

CALL TO A REFERENDUM

FOR FRANCE PARTICIPATING IN THE ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR AND RADIOACTIVE WEAPONS

We as a human race are now threatened in our dignity and our very existence, and we need to have a fundamental right: the right to life.

This right implies that nuclear and radioactive arms must be abolished, since they are weapons of extermination, of crimes against humanity. Totally useless for stifling terrorism, they share the terrorists' contempt for human life.

They endanger simultaneously the lives, the health and the genomes of millions of people, of whole populations, and even the very survival of humankind, because a nuclear and radioactive war would make the earth uninhabitable.

Such a power to annihilate is exorbitant and tyrannical. There are nine or ten heads of state who can decide to use it at any moment, without legal process or appeal, and can immediately carry out their sentence.

The citizens of nuclear-armed states have never been consulted about the possession of these weapons, and will never be consulted about their use, although they have to finance these things which jeopardise their own lives as well as the lives of other peoples!

France has had nuclear weapons since 1960. She has spent over 300 billion euros on them and continues to develop them. Her 300 bombs could kill a billion people.

This situation flouts Human Rights, because a single atom bomb means " thousands of deaths - women, children, old people reduced to ash in a milli-second, thousands of others dying with atrocious suffering during the years that follow: is that not a crime against humanity?" (as Alain Peyrefitte said to Charles de Gaulle on 4 May 1962).

This situation is contrary to international law, which condemns crimes against humanity and obliges the states that have ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty, including France, to "pursue in good faith and bring to conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects, under strict and effective international control" (International Court of Justice, advisory opinion of 8 July 1996).

It is contrary to France's Constitution, which places Human Rights above all else, and imposes respect for them, and also respect for treaties.

It is contrary to good sense, since it is illogical to defend republican values, including fraternity, while threatening to commit massacres; illogical to link France's "vital interests" to the use of weapons that would be suicidal against another nation that had similar ones; illogical to claim to guarantee France's security by these weapons while forbidding others from having them; illogical to thus encourage their proliferation while claiming to combat it; illogical to wish to reduce budgets while wasting billions on these death-machines that can't be used against other nuclear states, and that can't deter terrorists (but could fall into their hands).

It is contrary to democracy, finally, because the French people have never had a say about it, yet we know from a recent poll that more than 80% of French citizens would answer YES to the question :

« Do you want France to participate in the abolition of nuclear and radioactive weapons, and to engage with all the States concerned in negotiations aimed at creating, ratifying and implementing a treaty to ban and completely eliminate nuclear and radioactive weapons, under international and mutual control that is strict and effective? »

Many of those polled also wanted a referendum on this question. To organise one, a parliamentary bill needs to gain the signatures of one fifth of the MPs and senators and then the support of one tenth of registered voters.

By this means the French people can, if they so decide, open the path of a nuclear-free world.

We call on the French parliamentarians to sign the bill submitted to them, and we call on the French people to add their support to this initiative at the appropriate time, by electronic means or at the town halls.

To rescue us from the atomic Sword of Damocles will strengthen both our security and our freedom, with the full respect for Human Rights and the French Republic's motto: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.

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Please return to :

Action des Citoyens pour le Désarmement Nucléaire (ACDN)

31 Rue du Cormier

17100 Saintes

France

or mailto : contact@acdn.net

I the undersigned

Mr Ms **First name:**

SURNAME:

Profession, title or rank:

NGO or Institution:

Position:

Nationality:

E-mail (not to be published):

Post code:

Location:

Country:

Postal address (not to be published):

DO DECLARE that I sign the **Call to a French Referendum** and support the **Bill to organise a referendum on France's participation in the abolition of nuclear and radioactive weapons.**

I agree that my support may be made public. I authorise ACDN to inform me of the progress of the national campaign to obtain and win this referendum.

Signature

Place

Date

Optionally: [I DONATE](#)