

MEDIA ADVISORY

28 February 2013



Hundreds to gather in Oslo for major international civil society forum on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, 2–3 March

ICAN Civil Society Forum

More than 400 campaigners from 70 countries will gather in Oslo, Norway, on March 2-3 to ramp up efforts to get negotiations started on a treaty banning nuclear weapons. The ICAN Civil Society Forum is organized by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a global campaign coalition of more than 300 humanitarian, environmental and disarmament organizations. The two-day forum will see the participation of international policy and military experts, the Red Cross and UN representatives. This event represents an effort to find practical solutions to the global humanitarian threat posed by nuclear weapons.

Speakers include:

- **Martin Sheen**, social activist and award-winning actor
- **Terumi Tanaka**, survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing
- **Karipbek Kuyukov**, victim of nuclear testing in Kazakhstan
- **Amelia Showalter**, director of digital analytics, Obama for America
- **John Dear**, Jesuit priest and renowned peace activist
- **Gry Larsen**, Norwegian state secretary
- **Ward Wilson**, author of *Five Myths about Nuclear Weapons*

Programme available at: <http://www.goodbyenuk.es>

Government Conference

The ICAN Civil Society Forum will take place immediately before a conference being organized by the Norwegian government on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (4–5 March). More than 120 nations have registered to attend, along with UN agencies and the global Red Cross movement. ICAN is the main civil society partner. This will be the first major government conference to examine the humanitarian and environmental effects of nuclear weapons.

Programme available at: http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/selected-topics/humanitarian-efforts/humimpact_2013.html

ICAN Spokespeople

- **Nosizwe Baqwa, Spokesperson, ICAN Norway:** “We represent the vast majority of people around the world who oppose nuclear weapons and want

them banned. We hope that our forum will bring us one step closer to our goal.”

- **Tim Wright, Director, ICAN Australia:** “Any use of nuclear weapons would be a major humanitarian catastrophe. A nuclear weapons ban must be the next big negotiating objective of the international community.”
- **Beatrice Fihn, Member of ICAN International Steering Group:** “Civil society has become a key actor in national and international politics. In Oslo we’re going to get together and set the agenda for achieving a ban on nuclear weapons in the coming years.”

Interviews

For interviews with ICAN spokespeople or conference speakers, please contact:

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For media unable to attend the forum, high-resolution **images and video footage** can be made available. Please contact us in advance.

Opinion articles from ICAN experts can also be provided upon request.

About ICAN

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a global campaign coalition working to mobilize people in all countries to inspire, persuade and pressure their governments to initiate negotiations for a treaty banning nuclear weapons. It has 300 partner organizations in 70 countries, and was launched in 2007. Prominent supporters include Desmond Tutu, Yoko Ono and the Dalai Lama.

Details available at: <http://www.icanw.org>

Resources

For information about the effects of nuclear weapons see:

- **Unspeakable Suffering** (2013)
Download at: <http://www.icanw.org/resources/publications>
- **Banning Nuclear Weapons** (2013)
Download at: <http://www.article36.org/cat2-nuclear-weapons/banning-nuclear-weapons-2/>
- **Catastrophic Humanitarian Harm** (2012)
Download at: <http://www.icanw.org/resources/publications>