuclear policies.

**WHY:** On the 71st Anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, we will gather at one of two U.S. national laboratories where scientists are busy designing new and modified nuclear weapons. Overall, the U.S. government spends about \$2 million each hour on the nuclear weapons stockpile. This spending is slated to increase and to top \$1 trillion over 30 years. Continuing U.S. reliance on nuclear weapons stands in stark contrast with the stance of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). The RMI has filed lawsuits against the world's nine nuclear-armed states in the International Court of Justice. They have also filed separately against the U.S. That case is presently awaiting a hearing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The Marshall Islanders know all too well the devastating effects of living in the nuclear age. From 1946 to 1958, the U.S. conducted 67 nuclear weapons tests in the Marshall Islands. Yet, they are not seeking damages in this historic litigation. Instead they seek to compel compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and its nuclear disarmament provisions, which have been incorporated into customary international law.

The Japanese Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) also speak for global nuclear disarmament, raising their voices to cry "never again," so that no others shall ever feel the horrific blast, heat, thirst, radiation sickness and bloody death or lingering illness that follows. On this August 9<sup>th</sup> we will hear from survivor Nobuaki Hanaoka and recommit ourselves to efforts to abolish nuclear weapons – an urgent necessity for our collective survival.

**MEDIA OPS: Interviews with speakers and organizers available on request. Call for details.**