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Landmark Santa Monica “Chain Reaction” sculpture to be site of International “Global Wave” Event Supporting Nuclear Weapons Ban

What: Global Wave for a Nuclear Weapons Free World, a gathering and rally to demonstrate global support for a nuclear weapons ban prior to the opening of the 2015 Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

When: Sunday, April 26, 2015 from 1 – 3 pm

Where: Chain Reaction Sculpture, 1800 block of Main Street in Santa Monica

Who: Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA), the International Health & Epidemiology Research Center (IHERC), Pax Christi and concerned Southern California Residents. Endorsed by American Friends Service Committee-Los Angeles, Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions, Church in Ocean Park, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Office of the Americas, Palisadians for Peace, Pace e Bene, and concerned Southern California residents.

On April 26, 2015 at 1 pm, an international “Global Wave for a Nuclear Weapons Free World” event will take place at Paul Conrad’s historic “Chain Reaction” sculpture in Santa Monica.

The event is part of a series of international “Global Wave” events taking place in every time zone in a “wave” fashion over 24 hours prior to the 2015 Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference where governments meet to discuss their obligations toward nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. With a global arsenal of 16,300 nuclear weapons, and a trillion dollars pledged to modernize the US arsenal over the next three decades, meaningful progress on fulfilling the NPT treaty is in jeopardy.

A key provision of the NPT, which has been signed by 190 countries since it came into force in 1970, requires that all signatory nations move in good faith towards complete disarmament. With stalled progress on that obligation, many nations and advocates have begun to explore other vehicles for nuclear abolition.

“The movement for a ban on nuclear weapons has grown exponentially over the past few years,” said Denise Duffield, Associate Director of PSR-LA. “Since the last NPT review conference in 2010, 155 nations have indicated support for a ban.” Proponents for a ban on nuclear weapons say there is precedence in bans on biological and chemical weapons, land mines, cluster munitions and other indiscriminate weapons of war.

“Nuclear weapons present a tremendous threat to public health,” said Robert Dodge MD, a board member for PSR locally and nationally who will be speaking at the event. “There is little meaningful medical response to nuclear war, or even a single nuclear detonation for that matter. Recent research has shown that a limited nuclear exchange can create climate-induced famine, putting up to 2 billion at risk of starvation. The best way to protect the public from a nuclear detonation is to eliminate nuclear weapons altogether.”

Southern California’s “Global Wave” event will take place at the Chain Reaction peace sculpture in Santa Monica, a 26 foot sculpture which depicts a nuclear mushroom cloud created from chain links. The inscription at the base reads, “This is a statement of peace. May it never become an epitaph.” The sculpture was designed by three-time Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Conrad and gifted to the City of Santa Monica in 1991. It was recently in danger of being removed by the Santa Monica City Council due to some corrosion, but public fund-raising and support led to its protection. Planning for restoration began this month.

“I feel the family of Paul Conrad will be pleased that this important and timely statement for peace is being held at Chain Reaction.” said Jerry Rubin, a longtime Santa Monica activist who helped lead efforts to save the historic sculpture. “We hope to start a chain reaction of activism to rid the world of nuclear weapons.”

Photos and video from Global Wave events will be presented to governments at the NPT conference to demonstrate international support for a nuclear weapons free world. ###