



The LORD is our Only Security

MCC Washington Office and Mennonite Church USA peace advocate office are collecting 20,000 Mennonite signatures on the "Urgent Call"—a statement calling for immediate steps toward nuclear disarmament.

Why Nuclear Disarmament?

Why the emphasis now on nuclear disarmament? Because U.S. nuclear policy seems to be headed in an increasingly dangerous and hypocritical direction:

- A primary Bush administration rationale for attacking Iraq earlier this year was Iraq's alleged pursuit of nuclear weapons. The nuclear issue is also central to growing tensions in U.S.-Iranian and U.S.-North Korean relationships.
- In 1999, the U.S. Senate failed to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty which outlaws all nuclear explosions.
- At the end of 2001, the Bush administration completed its "Nuclear Posture Review" which suggests possible first use of U.S. nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states like Syria, Libya, Iran and Iraq.
- In 2002, President Bush withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) so that the United States could develop a national missile shield.
- Also in 2002, a Bush administration directive clarified that the United States might also use nuclear weapons in response to the use of chemical or biological weapons.
- In 2003, the Bush administration convinced Congress to provide research funding for two new U.S. nuclear weapons—"bunker busters" (with 30 to 70 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb) and "mini-nukes" (designed to destroy chemical and biological targets).

Specifically, the petition calls for the United States to:

- Permanently stop developing, testing and producing nuclear weapons;
- Promise not to use nuclear weapons on a first strike basis;
- Take nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert in order to reduce the risk of accidental or unauthorized use;
- Agree with Russia that both countries will begin destroying nuclear stockpiles.

The Petition

To sign the petition, see the signature count, and view additional worship resources, see <http://peace.mennolink.org/articles/actionnuke.html>

The Lord is our only security

One: The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.

Many: **From where he sits enthroned, he watches all the inhabitants of the earth.**

One: He who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.

Many: **A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.**

One: The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.

Many: **Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,**

One: On those who hope in his steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Many: **Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.**

One: Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

ALL: **Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.**

Psalm 33:13-22



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