



**South Tyneside
Stop The War Coalition**



C/O Trinity House Social Centre

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Weapons of Mass Destruction: Some Facts

At 8.15 am [local time] on 6 August 1945, the first Atom Bomb used as a weapon against human beings was dropped by the USA on Hiroshima, Japan. Memorials record the number of people killed as 138,890.

The Americans planned to drop a second A-Bomb on Japan on 11 August 1945, but predicted bad weather brought the date forward to 9 August. The original target was Kokura, in south Japan, but it was obscured by cloud and smoke from a bombing raid the previous day - when about 2,000 people died. The bomber was diverted about 100 miles to Nagasaki. At 11.02am [local time] the second A-Bomb used as a weapon was dropped. Within moments about 40,000 people were dead, and many more injured - about 5,000 of whom were to die within a year. Memorials record a total death toll at Nagasaki of 48,857.

These are the only times these real weapons of mass destruction have been deliberately used against human beings.

There are now five declared nuclear weapons states: USA; Russia; China; France; U.K.

Three more states, Israel, India, and Pakistan, have for some years been generally accepted as having nuclear weapons. In the case of India and Pakistan, this was confirmed by recent tests.

South Africa did have nuclear weapons, but it scrapped them.

The Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan - formerly parts of the Soviet Union - did have nuclear weapons, but scrapped them or sent them back to Russia.

Iraq, Iran and DPRK [North Korea] have had nuclear weapons development programmes, but there is no believable evidence that they have ever had functional weapons.

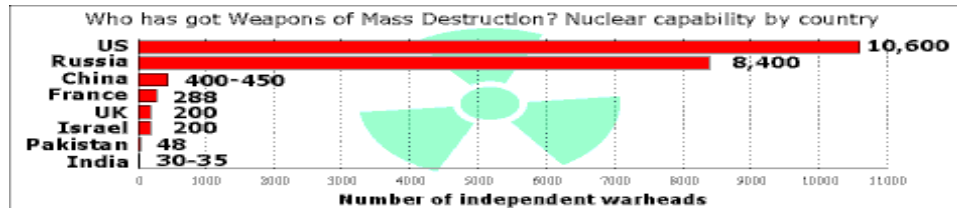
Belgium, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy and Turkey - and Britain - as members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO], have unknown numbers of U.S. nuclear weapons on their soil.

Since many nuclear weapons are on warships or submarines, they can almost always be found in any international waters - and targeted anywhere.

Any state with a nuclear power industry is in a position to develop nuclear weapons.

Trident is Britain's nuclear weapon system. It consists of four nuclear-armed submarines, at least one on patrol at any time. Each submarine carries 48 nuclear warheads, each of which can be sent to a different target. Each warhead has an explosive power of up to 100 kilotons, the equivalent of 100,000 tons of conventional high explosive - eight times the power of the Hiroshima bomb.

The anti-war movement believes all nuclear weapons are illegal, immoral and a waste of resources. It calls on the United Nations to live up to the principles of its Charter by stopping big powers from manipulating its workings and using their nuclear weapons to threaten smaller powers. As a first step to real global disarmament, it urges all nuclear states to renounce first-strike use of these weapons of indiscriminate mass slaughter.



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