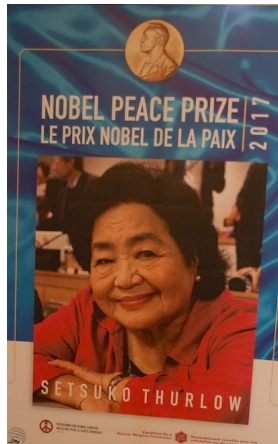


Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 11 December 2017 17:21 - Last Updated Monday, 11 December 2017 17:32



Setsuko Thurlow accepted her Nobel Peace Prize last week [in Stockholm, Sweden](#)

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ican

ican Award Ceremony Speech

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Presentation Speech by Berit Reiss-Andersen, Chair of the [Committee](#)

[Norwegian Nobel](#)

, Oslo, 10 Decem

Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Distinguished Representatives of the Nobel Peace Prize Laure

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has been awarded the Nobel Peace Pr

ICAN is receiving the award for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequence

This year's Peace Prize follows in a tradition of awards that have honoured [efforts](#)

[Philip Noel-Baker](#)

[Barack Obama](#)

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE link to video and ICAN TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH

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On two days in August 1945, the world experienced the terrible destructive force of nuclear weapons for

The devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has taught us that nuclear weapons are so dangerous, and

Today's nuclear weapons are tremendously more destructive than the bombs that were dropped on Jap

Nuclear weapons do not distinguish between military and civilian targets. Used in war, they would impac

Despite all this, it remains the case that the global balance of military power is still maintained by nuclear we

A number of international agreements and treaties have been entered into which limit the possession an

ICAN arose as a protest against the established order. Nuclear weapon issues are not solely a question

ICAN's main message is that the world can never be safe as long as we have nuclear weapons. This me

Another major concern of ICAN is that the current international legal order is inadequate to deal with the

The entry into force of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1970 was a historic breakthrough. It gave formal s

Ladies and gentlemen, it is no exaggeration to say that the nuclear-weapon states have only to a limited

The Non-Proliferation Treaty applies only to the countries that have acceded to it. India, Pakistan and Is

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It is in part to break this vicious cycle that ICAN has advocated a universal, treaty-based ban on nuclear

ICAN does not accept that the lack of progress towards nuclear disarmament is a realpolitik necessity. I

Pointing out this legal gap was a crucial first step on the road to a prohibition treaty. Another important s

ICAN has also been a driving force in efforts to secure a binding international ban of nuclear weapons. C

ICAN is a young organisation, founded in 2007 on the initiative of the International Physicians for the Pre

In awarding this year's Peace Prize to ICAN, the Norwegian Nobel Committee seeks to honour this rema

The Nobel Committee believes that an international ban on nuclear weapons will be an important, possib

Ladies and gentlemen, ICAN's support for a global ban on nuclear weapons is not uncontroversial. We n

At the Reykjavik Summit in 1986, [Mikhail Gorbachev](#) and Ron

"A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The only value in our two nations possessing n

Today it is more important than ever to support this vision. While the global community may trust that no

Ultimately, nuclear weapons are controlled by human beings. In spite of advanced security mechanisms

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In short, nuclear weapons are so dangerous that the only responsible course of action is to work for their

Many people think that the vision of a nuclear weapon-free world, a Global Zero, is utopic, or even irrespo

Similar arguments were once used to oppose the treaties banning biological and chemical weapons, clu

Ladies and gentlemen, the Norwegian Nobel Committee is aware that nuclear weapons disarmament pr

In his [Nobel lecture](#) in 1959, Philip

"The difficult is what takes a little while; the impossible is what takes a little longer."

The people of ICAN are impatient and visionary, but they are not naïve. ICAN recognizes that the nuclea

Ladies and gentlemen, there are two persons on the podium today who, each in their way, are outstandi

Madam Setsuko Thurlow, you were 13 years old when you experienced the bombing of Hiroshima. You

Beatrice Fihn, you are the Executive Director of ICAN and have the challenging task of uniting different c

It is an honour to have you here as our guests, and we wish to express our deep and heartfelt gratitude

The decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear

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In closing, I would like to quote His Holiness Pope Francis, who recently declared: "Weapons of mass de

The Norwegian Nobel Committee shares this view. Moreover, it is our firm conviction that ICAN, more th

Thank you.

Award Ceremony Speech

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