



Livermore Conversion Project

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Media Alert

Annual Livermore Lab Protest Goes Virtual

***“From Hiroshima to a Healthy Tomorrow: Embracing Our Common Humanity”
on the 75th Anniversary of the U.S. Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki***

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Contacts:

Marylia Kelley, Tri-Valley CAREs, Livermore; cell, 925-255-3585, marylia@earthlink.net

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

Grace Morizawa, gmorizawa@yahoo.com

WHAT: *From Hiroshima to a Healthy Tomorrow: Embracing Our Common Humanity*—Annual protest and rally held at the gates of Livermore Laboratory, this year broadcast virtually. There will be taped presentations, up-to-the-minute reports at the gates of the Livermore nuclear weapons lab, music, and more!

WHEN: **Hiroshima Day**, Thursday, August 6 from 8 am to 9:30 am Pacific Time.

WHERE: The Livermore rally program will kick off two days of nationally broadcast, virtual programming on this historic 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing. To view the Livermore rally on the national broadcast directly, media and the public alike can access it using this link on August 6: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_8qpE8RPJo

NOTE: The Livermore rally is part of **an unprecedented national broadcast**. Running on August 6 and 9, national coverage is organized by more than 160 organizations working together through the Hiroshima Nagasaki 75 collaboration. The organizers of the Livermore rally are part of this coalition. Find out more at: www.HiroshimaNagasaki75.org

WHO: Our Livermore rally speakers include noted historian and author **Gar Alperovitz**, Pentagon planner and whistleblower **Daniel Ellsberg**, and Nagasaki A-bomb survivor **Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka**. (*Photos and short bios for all speakers and musicians follow the text of this release.*)

WHY: On the Historic 75th Anniversary of the U.S. Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we are joining the survivors to abolish nuclear weapons.

We live in a time of growing nuclear peril. This year the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists’ iconic Doomsday Clock, designed in 1947 to show the risk of existential nuclear danger, was moved to 100 seconds to midnight. This is the closest to annihilation that it has ever been set.

Moreover, less than a month ago, on the anniversary of the Trinity Nuclear Test, **President Trump** declared, "In order to continue protecting America's vital security interests, I have directed my Administration to revitalize and modernize America's nuclear security complex . . . We are investing in the capability to produce plutonium pits to support our stockpile needs and to improve the infrastructure of the weapons ecosystem."

This is the latest proclamation of Trump administration policies that are pouring gasoline on the flames of a new global arms race. Funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration's weapons programs in the President's fiscal 2021 budget is 20% higher than last year and more than 50% higher than the annual funding level when Trump took office. Other nuclear-armed states are following suit. Recently, too, major media outlets have reported that the White House is considering a return to nuclear testing, which ceased in 1992.

Livermore Lab is central to the escalating the nuclear dangers we face. Eighty-eight percent of the funds for Livermore Lab in the coming year are slated for nuclear weapons activities. Less than two percent of the budget is allocated for civilian science.

Rally speakers will illuminate these connections to help the public understand why action is needed now to change the course of national policy. Rally participants will pledge their actions on this historic anniversary to the Hibakusha (survivors) and say with them "never again."

In the midst of the pandemic and the struggle for racial equity, **we must not overlook this historic 75th anniversary**. Our rally speakers will cut through the historical and current propaganda that surrounds the bomb, state its dangers, discuss the prospects for a more just and peaceful future, and make a stand for global nuclear disarmament.

The Berkeley City Council joins us. On July 28, 2020, the City Council unanimously adopted a **resolution** *On the 75th Anniversary of the U.S. Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; A Call to Prevent Nuclear War*. The resolution resolves that "the City of Berkeley calls on the President and Congress to step back from the brink and to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first; ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack; taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals."

Bios and Photos for Livermore Rally speakers and music follow.

They are also available at www.trivalleycares.org and on the national website at <https://www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org/aug-06>

"From Hiroshima to a Healthy Tomorrow: Embracing Our Common Humanity," a virtual rally, march and action at the gates of the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab will air on **August 6, 2020 from 8 am to 9:30 am Pacific Time.** Bios updated on July 28.

In order of appearance in our August 6th program:



Patricia St. Onge, a Six Nations/Haudenosaune and Quebécois, offers the opening blessing and serves as the rally co-emcee. She is a Partner in Seven Generations Consulting, specializing in all aspects of community organizing for social change. St. Onge has served as Executive Director for several non-profit agencies. St. Onge and her life partner, Wilson Riles, Jr., have six daughters, two daughters-in-law and three sons-in-law, and seven grandchildren.



Wilson Riles, Jr. is the rally co-emcee. Riles is a politician and community activist who served as a member on the Oakland City Council from 1979 to 1992. He was a leader in the Oakland anti-apartheid movement as well as in the Oakland nuclear free zone ordinance. Riles is cofounder of Nafsi ya Jamii (The Soul Community).



• ***Marylia Kelley*** addresses Livermore Lab's role in promoting a new nuclear arms race. She is Executive Director at the Livermore-based Tri-Valley CAREs and brings 37 years of research, writing and facilitating public participation in nuclear policy decisions. Kelley has testified before the House Armed Services Committee of the U.S. Congress, the California Legislature and the National Academy of Sciences.



• ***Gar Alperovitz*** speaks on the U.S. decision to use atomic bombs. He is Co-Founder of The Democracy Collaborative, an organization that develops community wealth-building approaches to local and national democratic reconstruction. A prolific author and historian of nuclear weapons; Alperovitz' most well-known books in this field are "*The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb*" and "*Atomic Diplomacy.*" He has also served as a University Professor, Legislative Director in the U.S. Congress, and Special Assistant in the U.S. State Department.



• **Nobuaki Hanaoka** is a Hibakusha and the rally's special guest speaker. Hanaoka was an infant when the bomb fell on Nagasaki 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. 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.



• **Betsy Rose** is a singer, songwriter and community song leader and activist, active in women's and social change movements for more than four decades. In summer 2018, she helped organize and lead **Choral Majority**, a 400 strong pop-up community chorus, marching and singing in response to a threatened White Nationalist rally in Berkeley. She has sung at the Good Friday Vigils at Livermore for many years, and brings a musical blend of spiritual grounding and justice-making inspiration.



• **Daniel Ellsberg** speaks on U.S. nuclear policy and war planning. He is perhaps best known as the whistleblower who released "The Pentagon Papers" to hasten an end to the war in Vietnam. Ellsberg was an analyst at RAND Corp. and a consultant to the Defense Dept., specializing in problems of command and control of nuclear weapons, war plans and crisis decision-making. In 2017 he released his critically acclaimed memoirs, *"America's Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner."*



• **Jacqueline Cabasso** delivers the rally's "Call to Action," kicking off the (now virtual) march to the gates of the Livermore Lab. Cabasso is Executive Director of the Oakland-based Western States Legal Foundation since 1984. Cabasso serves as the North American coordinator of Mayor for Peace and plays key roles in United for Peace and Justice and Abolition 2000. She speaks regularly at events and conferences in North and South America, Europe, and Asia.



• **Chizu Hamada** explains the meaning of the traditional Japanese Bon Dance and its role in our Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemorations. Hamada is a Bay Area business owner and serves as a spokesperson for the No Nukes Action Committee, a group of Japanese citizens, Japanese--Americans and others who came together after the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and meltdowns at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.