



Crimes, Human Rights and Future Generations in the Nuclear Age

first announcement!

Co-sponsored by PSR / IPPNW Switzerland, SAFNA (Association of Swiss Lawyers for Nuclear Disarmament), Uranium Network Germany, the Nuclear Free Future Award Foundation and Centre International de Droit Comparé de l'Environnement (CIDCE)

Venue: Hotel Monte Verità, Ascona Tessin / Switzerland

Date: September 14th - 17th, 2017



Fukushima Decontamination Works



Hiroshima Mother and Child



Uranium Tailings

There is a growing awareness about the catastrophic impact on human health from the nuclear weapons and nuclear power industries, particularly from nuclear weapons testing, uranium mining and nuclear accidents such as Chernobyl and Fukushima. Further threats to current and future generations arise from the risks of nuclear-weapons-use and additional nuclear accidents as well as from the extremely hazardous and long-term nature of radioactive waste. As doctors and lawyers, we are concerned about the progressive “nuclearisation” of the globe and frustrated about the resilience of nuclear weapon states which base their military doctrines on nuclear weapons and the concept of nuclear deterrence, thereby risking an accidental or intentional, possibly terroristic use of those weapons.

Given the arguments above, the insistence on a civilian nuclear power industry and the holding on to nuclear weapons must be considered as a crime, as it will inflict the quality of life, the economical status and the rights of people in the future. In fact, we believe that human rights not only apply to all humans presently living on this globe, but also to those coming after us: the rights of future generations! These may be forced to live, under growing security threats, in a world with depleted resources and a destroyed environment.

In these times of increased geopolitical tension, we believe that interdisciplinary dialogue is important. In our planned meeting we will try to tie together human health and human rights issues. The conference will bring together lawyers, medical experts and victims of nuclear accidents and nuclear testing, mostly indigenous people. We will learn from past lawsuits, which can assist current and future cases. One of the key aspects determining success or failure of lawsuits, is the medical evidence of harm. The nuclear industry attempts to under-play such impact. However, evidence provided by recent medical research indicates that the risk to humans and all living beings from ionizing radiation is higher than has previously been understood. Finally, law and medicine seek to not only address past and current but also prevent future harm. The conference will include considerations of legal developments that can strengthen such protection.

Conference program - Outline

- Sep 14: Public event in the evening with “nuclear” victims from different continents
- Sep 15: Introduction to human and environmental impacts of ionizing radiation, human rights and “rights of future generations”. Discussion on nuclear arms and nuclear testing and legal questions relating to the environment
- Sep 16: Nuclear accidents (Fukushima, Mayak) and a review of past and current cases relating to nuclear weapons testing. Nuclear victims in U mining
- Sep 17: (morning event): Protection of future generations and summary.

Speakers D. Brugge, H. Caldicott, S. Elworthy, S. Fuglister, E. Gaillard, S. Golubok, P. Ingram, C. Knüsti, M. Leuenberger, A. Nidecker, M. Prieur, T. Rauf, D. Rietiker, A. Rosen, S. Walentowitz et al.

