

Short contribution - Peace demonstration, Friedenswerkstatt Wedel, Saturday. 4. March 2023

Dear peace friends

My name is Hannes Jung, I am a physicist at DESY and at CERN, the big brother in Geneva, and am speaking to you today as the initiator of the Science4Peace Forum¹.

What does physics, science have to do with peace? The science we practice is beautifully described by the following quote: "Explore what holds the world together at its core". This is something that is not directly related to politics. This science was independent of all borders. Even in the Cold War, we worked with scientists from the then Eastern Bloc, at a time when there was still almost an ice age in politics.

Science, as well as art and culture, connects, builds bridges, across all borders. Scientists from the various military blocs have made a significant contribution to disarmament negotiations, that one could develop mutual trust, because one could control what and how was disarmed.

In science, all cooperations were put on hold at the beginning of the war. A representative of the Ministry of Science and Education wrote to me literally: "Nationally and internationally, we pursue the goal of isolating the Russian government as much as possible."² Shouldn't the highest goal of the ministry be science and education in order to achieve peaceful coexistence in the end?

But, what is peace?

First of all, peace is the absence of war, of war against people (and yes, the opponents in war are also human). But peace is also the absence of war on nature and the environment, an end to the destruction of the environment. Especially as scientists, we advocate a sustainable approach to the environment, with resources that we all need, also in the future. War means not only the death of many, many people, but also the complete destruction of nature and the environment.

Or are there tanks that shoot with sustainable ammunition, whose ammunition is biodegradable, which protects the well-being of humans and animals.... of course not, it is not shot with potatoes or apples.... Or are there tanks that are operated CO₂-neutrally, for example with e-fuel or battery? What a grotesque nonsense everyone should notice that.

Environmental damage of war:

In addition to all the infinite and immediate suffering for people, the war leads to a massively increased emission of greenhouse gases, such as CO₂³, by shelling but also by operating war equipment alone: a tank consumes between 250 - 500 liters of diesel per hour, fighter jets up to 5000 liters of kerosene per flight hour.

¹ <https://science4peace.com/index.html>

² Mail of Friederike Trimborn-Witthaut am 14. Juni 2022

³ <https://www.tagesschau.de/faktenfinder/klima-krieg-ukraine-101.html>

However, states do not have to report military emissions⁴. It is estimated that in 2017, the US military emitted more CO₂ equivalent than, for example, Sweden, Finland or Denmark as a whole emitted⁵. There are still no figures on how dramatic this is during the war and with the increase in military spending.

We must finally understand that climate, the impending climate catastrophe, must always be thought of and dealt with in connection with war and peace.

Only if we fight together for a future of this earth, and think peace with climate together, then and only then do we have a chance.

But it is not only the "normal" weapons and the "normal" war that threaten us and the survival of people: we are experiencing an increasingly dangerous situation and the use of nuclear weapons is threatened.

There is a very credible simulation about the use of nuclear weapons from the ArmsControl Association of Princeton University in the USA (Program on Science & Global Security (SGS))⁶: (Video⁷)

The simulation starts as part of a conventional war:

Russia uses small nuclear weapons as a warning, the other side responds with tactical nuclear weapons. As the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons has been exceeded, about 300 nuclear warheads are fired at fighter jets and long-range missiles at NATO bases and troops, NATO responds with the same number of nuclear warheads. Within 3 hours, 2.6 million people are dead. Europe is destroyed. As a result, NATO launches strategic nuclear weapons from the USA and submarines to destroy Russian military bases. Russia responds with the launch from rocket silos and submarines. Within 45 minutes, 3.4 million people are dead.

With the aim of eliminating the other side, Russia and NATO are aiming at the 30 largest cities, with 5-10 warheads per city. 85.3 million people die within 45 minutes.

Not to mention the consequences of a nuclear winter and the other cruel long-term consequences.

So far the simulation from the ArmsControl Association.

Now we hear again and again that such a scenario is very unlikely, perhaps only 1% or even less. One wonders where these numbers come from... how do people actually want to know something like that? This is certainly not a science!

And even if the probability were actually so small it is still too great a danger: that's how it is with probabilities.... if we had 100 earths, and with only 1% probability one of the earths were

⁴ <https://www.tagesschau.de/faktenfinder/klima-krieg-ukraine-101.html>

⁵ <https://www.tagesschau.de/investigativ/rbb/klimaziele-bundeswehr-co2-emissionen-101.html>

⁶ <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2020-07/features/plan-nuclear-war-could-progress>

⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jy3JU-ORpo>

destroyed, then that might not be quite so bad.... but we only have one earth... and if it is destroyed, the probability will no longer help us

The Atomic Scientists presented the Doomsday clock at 90 seconds to midnight to illustrate the danger of a nuclear inferno... in comparison, in the 1980s, in high times of the Cold War, the clock was still several minutes of midnight.⁸

The Society for Informatics recently warned of a nuclear war by mistake.⁹

Dear friends,

With each further escalation of the Ukraine war, the risk of the use of nuclear weapons increases. It doesn't matter who is right in the end and who started... if this happens, we will no longer have the opportunity to decide... it will result in the destruction of Europe and large parts of the world.

And danger threatens not only from nuclear weapons, nuclear power plants are particularly dangerous if they are located in combat areas, the plants can be destroyed too easily and immense amounts of radioactivity can be released. As if we didn't have enough of Chernobyl and Fukushima.

For these reasons, 14 Nobel laureates and well-known scientists launched a call "No first use-never any use of nuclear weapons" together with Science4Peace and IPPNW internationally. Everyone is allowed to sign the call on Science4Peace.com¹⁰. In it, we call on governments to join the no-first-use policy for nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and refrain from using these weapons.

And we demand that the federal government join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons launched by the UN.

"We must destroy these weapons before they destroy us," the UN Secretary-General recently demanded.

The prohibition treaty came into force in January 2021, 65 countries ratified it, mainly from the global south. Among other things, it prohibits the use, possession and transit, storage and deployment of nuclear weapons. Although the traffic light coalition shares the line of universal nuclear disarmament, it is said, but at the same time sticks to nuclear participation in NATO. F-35 camouflage cap jets are to be procured, which are intended to replace the outdated tornadoes as nuclear weapon carriers. In the course of the so-called extended deterrence, the USA is storing a double-digit number of nuclear weapons in Europe, which would be dropped in an emergency by fighter jets from NATO partners such as Germany.¹¹

⁸ https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/timeline/?utm_source=ClockPage&utm_medium=Web&utm_campaign=EmailUpdates

⁹ <https://gi.de/meldung/offener-brief-gi-mitglieder-warnen-vor-atomkrieg-aus-versehen>

¹⁰ <https://chng.it/V99fPqNqFQ>

¹¹ <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/atomwaffen-verbot-vertrag-1.5607944>

As the simulation cited earlier proves, nuclear participation also includes nuclear destruction, almost free of charge. It's just madness!

Dear friends,

It is high time that this war and other wars were ended and that dying stopped.

As the UN Secretary-General says, we must finally destroy nuclear weapons before they destroy us. Germany must finally join the ban on nuclear weapons.

We must make every effort to stop the climate catastrophe, we must fight to ensure that this world keeps existing and is habitable for the next generations.

We must not be distracted by the cries of war, but bring climate policy, sustainability and peace together. There can only be a future without nuclear weapons and wars.

We must work with everyone to solve the global problems of the world, climate change and wars do not stop at our borders.

Active peace policy and the abandonment of armaments and armaments is more important than ever, we need a turning point towards civilian projects, towards a life without armaments.

Thank you!