

Press Release
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HISTORIC PROTEST AT L3 HARRIS

Northampton MA -- Local activists with the Resistance Center for Peace and Justice and NuclearBan.US have been busy sewing "Treaty Compliance Unit" emblems onto white jumpsuits, emblazoned with the logos of the United Nations and the Nobel Peace Prize. Tomorrow, Friday, January 21 at noon, they will be demonstrating at L3 Harris, 50 Prince Street, Northampton. L3 Harris is a subcontractor to Northrop Grumman's \$85 billion contract to build a new intercontinental ballistic missile system for the US.



Activists prepare to protest at L3 Harris about its connections to the nuclear weapons industry.

The activists plan to deliver a letter to the company with a warning that, as of 1/22/21, any nuclear weapons-related activities will be illegal in the 50 countries that have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The letter suggests that the treaty may affect the company's offices, projects, subsidiaries, contracts, suppliers, or investors in those countries, and in the many countries expected to join the treaty soon.

Two of the five largest pension funds in the world have already divested from the nuclear weapons industry. The City of New York is expected to divest its pension funds in the near future. The City of Northampton has divested too, and is refusing contracts with any of the nuclear weapons companies.

But do the protesters really represent the Nobel Peace Prize and the UN? Both nonprofits are partner organizations of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which did indeed win the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its role in facilitating the treaty.

“And actually,” said Vicki Elson of NuclearBan.US, “the UN represents *us*. The world has spoken. 135 countries have indicated their support for this treaty -- just not the nine nuclear-armed nations, yet. But the treaty is shifting the global conversation and international legal norms. Nuclear weapons are being stigmatized as weapons of mass extinction. Divestment is growing. Nuclear weapons companies will be finding themselves in violation of new laws in the ratifying countries.”

Similar events are taking place around the world at nuclear weapons companies and military facilities, to mark the day that the treaty enters into force as international law. One such event will be in Pittsfield at 9am, where General Dynamics makes launch mechanisms for nuclear weapons.

The activists plan to read the treaty and the letter aloud, and distribute copies to L3 Harris staff. They have invited local, state, and federal government leaders and speakers from many other groups to speak about the humanitarian costs of nuclear weapons, including diverting billions of taxpayer dollars from programs that address climate change, poverty, health care, and other pressing human needs.

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